

Linn-Mar popping up in the polls

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Linn-Mar Lions have been popping up all over the place in the sports polls this winter.

Basketball, bowling, wrestling, swimming. Pick a sport and the Lions are listed prominently among the top teams in the state.

The Linn-Mar boys basketball team, riding a seven-game winning streak after a season-opening loss at Waukee, jumped from 10th to eighth in the new AP rankings Monday in Class 4A. The Lions collected a pair of impressive victories over Kennedy and Cedar Falls last week. A tough week is ahead with a game Tuesday night at Dubuque Senior before games at home Friday with No. 1 Iowa City West and on the road Saturday at No. 5 Ankeny Centennial.

The Linn-Mar girls basketball team, led by new coach Jaime (Printy) Brandt, is ranked fifth in Class 5A by the IGHSAA. The Lions have a 9-1 record and are headed for a showdown at No. 4 Iowa City West on Friday after hosting Dubuque Senior on Tuesday.

The Linn-Mar wrestling team is currently ranked No. 5 by The Predicament, based on how that wrestling publication thinks the Lions will fare at the Class 3A state meet in February with four highly ranked wrestlers.

The Linn-Mar boys bowling team is ranked No. 5 in the state with a 5-0 record so far. And the Linn-Mar boys swimming team is listed No. 6 in the latest state power rankings by the IHSA.

Linn-Mar also has strong programs in the fall, spring and summer, giving the school one of the top overall sports programs in the state.

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Here are the new AP boys basketball rankings:

CLASS 4A

1. Iowa City West; 2. West Des Moines Dowling, 3. Pleasant Valley, 4. Des Moines Hoover, 5. Ankeny Centennial 6. North Scott, 7. Waukee, 8. Linn-Mar, 9. Dubuque Hempstead. 10. Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln.

CLASS 3A

1. Waverly-Shell Rock, 2. MOC-Floyd Valley, 3. LeMars, 4. Spirit Lake, 5. Dubuque Wahlert, 6. Williamsburg, 7. Dallas Center-Grimes, 8. DeWitt Central, 9. Pella, 10. Gilbert.