

Preece Power Poll—December 22, 2008

- 1—Delta (3-A)—These Rabbits have really big teeth.
- 2—Payson (4-A)—Lions dominate Viewmont field.
- 3—Box Elder (4-A)—Bees varsity and JV place second at Viewmont.
- 4—Mountain Crest (4-A)—Mustangs still have title hopes.
- 5—Viewmont (5-A)—Flipped a coin and it came up Viewmont over Millard.
- 6—Millard (2-A)—Eagles mix it up at Viewmont and tie for fourth with Viewmont.
- 7—South Summit (2-A)—Crandall's Cats have claw.
- 8—Weber (5-A)—Warriors setting sights on 5-A crown.
- 9—Pleasant Grove (5-A)—Vikings are definitely in the mix in 5-A.
- 10—Wasatch (3-A)—Wasps place two at Reno TOC.
- 11—Davis (5-A)—Darts have enough depth to contend in 5-A.
- 12—Springville (4-A)—Red Devils beginning to hit stride.
- 13—Layton (5-A)—Fager has his boys fighting hard.
- 14—Uintah (3-A)—Utes get plenty of wrestling action in Sunshine State.
- 15—West Jordan (5-A)—Burns led Jaguars to 7th place finish at Grand Junction.
- 16—North Sevier (2-A)—These wolves have plenty of bite.
- 17—Fremont (5-A)—Silverwolves have some studs.
- 18—Juab (2-A)—Upper weights give these Wasps some big sting.
- 19—Bingham (5-A)—Miners will battle with West Jordan for Region 3 crown.
- 20—Lehi (5-A)—Stadel nearly brings home Reno gold again.
- 21—Tooele (4-A)—Schmalhaus leading Buffalos.
- 22—Roy (4-A)—Horne has Royals battling in rugged Region 5.
- 23—Monticello (1-A)—Buckaroos have the depth and stars to win 1-A.
- 24—Mountain View (4-A)—Bruins make respectable showing at Viewmont.
- 25—Altamont (1-A)—Foy leads Longhorns into battle.

Honorable Mention: In 5-A: Alta, American Fork, Brighton, Copper Hills, Hunter, Jordan, Lone Peak, Skyline and Spanish Fork in 4-A: Dixie, Highland, Olympus, Pine View, Provo, Sky View, and Snow Canyon: in 3-A: Bear River, Carbon, Cedar City, Hurricane, Logan, Morgan, North Sanpete, and Salem Hills: in 2-A: Beaver, Manti, and North Summit: in 1-A: Duchesne and Wayne.

Notes: As it crazy as this sounds it could be argued that 2-A is tougher than 3-A. I won't quite go there yet because Delta is so powerful. But Millard will get stiff competition from South Summit who has beaten Weber in a tournament and tied them in a dual. North Sevier and Juab give 2-A four ranked teams in this Power Poll where beyond Uintah, right now I don't see any other teams in 3-A quite deserving yet besides the big three. Overall, Delta is way behind any program right now. Perhaps at the Rumble Payson's stars might give the Rabbits a fight but Delta with its JV, numbers and depth rules the roost in Utah wrestling—and I'm not sure exactly when that will change. Rabbit coach Josh Wright has proved that he's the man to lead this great program. Wasatch, as far as I know, only got one move-in in very tough Damon Mele who knocked off Delta returning champ Justin Penn at the Iron Man. The Wasps are capably

led by Wade Discher who is making his second stint at Wasatch. You have to be impressed with Payson and if there is any program that might churn out star after star it might be the Lions. They went to battle with three freshman and one came away with a gold dominating a returning 4-A finalist, one took a silver and led the returning 2-A champ by three points going into the last round, and the other placed fourth filling in for his varsity man. Remember these names: Mitch Brown, Zach Loveless and Cole Ford, they might all be contending for state titles in 4-A before the year is out (two would actually be favorites as I see it right now). Junior high coaching guru Johnny Loveless of Payson, in my opinion, turns out the highest number of freshman studs that come out ready to compete, I'm sure more are on the horizon. Payson is still overall a young team and obviously Mountain Crest and Box Elder are nervous that the Region 5 stranglehold on the gold trophy might come to an end. Still don't count Mountain Crest and Box Elder—they have great tradition and their JV depth is enormous. Also, keep an eye out for Springville as they have a young but very improving team. They used to be just about their light weight wrestlers generally but now the Red Devils are good across the board. 1-A has Monticello and Altamont but if I've learned anything in my years never count out Kerry Anderson and Wayne. He is a true legend in Utah wrestling. I also like Duchesne's squad, with Altamont and Duchesne and stalwart Uintah, there is plenty of excitement in the Uintah Basin. Lastly, 5-A is so open and contentious this will be the fun classification to watch. I see five potential suitors for the title right now in Viewmont, Weber, Davis, Pleasant Grove and Layton. Yes, the Lancers have enough stars in a tough field of 5-A wrestlers to win gold if things fell into place. Region One is the best wrestling region in the state from top to bottom though Northridge and Clearfield have lost their luster a bit since the opening of Syracuse. But you throw in Fremont with Weber, Viewmont, Layton, and Davis and you have five pretty darn good wrestling schools. PG is by far the most improved program. They were about 18th last year or something and now if things fell right they might come home with the big trophy. 5-A has a deep field of good teams as Region Two schools West Jordan and Bingham are good and Lehi will bring a lot to the table from Region Four. Spanish Fork was a bit off at Viewmont (and Hadley Thorpe was MIA) but they might be a team if it rights itself could be a factor in 5-A as well.