

Brenden Baker wins Metro Spotlight Award

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Cedar Rapids Jefferson junior Brenden Baker is the winner of the Metro Spotlight Award for high school boys this week, the Metro Sports Report announced Sunday.

Baker is one of the top wrestlers in the state and is a key ingredient for the J-Hawks, who are ranked No. 3 in Class 3A by The Predicament.

Baker missed the first week of the season while recovering from four broken toes on his left foot, suffered in a gymnastics accident three months ago, but he returned to wrestling in fine form.

Baker quickly pinned both of his opponents last Thursday when Jefferson defeated fifth-ranked Iowa City West and seventh-ranked Linn-Mar in a Mississippi Valley Conference double-dual at Iowa City West.

He won the 113-pound title at the Johnston Invitational on Saturday with two more pins and a 2-0 decision in the finals, giving him a 5-0 record with four pins this season.

Baker placed third at the state tournament last season and is currently ranked No. 2 in his weight class. He collected 24 pins last season and is on pace to break the school record for most pins in a career.