

Hawks bury Prairie for 3rd place, 59-6

Written by Jim Ecker

Wednesday, 18 February 2015 21:55 -



DES MOINES - The friendly rivalry between the Cedar Rapids Jefferson and Cedar Rapids Prairie wrestling teams got a little contentious at the state dual meet tournament at Wells Fargo Arena Wednesday night.

Both teams had one of their wrestlers disqualified for "flagrant misconduct" during their consolation battle for third place as tempers flared on both sides.

Jefferson ran away with the meet, 59-6.

The J-Hawks used the bulk of their varsity lineup, including seven of the eight wrestlers who will compete in the individual state tournament that begins Thursday. The Prairie Hawks took the opposite approach, resting all nine of their state qualifiers after using them earlier in the day.

It turned out to be a mismatch, but the grapplers who took the mat took it seriously. Too seriously, perhaps.

Nick Hogan of Prairie was disqualified from his meet against Nick Dreckman at 170 pounds for unnecessary roughness. And Richard Moomey of Jefferson was disqualified from his bout against Jonah Manson at 220 for similar reasons.

In both cases, three team points were deducted from the scoring.

"I'm not too excited about our part and I know Coach Williams isn't very excited about his part," said Jefferson Coach Dick Briggs. "It was unnecessary."

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Prairie Coach Blake Williams agreed. "Not smart on either end, I'm sure," he remarked.



Jefferson and Prairie won their matches in the opening round of the state meet, then lost to state powers in the semifinals. That sent them against each other for third place.

The J-Hawks put their best lineup on the mat, determined to finish as high as they could.

"The greatest feeling I've had in my Jefferson wrestling career, for sure," said senior Luke Sedlacek, who had a pin at 160 against Prairie. "Of course state champs was one of our goals, but if we couldn't do anything else, third was our goal."

Jefferson lost to Bettendorf, 44-29, in the semifinals. It was Jefferson's only dual-meet loss to an Iowa team all season. The J-Hawks then defeated Prairie for the second time this season for third place.

"I feel great," said Briggs. "It's been 21 years since we were third."

Williams takes the same approach to the state dual meet tournament every year: He puts more emphasis on the individual state tournament and will protect his wrestlers as much as possible.

"We wanted to do what was best for the nine (state qualifiers)," he said. "There's not a big difference between third and fourth."

Williams said he's proud of his seniors for what they've accomplished in their careers. "These

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seniors have been down here all four years," he noted. "That's pretty special."

Prairie lost to Southeast Polk in the semifinals. Southeast Polk beat Bettendorf for the title, 34-28.

The individual state tournament begins Thursday at 9 a.m.

JEFFERSON 59, PRAIRIE 6

132 - Zach Fiser (P) dec. Dylan Pappas, 7-4
138 - Kyle Briggs (J) major dec. Tyger Whitters, 14-4
145 - Matt Culver (J) dec. Chase St. John, 7-5
152 - Tavian Rashed (J) pinned Morgan Hood, 1:01
160 - Luke Sedlacek (J) pinned Derek Horak, 4:33
170 - Nick Dreckman (J) defeated Nick Hogan, DQ
182 - Kelly May (J) pinned Chance Halfhill, 5:42
195 - Erik Hovey (J) pinned Alex Heisdorffer, 3:54
220 - Jonah Manson (P) defeated Richard Moomey, DQ
285 - Dalton Kuehl (J) pinned Jackson Hesseltine, 3:08
106 - Zach Main (J) won by forfeit
113 - Brenden Baker (J) major dec. Lucas Harmening, 11-1
120 - Jake Hensel (J) dec. Jaron Lathrop, 7-5
126 - Seth Jellison (J) pinned Mason Johnson, 1:38

* Prairie penalized 3 team points at 170 for flagrant misconduct

* Jefferson penalized 3 team points at 220 for flagrant misconduct