

Saints spike 5A foes for title

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The Xavier Saints won all six of their matches at the Cedar Rapids Washington volleyball tournament Saturday and captured top honors in a star-studded field.

The Saints, who will compete at the Class 4A level in the postseason tournament, whipped a pair of Class 5A powers in the playoffs Saturday at Washington.

Xavier topped Johnston, 26-24, 25-20, in the semifinals and defeated Linn-Mar, 25-23, 12-25, 15-13, in the finals,. Johnston is ranked No. 5 in Class 5A and Linn-Mar is ranked No. 10 in Class 5A.

Xavier is ranked No. 10 in Class 4A, but the Saints will surely climb higher in the next poll.

The Saints also beat Linn-Mar in a thriller in bracket play, 21-14, 14-21, 15-12, to win their pool. Xavier also topped Oskaloosa (18-21, 21-13, 15-7), Solon (21-17, 21-13) and Dubuque Senior (19-21, 21-19, 15-10).

The Saints have gotten off to an 8-0 start this season under new coach Austin Filer, with five of the victories against ranked Class 5A opponents.