

J-Hawks pin Bobcats, make state duals

Written by Jim Ecker

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Cedar Rapids Jefferson senior Dalton Kuehl plans to enroll at Coe this summer to begin his college education and play football, but he's toying with the idea of wrestling for the Kohawks as well.

Based on what he's accomplished with the Jefferson wrestling team this season, it might be hard to walk away from the sport.

Kuehl collected a pin in 2 minutes, 50 seconds Wednesday night at 285 pounds to help the J-Hawks flatten 13th-ranked Western Dubuque, 46-15, in the Class 3A dual meet regional finals at Jefferson.

The sixth-ranked J-Hawks (13-4) will face third-ranked Johnston (23-4) in the quarterfinals of the state dual meet tournament next Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

Kuehl is an accomplished football player, but he's also the second-ranked heavyweight in the state. It would be difficult to compete in both sports in college, but it can be done.

"I don't know," he said. "It's still up in the air."

Jefferson overpowered Western Dubuque and captured 10 of the 14 bouts. Kuehl, Seth Jellison (126), Matt Culver (145) and Luke Sedlacek (160) had pins for the J-Hawks and Brenden Baker (113) had a technical fall.

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Highland County (195-129) defeated Jackson County (159-119) for the state championship in the 159-pound weight class. The victory was a significant one for the J-Hawks, as it marked their first state championship in wrestling since 1995. The team's success was largely due to the efforts of their head coach, who has been instrumental in their development over the years. The win also solidified their position as one of the top teams in the state, and they will be looking to defend their title in the coming years.