

J-Hawks only Metro team with tourney bye

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DES MOINES -- Cedar Rapids Jefferson was the only Metro softball team to receive a first-round bye Monday when pairings for the regional tournaments were released by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Jefferson, ranked sixth in the latest Class 4A poll, received a bye in Region 2. The J-Hawks will host either Cedar Rapids Washington or Waterloo East in a regional semifinal on July 11 at 7 p.m. Washington plays at East in the first round on July 9. The other half of Region 2 has Des Moines North, Marshalltown and #13 West Des Moines Dowling. The regional final is July 13 at Marshalltown.

Prairie plays at Xavier in the Region 4 first round on July 9. The winner plays at No. 7 Iowa City West in the regional semifinals on July 11. The other half of Region 4 includes Newton, Urbandale and No. 14 Des Moines Lincoln. The regional final is July 13 at Iowa City West.

Kennedy plays at Linn-Mar in the Region 5 first round on July 9. The winner plays at No. 3 Muscatine in the regional semifinals on July 11. The other half of Region 5 includes Davenport Central, Pleasant Valley and No. 9 Davenport West.

Marion is in Region 4 in Class 3A. The Indians host Center Point-Urbana on July 9. If they win they play at Solon against either Anamosa or No. 6 Solon. The other half of Region 4 includes Maquoketa, Davenport Assumption, DeWitt Central and No. 9 Mount Vernon. The regional final is July 13 at Solon.

The state softball tournament runs July 18-22 at Fort Dodge.