

PREECE POWER POLL—February 15, 2009

1. Delta (3-A)—Rabbits lap the 3-A field.
2. Payson (4-A)—Remarkable final day wrestling brings home title.
3. Mountain Crest (4-A)—Mustangs fall just short of fourth straight title.
4. Box Elder (4-A)—Bees settle for third this year.
5. Viewmont (5-A)—Vikings win 5-A comfortably.
6. Millard (2-A)—Eagles win 2-A again.
7. Davis (5-A)—Darts hold off field to win silver trophy.
8. South Summit (2-A)—Wildcats come up short, look to next year with high hopes.
9. Wasatch (3-A)—Wasps distance themselves from Uintah to take second.
10. Springville (4-A)—Red Devils a strong fourth in 4-A.
11. Pleasant Grove (5-A)—Vikings finish third in 5-A.
12. Fremont (5-A)—Silverwolves put five in the finals.
13. Weber (5-A)—Warriors put forth solid 5-A performance.
14. Layton (5-A)—Lancers crown two champs.
15. Uintah (3-A)—Utes finish third at 3-A meet.
16. Bingham (5-A)—Moss wins third title and returns for senior year.
17. Alta (5-A)—Kuhn quest for perfection ends with 5-A gold.
18. Spanish Fork (5-A)—Dons return to 4-A next year.
19. West Jordan (5-A)—Burns helps Jags stay in 5-A top ten.
20. Lehi (5-A)—Stadel takes home the gold for the Pioneers.
21. Juab (2-A)—Juab takes third to finish off strong year.
22. North Sevier (2-A)—Wolfpack look to make noise in 2-A next year.
23. Logan (3-A)—Ballam and Peacock give Grizzlies gold medal performances.
24. Monticello (1-A)—Buckaroos end title drought!
25. Cedar (3-A)—Big win at 285 by Lee helps Cedar to fifth place finish.
25. Juan Diego (3-A)—Soaring Eagle success among top 2008-09 stories.

Honorable Mention: 5-A: Jordan, Lone Peak and Skyline; in 4-A: Mountain View, Pine View, Provo and Tooele; in 3-A: Hurricane, Morgan and North Sanpete; in 2-A: Beaver and North Summit; in 1-A: Altamont

Notes: The first two picks are obvious but 3-6 was difficult. I know Millard beat Mountain Crest in a dual but Mountain Crest also beat Millard in a tournament, both sides were missing some key wrestlers. When Millard, Box Elder and Mountain Crest were at the same tournament the Eagles were edged by the Bees and Mustangs by the slightest of scores and Millard tied Viewmont. Box Elder beat Viewmont in a dual and at the Viewmont Invitational but Viewmont finished ahead of them at Richardson. All four of these teams have strong JV teams but Viewmont's JV team is actually the strongest. But as things are set up, because Region One is so rugged, not many JV wrestlers will make it out of that league to state so they won't have the impact that the other schools will have, but when all four JV teams were together in a tournament, Viewmont's JV won hands down. So again, those spots were hard to rank and one could easily put Millard at #3 or some combination thereof. Again, the only time Box Elder and Millard were in the same place Box Elder finished ahead of them (both varsity and JV) and when

Viewmont and Millard were in the same tournament, which only happened once, they actually tied but Viewmont's JV outperformed Millard. And since Mountain Crest beat Box Elder and Viewmont at different events including the former at state I went with Mountain Crest at #3. Box Elder over Viewmont? Well, since each has placed at a tournament over the other, the dual meet in their case became the tiebreaker. South Summit over Wasatch was a tough call, but evidently South Summit won a dual over the Wasps though Wasatch did best them at the Rocky Mountain Rumble. Both took second place in their respective classifications but South Summit was a bit more competitive and their JV team was also superior to the Wasps this year. Springville took a strong fourth in 4-A and was in the mix as well, but I put South Summit ahead of them and Wasatch based on a bit more of a consistent season and JV strength. The next four teams after Springville are 5-A teams. The 5-A had the depth this year and the race for the positions after Davis was somewhat interesting but PG held off Fremont, Weber and Layton in that order. Layton definitely missed Kopecky at the state tournament. PG and Weber had more depth while Fremont and Layton were more star oriented and put more wrestlers in the finals in the 5-A meet. Uintah was a strong third in 3-A but a ways back from Wasatch. Did the Utes peak a week early? Perhaps because they were right there with Wasatch, in fact if JV points were scored together with varsity, rumor had it that Uintah would have won their sectional. With just three finalists the Utes could not keep up with their rivals Delta and Wasatch this year. Back to 5-A for four ranked teams. Bingham bested Alta, Spanish Fork and West Jordan. Next is Juab who came on strong and finished third in 2-A and edged North Sevier. The 1-A champs Monticello I believe deserve a ranking, the Buckaroos brought back the gold trophy to southeastern Utah, the first time in nearly three decades. Right above Monticello is Logan, who placed fourth in 3-A with two state champs. And since Cedar and Juan Diego tied for fifth in 3-A they will finish tied for #25 in the last Preece Power Poll. I knew Juan Diego was better this year but I had no idea that the Soaring Eagle was this good. They were actually a pretty deep team and tied Cedar despite not having a single finalist. It seems like their football coach is supporting the wrestling program. If Chris Loveless and his Payson Lions didn't pull out their Saturday heroics, I would definitely have to vote John Gavin of Juan Diego as my Coach of the Year. To do what he has done with the Soaring Eagle program is nothing short of remarkable and if he can keep getting those football athletes out, the Soaring Eagle will continue to be a legitimate force in 3-A.