



Liberal's Arnold Dinh battles Jonathon Heiman Thursday at the Big House. Liberal lost the dual 42-21. Daily Leader/Heather Watt

By EARL WATT

• Daily Leader

For four straight years, the Liberal Redskins have been able to win the Western Athletic Conference title by knocking off the Buffaloes.

But that streak ended Thursday when a veteran group from Garden City were able to pin the Redskins, 41-21.

"The kids wrestled OK, we were just wrestling some kids that were more experienced in the middle weights," Liberal coach Mike Pewthers said. "That's what hurt us."

Despite the loss, Pewthers felt his wrestlers did well against some wrestlers ranked as high as No. 1 in Class 6A.

“Our 215 and heavyweight both pinned their guy,” Pewthers said. “Carlos Rodriguez at 160 won a match against a really tough kid. Benito Rivera wrestled a kid ranked No. 1 in 6A, that was tough. Arnold Dinh wrestled really hard but lost. That was experience.”

Liberal still has three duals to go in the WAC, and Pewthers believed that Liberal can still take second.

“Hopefully this will be the WAC championship, and we end up second,” Pewthers said. “But we still have three WAC duals to wrestle. In two weeks, we will wrestle Great Bend and Hays, next Thursday at Dodge City. We are 13-9 right now with four more duals. We can be 13-13 or 17-9. It will be up to the guys how they perform the next couple of weeks.”