

Thompson's sad day ends with title

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 12 December 2015 21:15 - Last Updated Saturday, 12 December 2015 21:25



New Cedar Rapids Prairie wrestling coach Kane Thompson ran the gamut of emotions Saturday with deep sadness, some happiness and a bittersweet victory all rolled into a short period of time.

Thompson helped bury his 82-year-old grandfather Saturday morning in Brooklyn (Iowa), then drove back to Cedar Rapids Saturday afternoon with a heavy heart and saw his Prairie Hawks win the championship of the Five Seasons Duals at Kennedy High School.

Ironically, Prairie defeated Thompson's former team in the finals when it topped Alburnett 40-34 in a tight battle for the crown.

Thompson missed Prairie's first three matches Saturday before arriving in time for part of its fourth match and all of the finals against Alburnett, where he coached for the last eight years.

"That was kind of weird for me. It's the first time I've ever missed any action," he said when it was over.

Joe Kriegel, his maternal grandfather, died Wednesday at his home in Brooklyn. He was survived by Linda, his wife of 61 years; 21 grand-kids (including Thompson) and 13 great grand-kids. One son preceded him in death.

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The funeral mass was held Saturday morning at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brooklyn.

"Things were kind of winding down there today and everyone was kind of tired and taking a nap and I thought, 'Well, I need to keep my mind busy,'" said Thompson, who knew his grandfather would have wanted him to attend the wrestling tournament.

Thompson said he was very close to his grandfather.



"We have a very big, tight-knit family that's together a lot, so its leader is kind of missing right now, but we'll move forward," he remarked.

"He was always there supporting me. When I was a competitor, you bet. Strange day, but Grandpa said do what you love."

The Prairie Hawks, who are ranked No. 6 in Class 3A, went 4-0 in their pool matches with victories over No. 8 Kennedy (53-22), Urbandale (68-6), Iowa City West (45-19) and 10th-ranked Bettendorf (46-27). That set up the championship match against Alburnett, which is ranked No. 1 in Class 1A and also went 4-0 in pool matches with verdicts over West Delaware (60-24), Iowa City High (52-17), Linn-Mar (40-27) and Class 3A

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fourth-ranked Pleasant Valley (48-33).

Prairie won 8 of 14 bouts against Alburnett and got pins from Preston LaGrange (182), Tyler Pasker (285) and Sam Uthoff (132). Conrad Braswell, Marcus England and Chase St. John won decisions for the Hawks, with Braswell bagging a 15-4 major decision. Taylor Mehmen (195) and Alex Heisdorffer (220) won by forfeit for Prairie.

"We wrestled well," said Thompson. "Any time you go 5-and-0 in a field that had some teams the caliber that are here, you've got to take a lot of good things away from it."

Kennedy trimmed Linn-Mar, 41-36, in the consolation match for third place. The Cougars had a 38-36 lead heading into the final bout and won the meet when third-ranked Ben Sarasin defeated top-ranked Shea Hartzler, 5-3, at 160 pounds.

POOL RESULTS

Metro Teams Only

PRAIRIE HAWKS

Prairie 53, Kennedy 22
Prairie 68, Urbandale 6
Prairie 45, Iowa City West 19
Prairie 46, Bettendorf 27

KENNEDY COUGARS

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Prairie 53, Kennedy 22
Kennedy 67, Urbandale 6
Kennedy 52, Bettendorf 30
Kennedy 39, Iowa City West 36

LINN-MAR LIONS

Linn-Mar 53, Pleasant Valley 25
Alburnett 40, Linn-Mar 27
Linn-Mar 46, Iowa City High 15
Linn-Mar 46, West Delaware 33

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

1st - Prairie 40, Alburnett 34
3rd - Kennedy 41, Linn-Mar 36
5th - Iowa City West 46, Iowa City High 31
7th - Bettendorf 47, West Delaware 21
9th - Urbandale 48, Pleasant Valley 36

PRAIRIE 40, ALBURNETT 34

First Place

170 - Tanner Sloan (A) pinned Derek Horak, 1:05
182 - Preston LaGange (P) pinned Jaxon Flitsch, 1:02
195 - Taylor Mehmen (P) won by forfeit
220 - Alex Heisdorffer (P) won by forfeit
285 - Tyler Pasker (P) pinned Jake Langhoff, 2:49
106 - Conrad Braswell (P) major dec. Jaymus Wilson, 15-4
113 - Marcus England (P) dec. Mason Wickman, 9-2
120 - Ben Moyer (A) pinned Jacob Tedrow, 2:26

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126 - Drake Halblom (A) major dec. Trenten Wennermark, 15-5
132 - Sam Uthoff (P) pinned Kanan Morris, 1:28
138 - Chase St. John (P) dec. Tucker Franklin, 6-1
145 - Tanner Hoyer (A) pinned Casey Hogan, 3:10
152 - Conner Shulista (A) pinned Rhett Ruzicka, 1:21
160 - Bryce Paul (A) pinned Morgan Hood, 0:22

KENNEDY 41, LINN-MAR 36

Third Place

170 - Chayse Schultz (LM) pinned Todd Gusta, 3:17
182 - Garrett Kubovec (K) pinned Logan Hagmeier, 1:08
195 - Sam Pape (K) pinned Baylor Pree, 1:10
220 - Dalles Jacobus (K) pinned Joe Gallo, 3:08
285 - Ben Diestler (LM) won by forfeit
106 - Eli Benion (K) pinned Cole Kraklio, 1:02
113 - Cam Shaver (K) tech fall Jack Nauman, 16-1
120 - Ethan Fish (LM) pinned Gavin White, 1:35
126 - Charlie Petersen (LM) won by forfeit
132 - Nolan Hromidko (K) pinned Logan Dulin, 1:14
138 - Alex Streicher (LM) pinned Dylan Ironside, 1:00
145 - Johnny Clymer (LM) pinned Kale Crawford, 3:14
152 - Logen Rodriguez (K) dec. Jacob Wempfen, 3-1
160 - Ben Sarasin (K) dec. Shea Hartzler, 5-3

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