

Super Rankings—February 18, 2009

103 Pounds:

- 1—Brayden Humpherys--Layton
- 2—Colton Thornton (South Summit)
- 3—Mitch Brown (Payson)
- 4—Tuon Troung (Roy)
- 5—Ron Wardleigh (Fremont)
- 6—Drew Mills (Hurricane)
- 7—Gerrit Bradley (Springville)
- 8—Kevin Sierer (Murray)

Notes: The first two stood out at the end of the year with their consistent performances. Humpherys lost just one match on the year to Brown. Thornton was hot at the end of the season and Brown came on strong after a bit of an off performance at the Rumble. Troung took third in state but had to meet Brown in the semi-finals. Yes, I will rank a third over a second in state in the same classification if a head a head did not happen and criteria would suggest otherwise. Troung was a consistent performer. Wardleigh was a tough runner-up to Humpherys while Mills righted himself to win 3-A. Bradley had some big wins including a big win over Brown during the season and at state over senior Sierer.

112 Pounds:

- 1—Carson Kuhn (Alta)
- 2—Chasen Tolbert (Delta)
- 3—Kamron Day (Millard)
- 4—Jacob Falk (West Jordan)
- 5—Brett Naylor (Davis)
- 6—Jeff McCormick (South Summit)
- 7—Dallas Gale (Cedar)
- 8—Zach Loveless (Payson)

Notes: Very good weight. Now what to do at 112 since Day was “pinned” by McCormick in the 2-A finals. Well, these are my rankings and Day will stay at #3. I won’t argue the call but will give Day his due for a great season and make this exception. No doubt that Kuhn and Tolbert are at #1 and #2 and Falk is tough and deserving at #4. Naylor took third for Davis and had good year while McCormick won 2-A with a defensive pin over Day and had a fine year overall. Gale was second in 3-A and owns a win by pin over 4-A Lower Weight Outstanding Wrestler Loveless of Payson.

119 Pounds:

- 1—Colby Christensen (Uintah)
- 2—Trae Bennett (Fremont)
- 3—Bracken Nipko (Weber)
- 4—Zak Baker (Davis)
- 5—Cody Hone (Cedar)
- 6—Jake Frederickson (Mountain View)
- 7—Tito Ortiz (Payson)
- 8—Mark Michels (Alta)

Notes: I would love to see a rematch between Bennett and Christensen as both are studs. Christensen gets the nod based on his win in the All-Star dual over Bennett who handled a very good Nipko in the 5-A finals. Baker lost a stunner in the first round of the 5-A tourney but battled all the way back to take third. Hone was the runner-up in 3-A and split four matches with Frederickson on the year but owned the last head to head meeting, so I'll use that as the tiebreaker. Otherwise, flip a coin. Ortiz was the 4-A runner-up and Michels placed fourth in a very deep field of 5-A wrestlers.

125 Pounds:

- 1—Mike Winger (Viewmont)
- 2—Matt Finger (Fremont)
- 3—Trevor Sweat (Wasatch)
- 4—Cody Bunderson (Box Elder)
- 5—Brock Brown (Payson)
- 6—McClain Griffin (Provo)
- 7—Todd Smoot (Davis)
- 8—Bret Clapier (Skyline)

Notes: I think this is one of the deepest if not deepest weights in the state. I think I need to mention two wrestlers not in these rankings but are terrific. First, there is Craig Young of Pleasant Grove and then Jace Abbott of Delta. Young placed fifth in an unbelievable 5-A field. Young has wins over Brock Brown and Trevor Sweat on the season. Abbott beat Sweat during the season and placed second in 3-A. Winger deserves the #1 as he knocked off Region One rival Finger in an OT classic. Rankings 3-6 were tough but I had to give Sweat and Bunderson their due for taking state, Sweat owns a head to head win over Bunderson at the Tiger—Grizz. Brown lost a shocker to Bunderson in the semi-finals and Bunderson went on to beat Griffin in a highly entertaining final. Griffin split with Smoot but won the last meeting at The Rumble and Clapier who actually beat Griffin at the Rumble but lost to Smoot twice checks in at #8. Great weight class!

130 Pounds:

- 1—Tucker Ray (Box Elder)
- 2—Kade Moss (Bingham)
- 3—Derek Malan (Weber)
- 4—Derek Peterson (Delta)
- 5—Josh Smoot (Viewmont)
- 6—Taylor Merkley (Uintah)
- 7—Connor Meadows (Brighton)
- 8—Alex Riddle (Cedar)

Notes: Ray got his elusive title and split with Moss winning the last match between the two. Moss picked up his third state title for the Miners and had a very tough match with Malan in the semi-finals. Malan was a victim of BRACKETUS INTERRUPTUS to say the least. Peterson is a stud and won the 3-A state title. Smoot was the runner-up in 5-A but lost to Malan at least twice on the season. Merkley is a rising star for Uintah and Meadows put together a nice season for Brighton placing fourth in 5-A. Riddle placed third in 3-A.

135 Pounds

- 1—Raider Lofthouse (Mountain Crest)
- 2—Damon Mele (Wasatch)
- 3—Koleton Hardy (Box Elder)
- 4—Chase Burns (West Jordan)
- 5—Creedon Merkley (Uintah)
- 6—Taylor Humpherys (Layton)
- 7—Wyatt Mason (North Sevier)
- 8—Cody Van Buren (Weber)

Notes: A great weight where I think I need to mention a couple of wrestlers that missed being ranked. Jeremiah Guzman came up huge for the Lions taking third in state and showed great stuff placing second at The Rumble and even beating Mele. Kaleb Ashworth of Spanish Fork placed third and had a lot of great wins on the year including a big one over Guzman. Lofthouse and Mele, well I had to go with Lofthouse winning his third state title. Mele came on strong and won 3-A in dominating fashion. Hardy is a sophomore who had a great year. Burns was consistent and won the 5-A title and won a close one over Merkley, the 3-A runner-up, at a tournament in Grand Junction. Humpherys took second in 5-A, Mason was the 2-A champ who won with style and Van Buren is a get-it-done grappler who placed third in 5-A.

140 Pounds:

- 1—Braiden Hart (Davis)
- 2—Ikeru Abe (Viewmont)
- 3—Jace Harmon (Payson)
- 4—Bryson Foy (Altamont)
- 5—Justin Penn (Delta)
- 6—Bobby Robins (North Sevier)
- 7—Jonsen Crandall (South Summit)
- 8—Corrick Knight (Mountain Crest)

Notes: Well it wasn't pretty but Hart got it done against Abe in one of the most entertaining finals in 5-A. I think the two split four matches on the year and not without some controversy. Harmon's big pin over #8 Knight put Payson in the position to win the state title. Foy is very good as this Longhorn stud took Hart to the brink and beat Penn in the Great Basin Duals. Penn won his second straight title in 3-A. Robins beat Crandall for the 2-A title in a clash of very talented 2-A wrestlers. Two unranked wrestlers that deserve mention in this very deep weight come from the 4-A class. Spencer Brown of Cottonwood who placed fourth at the Rumble at 135 pounds and third in 4-A who knocked off Mountain View's Clay Frost twice at state. The talented Frost placed third at the Rumble at 145 pounds.

145 Pounds:

- 1—Hayden Petersen (Springville)
- 2—Danner Kjar (Viewmont)
- 3—Clint Jacob (Pleasant Grove)
- 4—Kendall Prescott (South Summit)
- 5—Brendan Willoughy (Delta)
- 6—Matt Gallen (Morgan)
- 7—Jayce Warren (Weber)
- 8—Jake Redd (Sky View)

Notes: Petersen was consistent all year long garnering his second state title in three years. Kjar got the job done beating Jacob in the 5-A final. Prescott came up big to pin down the 2-A crown. Willoughby outlasted Gallen to win the 3-A title. Warren was the consolation champion in 5-A and Redd was second in 4-A.

152 Pounds:

- 1—Jordan Ballam (Logan)
- 2—Alex Nicholes (Pleasant Grove)
- 3—Colton Cannon (Payson)
- 4—Caleb Christen (Springville)
- 5—Mitch Rasmussen (Viewmont)
- 6—Hadley Thorpe (Spanish Fork)
- 7—Jordan Sorenson (Delta)
- 8—KC Fryer (South Summit)

Notes: Ballam had a close call with #7 Sorenson in the 3-A championship but was great all year long. Nicholes came away with the 5-A crown and owns a couple of wins over Cannon, the very good 4-A champ. Christen was a bastion of consistency for Springville taking second in state as did Rasmussen who lost narrowly to Nicholes. Thorpe was placed third in 5-A and has a win on the year over Sorenson and Fryer won the 2-A crown and was named the upper weight Outstanding individual.

160 Pounds:

- 1—Monte Schmalhaus (Tooele)
- 2—Jed Craner (Fremont)
- 3—Taylor Peacock (Logan)
- 4—Zach Oppenheimer (Delta)
- 5—Sebastian Lucio (Springville)
- 6—Brady Loveless (Payson)
- 7—Colby Barlocker (Enterprise)
- 8—Clancy Mortenson (Millard)

Notes: Schmalhaus and Kuhn (Alta, 112 pounds) were the state's only undefeated wrestlers. Craner capped off a great year by winning the 5-A title convincingly. Peacock survived some injuries but got it done at state. Oppenheimer placed third at state but met Peacock in the semi-finals. Lucio was second in 4-A to the ultra-talented Schmalhaus while Loveless came on strong for Payson to claim third in 4-A, getting past Shelton. Shelton is good and beat Loveless the first time at the 4-A Duals, but the Payson sophomore got him twice (at the state tournament). Barlocker won gold in 2-A over rival Mortenson. Two wrestlers not ranked but I think deserve mention are Dylan Howell, the 5-A runner-up from Jordan and Cole Evans, the 3-A runner-up. Again, two wrestlers I strongly considered ranking in one of the best weight classes in the state.

171 Pounds:

- 1—Ethen Lofthouse (Mountain Crest)
- 2—Nick Peterson (Delta)
- 3—Reggie Clawson (North Sanpete)
- 4—Zane Mendenhall (Lone Peak)
- 5—Chase Hart (Weber)
- 6—Bryan Beardall (Springville)
- 7—Oliver Parker (San Juan)
- 8—Ryan Card (South Summit)

Notes: I went out on a limb (ha ha) and ranked Lofthouse #1. What can you say, a wonderful talent who won his fourth straight title. All-State in football as well this talented athlete carries a 4.0 GPA. Peterson won a classic with Clawson for the 3-A title, both were spent as they gave it everything they had. Mendenhall captured the 5-A title over Hart. Beardall turned it on and came away with a silver in 4-A. Parker won in a classic over Card of South Summit. Again, a very good weight where two wrestlers not ranked but certainly stand out. They are Rendon Shields of Millard who lost to Card in an OT classic in the 2-A semi-finals as well as Brandon Poulson of Jordan, third place in 5-A.

189 Pounds:

- 1—Skyler Porter (Delta)
- 2—Cody Keisel (Juab)
- 3—Chunner Nyberg (Dixie)
- 4—Brian Curtis (Box Elder)
- 5—Hayden Snow (Mountain Crest)
- 6—Austin Storey (Fremont)
- 7—Brandon Kessler (Millard)
- 8—Kaleb Moritz (Wasatch)

Notes: Two wrestlers I definitely want to mention that are unranked are Lehi's Taylor Savior, the 5-A runner-up who gave Austin Storey all he wanted and then some in their classic championship match and Rich's Tyson Larsen, who dominated the 1-A at his weight class and had a sparkling overall record. Porter, Keisel and Nyberg are all great athletes, Porter separated himself from this trio bit toward the end of the year but all are impressive grapplers. Curtis had a great year for Box Elder placing second to Nyberg and Snow was third in 4-A and had a great back and forth rivalry with Curtis. Kessler gave a game effort to place second to Keisel in 2-A while Moritz placed second to his former teammate Porter.

215 Pounds:

- 1—Sean Sullivan (Wasatch)
- 2—Spencer Nielsen (Delta)
- 3—Thomas Bryson (Layton)
- 4—Jordan Bainter (Juab)
- 5—Eric Lyman (North Sevier)
- 6—Ammon Avans (Orem)
- 7—Cody Dennis (Springville)
- 8—Sean Smith (Box Elder)

Notes: Like Schmalhaus and Lofthouse, Sullivan was a dominant force at this weight. Nielson was the 3-A runner-up. Bryson got it done in 5-A with a state title. Bainter did the same in 2-A just getting past a tough and determined Lyman. Avans was a bit of a surprise in 4-A but once this Orem Tiger got healthy and in shape his athleticism carried him to the 4-A title over another talented athlete in Dennis. Smith was a consistent performer for the Bees and placed third in 4-A.

285 Pounds:

- 1—Sergio Pedroza (Millard)
- 2—Dylan Stadel (Lehi)
- 3—Tyson Hunt (Wayne)
- 4—Daniel Crook (Box Elder)
- 5—Tony Coissart (Grand)
- 6—Kesni Tausinga (Bingham)
- 7—Max Adamson (Copper Hills)
- 8—Zac Jensen (Copper Hills)

Notes: Pedroza won his third state title and though he lost his last one to Stadel in The Rumble finals holds a 2-1 edge over his Lehi rival. This was a tough one to call and I know will be a center of controversy but here it stands. I always update my rankings after Senior National so perhaps both will venture out there and decide things once and for all (hint, hint). Hunt injury defaulted out at The Rumble but other than that this Badger had a great season with just one loss. Crook lost some matches here and there but this undersized big man with an exciting style won the 4-A title. Coissart was the runner-up in 2-A and also was a consistent performer. Tausinga was second in the 5-A division while Copper Hills' pair of goliaths probably gave Stadel his tough competition inside this state, save Pedroza.

Final Notes: Please send in those results of matches etc. to brian@rockymountainwrestling.com. If I messed up a name (very likely) please let me know, also if I'm spelling things wrong, let me know too. Again, please send in reliable information if you think I missed something, I do consider good, logical arguments. Some final adjustments may be made after the folkstyle national tournaments in March.