

Solid effort sends Prairie to district title

Written by Jake Koolbeck

Saturday, 11 February 2012 19:06 - Last Updated Saturday, 11 February 2012 21:07

It wasn't spectacular, but it was solid.

Prairie crowned seven champions and qualified nine wrestlers for next week's state wrestling meet during Saturday's Class 3A district meet at Kennedy.

Prairie won the district meet with 277 points. Western Dubuque was second with 220, Kennedy (140) third, Jefferson (125.5) fifth, and Washington (118) sixth.

Prairie will wrestle in the dual meet state tournament on Wednesday. The traditional meet starts Thursday and runs through Sunday. Both meets are at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

Prairie 152 pound wrestler senior Zach Witte was the most dominant Hawk and likely the most dominant wrestler at the meet.

"It felt like a solid day," Witte said. "I can't complain."

Witte made quick work of his three opponents with fast pins to capture first place and a state berth at 152 pounds after winning the state championship last year at 145 pounds.

"I added some weight. I wrestled at 145 for two years so I needed to go up," Witte said on the jump to 152. "I feel good at 152."

Witte hopes to repeat but said he feels no pressure.

"My one and only goal is to do what I did last year," he said. "I don't feel any pressure though. It's a new year and a new weight."

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Prairie's other champions were Josh Wenger (113), Chris Walters (120), Trey Blaha (126), Peyton Wagner (145), Cameron Rathje (170) and Austin Gould (182). Casey Becker (160) and Andrew Netolicky (220) also qualified with second-place finishes.

Prairie Coach Blake Williams was satisfied with the day but would have liked to have qualified a few more wrestlers.

"It was a good day but you're never satisfied at districts," he said. "We would have liked to get one or two more in."

Prairie finished tied for 12th at last year's state meet, but has hopes for higher finish this time around.

"Our number one goal is to place everyone then see how high they can get," Williams said. "We want to score as many points as possible down there."

Prairie's Becker spoiled the day of Kennedy senior Shane Williams, ranked sixth at 160, when he pinned him in the semis. Williams, with more than 100 career victories, finished third but missed the cut for the state meet.

"It proves that on any given day anyone can be beat," Williams said of his loss to Becker. "He can be very dangerous when he hits his moves. I am happy for him."

Despite the disappointment at 160, the Cougars crowned two champs: Luke Kremer at 132 and Ryan Rodriguez at 138.

"For the most part I thought we wrestled hard. There are two or three matches throughout the day we would like to have back," Kennedy Coach Brent Paulsen said. "Williams' semi would be

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one. It was nothing he did, it just didn't work out the way we wanted."

Kremer had to go two overtimes to beat Western Dubuque's Nick Steger. Kremer qualified for his fourth state meet and will be out to improve on his third place finish from a year ago.

"Hopefully I can win it. I want to be in the finals," Kremer said of his goal at state.

Kremer rode Steger to start the second overtime, denying him a point, and then got a reversal for the win.

"I was confident on the bottom, but a little worried about being able to ride him," Kremer said. "It was an intense and tiring match."

Rodriguez got revenge on Prairie's Skyler St. John to take first at 138 and head back to state.

"He beat me twice this year," Rodriguez said of St. John. "The first two early takedowns got my confidence up."

Kennedy had a chance to send another pair to state in wrestlebacks, but Ben Feuerhelm got beat at 145 and Sean Knox had to drop out at 152 due to injury.

"He just came back about a week ago," Paulsen said. "It was the right thing to do. He is only a freshman we didn't want to risk his future."

Washington's Tyler Burrell won the 285 pound title and the Warriors also qualified Jordin Eicher (126) and Kaisar Herz (152).

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Burrell is ranked first in 3A and finished sixth at state last year.

“My expectation has always been to win the championship, even last year,” Burrell said.

Washington Coach Matt Hatcher thought his team performed at the level they expected and was proud of all his guys.

“It was about what we expected,” Hatcher said. “I am proud of everyone and happy for the guys that made it.”

Jefferson had high expectations, but qualified only one wrestler for state.

“It is the biggest train wreck I have been on,” Jefferson Coach Dick Briggs said. “It is very disappointing. I knew we were on the bubble but thought we could have done better.”

PJ Rashed took second at 113 to advance to state, but that was about the only bright spot for the J-Hawks.

“It is exciting but I wish I had company,” Rashed said. “I thought I deserved it. I worked really hard to get here and felt like I needed to go.”

“I’m proud of him. He worked really hard last summer,” Briggs said. “You get what you earn.”

Jefferson has youth on its side though and could have great things to come in the future.

“We will see how they react to this. If they accept it and don’t do anything to improve we don’t

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get anything out of today,” Briggs said. “I am excited about our future though.”

CLASS 3A DISTRICT WRESTLING TOURNAMENT At C.R. Kennedy

TEAM SCORES

(State qualifiers in parentheses)

1. CR Prairie (9) 277
2. Western Dubuque (8) 220
3. CR Kennedy (2) 140
4. Dubuque Senior (2) 127.5
5. CR Jefferson (1) 125.5
6. CR Washington (3) 118
7. Marshalltown (1) 82.5
8. Dubuque Hempstead (2) 56

106 Pounds

Guaranteed Places

- 1st Place - Chase Lynn of Dubuque Senior
- 2nd Place - Austin Hosch of Western Dubuque
- 3rd Place - Griffin Bollman of Cedar Rapids Jefferson
- 4th Place - Dax Dills of Cedar Rapids Washington
- 5th Place - Zack Fiser of Prairie, Cedar Rapids
- 6th Place - Kobi Cowen of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

1st Place Match

Chase Lynn (Dubuque Senior) dec. Austin Hosch (Western Dubuque) 4-3

2nd Place Wrestleback

Austin Hosch (Western Dubuque) over Griffin Bollman (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), RULE

3rd Place Match

Griffin Bollman (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) dec. Dax Dills (Cedar Rapids Washington) 12-5

5th Place Match

Zack Fiser (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) major dec. Kobi Cowen (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) 12-0

113 Results

Guaranteed Places

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1st Place - Josh Wenger of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Patrick Rashed of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

3rd Place - Nathan Waterhouse of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

4th Place - Andy Dougherty of Western Dubuque

5th Place - Troy Neagle of Cedar Rapids Washington

6th Place - Ian Hurst of Dubuque Hempstead

1st Place Match

Josh Wenger (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) pinned Patrick Rashed (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 3:52

2nd Place Wrestleback

Patrick Rashed (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) over Nathan Waterhouse (Cedar Rapids Kennedy),
RULE

3rd Place Match

Nathan Waterhouse (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) dec. Andy Dougherty (Western Dubuque), 2-1

5th Place Match

Troy Neagle (Cedar Rapids Washington) dec. Ian Hurst (Dubuque Hempstead), UTB 2-2

120 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Chris Walters of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Jake Gotto of Western Dubuque

3rd Place - Colten Phillips of Marshalltown

4th Place - Trey Schuler of Cedar Rapids Washington

5th Place - Kemmy Betwell of Dubuque Senior

6th Place - Taylor Moss of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

1st Place Match

Chris Walters (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) major dec. Jake Gotto (Western Dubuque), 12-4

2nd Place Wrestleback

Jake Gotto (Western Dubuque) over Colten Phillips (Marshalltown), RULE

3rd Place Match

Colten Phillips (Marshalltown) pinned Trey Schuler (Cedar Rapids Washington), 4:27

5th Place Match

Kemmy Betwell (Dubuque Senior) pinned Taylor Moss (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), 5:48

126 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Trey Blaha of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Jordin Eicher of Cedar Rapids Washington

3rd Place - Michael Moncivais of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

4th Place - James Ruzicka of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

5th Place - Brandon Feldman of Dubuque Hempstead

6th Place - Jordan Peterson of Dubuque Senior

1st Place Match

Trey Blaha (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) pinned Jordin Eicher (Cedar Rapids Washington), 1:10

2nd Place Wrestleback

Jordin Eicher (Cedar Rapids Washington) over Michael Moncivais (Cedar Rapids Jefferson),
RULE

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3rd Place Match

Michael Moncivais (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) pinned James Ruzicka (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), 1:36

5th Place Match

Brandon Feldman (Dubuque Hempstead) dec. Jordan Peterson (Dubuque Senior), 12-6

132 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Luke Kremer of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

2nd Place - Nick Steger of Western Dubuque

3rd Place - Zack Becicka of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

4th Place - Trevor Luebe of Cedar Rapids Washington

5th Place - Matt Hesselman of Dubuque Senior

6th Place - Spencer Brosseau of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

1st Place Match

Luke Kremer (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) dec. Nick Steger (Western Dubuque), 3-1 (2OT)

2nd Place Wrestleback

Nick Steger (Western Dubuque) over Zack Becicka (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), RULE

3rd Place Match

Zack Becicka (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) dec. Trevor Luebe (Cedar Rapids Washington), 6-3

5th Place Match

Matt Hesselman (Dubuque Senior) pinned Spencer Brosseau (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 4:23

138 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Ryan Rodriguez of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

2nd Place - Dylan Gansen of Western Dubuque

3rd Place - Skyler St. John of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

4th Place - Luke Sedlacek of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

5th Place - Zach Slocum of Marshalltown

6th Place - Enoc Alvarenga of Dubuque Senior

1st Place Match

Ryan Rodriguez (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) dec. Skyler St. John (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), 7-2

2nd Place Wrestleback

Dylan Gansen (Western Dubuque) dec. Skyler St. John (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), 4-2

3rd Place Match

Dylan Gansen (Western Dubuque) dec. Luke Sedlacek (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 6-2

5th Place Match

Zach Slocum (Marshalltown) dec. Enoc Alvarenga (Dubuque Senior), 8-7

145 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Peyton Wagner of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Dawson Nemmers of Western Dubuque

3rd Place - Ben Feuerhelm of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

4th Place - Jake Steffen of Dubuque Senior

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5th Place - Kelly May of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

6th Place - Tyler Burkle of Cedar Rapids Washington

1st Place Match

Peyton Wagner (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) major dec. Dawson Nemmers (Western Dubuque), 9-0

2nd Place Wrestleback

Dawson Nemmers (Western Dubuque) dec. Ben Feuerhelm (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), 6-2

3rd Place Match

Ben Feuerhelm (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) dec. Jake Steffen (Dubuque Senior), 4-3

5th Place Match

Kelly May (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) dec. Tyler Burkle (Cedar Rapids Washington), 7-3

152 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Zach Witte of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Kaisar Herz of Cedar Rapids Washington

3rd Place - Bryce Hoerner of Western Dubuque

4th Place - Sean Knox of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

5th Place - Jack Freese of Dubuque Senior

6th Place - Agustin Ortiz of Marshalltown

1st Place Match

Zach Witte (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) pinned Kaisar Herz (Cedar Rapids Washington), :40

2nd Place Wrestleback

Kaiser Herz (Cedar Rapids Washington) pinned Bryce Hoerner (Western Dubuque), 1:13

3rd Place Match

Bryce Hoerner (Western Dubuque) over Sean Knox (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), injury default

5th Place Match

Jack Freese (Dubuque Senior) major dec. Agustin Ortiz (Marshalltown), 10-0

160 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Morgan Hall of Western Dubuque

2nd Place - Casey Becker of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

3rd Place - Shane Williams of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

4th Place - Shavez Butler of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

5th Place - Derek Mann of Marshalltown

6th Place - Mitch McElmeel of Dubuque Senior

1st Place Match

Morgan Hall (Western Dubuque) pinned Casey Becker (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), 3:05

2nd Place Wrestleback

Casey Becker (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) over Shane Williams (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), RULE

3rd Place Match

Shane Williams (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) pinned Shavez Butler (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 2:43

5th Place Match

Derek Mann (Marshalltown) pinned Mitch McElmeel (Dubuque Senior), 4:20

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Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Cameron Rathje of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - David Hughes of Marshalltown

3rd Place - Blake Kass of Western Dubuque

4th Place - Josh Allen of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

5th Place - Drake Hickok of Cedar Rapids Washington

6th Place - Curtis Stacey of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

1st Place Match

Cameron Rathje (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) dec. David Hughes (Marshalltown), 5-0

2nd Place Wrestleback

David Hughes (Marshalltown) over Blake Kass (Western Dubuque), RULE

3rd Place Match

Blake Kass (Western Dubuque) dec. Josh Allen (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 15-8

5th Place Match

Drake Hickok (Cedar Rapids Washington) pinned Curtis Stacey (Cedar Rapids Kennedy), :32

182 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Austin Gould of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

2nd Place - Layton Fritsch of Dubuque Hempstead

3rd Place - Brennan Koerperich of Western Dubuque

4th Place - Mario Torres of Marshalltown

5th Place - Rob Blake of Dubuque Senior

6th Place - Dalton Kuehl of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

1st Place Match

Austin Gould (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) dec. Layton Fritsch (Dubuque Hempstead), 7-4

2nd Place Wrestleback

Layton Fritsch (Dubuque Hempstead) over Brennan Koerperich (Western Dubuque), RULE

3rd Place Match

Brennan Koerperich (Western Dubuque) dec. Mario Torres (Marshalltown), 13-7

5th Place Match

Rob Blake (Dubuque Senior) pinned Dalton Kuehl (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 2:34

195 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Riley Demmer of Western Dubuque

2nd Place - Mitch Powers of Dubuque Senior

3rd Place - Trent Schulte of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

4th Place - Brandon Leary of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

5th Place - Dakota Aldrich of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

6th Place - Matt Vandegrift of Marshalltown

1st Place Match

Riley Demmer (Western Dubuque) dec. Mitch Powers (Dubuque Senior), 14-12

2nd Place Wrestleback

Mitch Powers (Dubuque Senior) over Trent Schulte (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), RULE

3rd Place Match

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Trent Schulte (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) dec. Brandon Leary (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 5-3
5th Place Match

Dakoda Aldrich (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) pinned Matt Vandegrift (Marshalltown), 2:25

220 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Brett Haas of Dubuque Hempstead

2nd Place - Andrew Netolicky of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

3rd Place - Jesse Blus of Dubuque Senior

4th Place - Drake Allen of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

5th Place - Zack Goodall of Cedar Rapids Kennedy

6th Place - Justin Curtis of Western Dubuque

1st Place Match

Brett Haas (Dubuque Hempstead) dec. Andrew Netolicky (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), 11-4

2nd Place Wrestleback

Andrew Netolicky (Prairie, Cedar Rapids) over Jesse Blus (Dubuque Senior), RULE

3rd Place Match

Jesse Blus (Dubuque Senior) dec. Drake Allen (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), 8-7

5th Place Match

Zack Goodall (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) dec. Justin Curtis (Western Dubuque), 1-0

285 Results

Guaranteed Places

1st Place - Tyler Burrell of Cedar Rapids Washington

2nd Place - Dakoda Elledge of Western Dubuque

3rd Place - Mic Vesey of Cedar Rapids Jefferson

4th Place - Tony Kavanagh of Prairie, Cedar Rapids

5th Place - Malcom Hawk of Marshalltown

6th Place - Christian Anderson of Dubuque Senior

1st Place Match

Tyler Burrell (Cedar Rapids Washington) dec. Dakoda Elledge (Western Dubuque), 3-2

2nd Place Wrestleback

Dakoda Elledge (Western Dubuque) over Mic Vesey (Cedar Rapids Jefferson), RULE

3rd Place Match

Mic Vesey (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) pinned Tony Kavanagh (Prairie, Cedar Rapids), 3:43

5th Place Match

Malcom Hawk (Marshalltown) dec. Christian Anderson (Dubuque Senior), 9-2