

No girls in Northrup's path this time

Written by Jim Ecker

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WAVERLY - Joel Northrup is returning to the state wrestling tournament a free man this year.

There aren't any girls in his 132-pound bracket in Des Moines. He's checked to make sure.

"Oh, yeah," he said Saturday with a smile.

Northrup forfeited his first-round match at the state tournament last year to Cassy Herkelman of Cedar Falls rather than wrestle a girl, a decision he ended up explaining on national TV.

He was surprised by the furor his decision created. "I didn't expect it to get that big," he said.

The Linn-Mar junior doesn't have to worry about any gender controversies this year. He can just wrestle and try to help the Lions win the Class 3A state championship.

Northrup and the Lions claimed the Class 3A district title in Waverly Saturday and qualified nine wrestlers for the state tournament that will be held at the Wells Fargo Arena this Thursday through Saturday.

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