

Lions, Saints share Metro Spotlight Award

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The Metro Sports Report has never given a Metro Spotlight Award to two teams at the same time, but now it's time for an exception.

The Linn-Mar Lions and Xavier Saints are the joint winners of the Metro Spotlight Award for high school boys this week after both clubs won championships at the boys state soccer tournament in Des Moines Saturday.

Both teams enjoyed impressive runs in the three-day tournament to claim the top prizes at the Cownie Soccer Park.

Linn-Mar defeated all three of the teams that were ranked No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 in the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association poll on its way to the Class 3A title.

The Lions, ranked No. 4 themselves, topped No. 3 Hempstead in the opening round (2-0), took care of top-ranked Johnston in the semifinals (2-1) and blanked No. 2 Ankeny Centennial in the championship match (2-0).

Xavier, ranked No. 2 in Class 2A, beat No. 8 ADM in the quarterfinals (1-0), trimmed No. 1 Norwalk in the semifinals (3-2) and stopped No. 6 DeWitt Central (1-0) in the finals. The last two victories came in dramatic overtime.

It would be impossible to honor only one player from both teams after Linn-Mar and Xavier made the Cedar Rapids/Metro area the hot spot for boys soccer in 2015. As a result, all the Lions and all the Saints are the winners of the Metro Spotlight Award this week.