

Baker wins Metro Spotlight Award

Written by Metro Sports Report

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Cedar Rapids Jefferson sophomore Brenden Baker is the winner of the Metro Spotlight Award this week for high school boys, the Metro Sports Report announced Sunday.

Baker is ranked No.1 at 106 pounds in Class 3A for the Jefferson wrestling team with a spotless 11-0 record and is a major reason the J-Hawks have climbed to No.9 in the team rankings.

He collected three straight pins en route to winning the 106-pound title at the West Des Moines Valley tournament this month. He also captured top honors at the Keith Young Invitational in Cedar Falls by knocking off Jack Wagner of Bettendorf, who was ranked No.1 at the time.

Baker had a pin when the J-Hawks upset then-No.8 Iowa City West in a dual meet.

Here is our Question-&-Answer session with Brenden Baker:

MSR: What is your favorite individual highlight in sports?

BRENDEN: My favorite individual highlight would have to be finally defeating a tough opponent that had beaten me by one or two points all high school season in Colorado in the finals.

MSR: What is your favorite team highlight in sports?

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BRENDEN: My favorite team highlight in wrestling would have to be this year when our team beat Iowa City West.

MSR: What are your future goals in sports?

BRENDEN: My goals for the future are to go on to college and wrestle and see where things take me from there.

MSR: Who has had the biggest influence in your sports career?

BRENDEN: My father has had the biggest influence on my sports career. Without him I would not have gotten into wrestling and he continuously pushes me and helps me strive to be the best. He also works with me on stuff I need help with and is always there for me when I need him. I know I can always count on him when I'm doing something wrong to show me different ways to do things and he is always supportive of what I want to do and with my decisions.

MSR: What are your favorite classes in school?

BRENDEN: My favorite classes in school are L.A., Spanish and Performance P.E.