

## **Metro wrestlers enjoy good start at state**

Written by Metro Sports Report  
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DES MOINES - Metro wrestlers compiled a 22-15 record with eight pins on the opening day of the Class 3A state tournament at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines Thursday.

The Prairie Hawks stand in fourth place in the team standings. All six of Prairie's wrestlers advanced to Friday's competition, with Marcus England (106), Sam Uthoff (120), Josh Wenger (138), Trey Blaha (152) and Skyler St. John (160) alive in the quarterfinals.

The Linn-Mar Lions are in fifth place, just a half-point behind Prairie. Alijah Jeffery (120), Damon Griffin (126), Ross Lembeck (152) and Andrew Holladay (195) reached the quarterfinals with opening-round victories.

The Jefferson J-Hawks are in 11th place with Brenden Baker (106), Kyle Briggs (120), Tavian Rashed (145) and Josh Allen (182) competing in the quarterfinals Friday.

The Xavier Saints are in 12th place, just a half-point behind Jefferson, with Clint Lembeck (132), Nick Drahozal (145) and Sean Ickes (170) heading into the quarterfinals.

Nolan Hrmidko of Kennedy won his opening-round match at 113 pounds and reached the quarterfinals.

Noah Ajram (113) of Linn-Mar, Logen Rodriguez (126) of Kennedy, Matt Wempen (132) of Linn-Mar, Dalton Kuehl (285) of Jefferson and Cole Turner (285) of Xavier split their two matches Thursday and are alive in the consolation rounds.

Trey Schuler (138) of Washington, Taylor Mehmen (145) of Prairie, Kelly May (152) of Jefferson, Shea Hartzler (160) of Linn-Mar and Luke Sedlacek (160) of Jefferson lost both of their matches and were eliminated.

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The Metro area sent 27 wrestlers to the state tournament. Seventeen advanced to the quarterfinals, five are alive in the wrestle-backs and five were eliminated.

Jeffery, Uthoff, Griffin, Rodriguez, Wenger, Ross Lembeck, Blaha and Turner had pins. Hrmidko, Briggs and St. John won technical falls. Clint Lembeck, Rashed and Ickes posted major victories.

Bettendorf leads the Class 3A standings with 31 points, followed by Southeast Polk (29.5) and Waverly-Shell Rock (27.5).

[Class 3A First Day Results](#)