

Herman, Witte reach milestones

Written by Jim Ecker

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Thursday's wrestling meet between Jefferson and Prairie had been over for about 15 minutes when Conner Herman found Zach Witte and ambled over to shake hands.

It was a night for mutual congratulations.

Herman broke Jefferson's career record for most pins and Witte became the newest member of Prairie's 100-victory club during their double-dual at Jefferson.

Herman, a senior who is ranked No.1 at 215 pounds, snapped Mark Ironside's record when he pinned Prairie's Colton Tonn in 3:26 for the 54th stick of his career.

Witte, a junior who is ranked No.4 at 145 pounds, collected an 18-6 decision over Jefferson's Dylan Moenck to reach the century mark in just three years.

Both wrestlers were happy with their milestones, but both preferred to look ahead and refused to be satisfied.

"Don't get me wrong. It's great," Herman said of his accomplishment. "Mark Ironside is a great wrestler. He still has something that I don't. A state championship."

All three Ironside brothers -- Matt, Mark and Tim -- were state champions for Jefferson in the 1990s, but nobody has won a state title for the J-Hawks since Tim Ironside in 1998. Herman is aiming to change that, but he had a rude awakening last Saturday when A.J. Garcia of Linn-Mar beat him, 9-3, in the championship match of the Mississippi Valley Conference tournament.

"I hate to lose more than anything," he said. "The rest of the weekend, I couldn't sleep. I just wanted Monday to come so I could get back to work. It's now or never."

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Jefferson Coach Dick Briggs saluted Herman for breaking a cherished school record. Mark Ironside collected 53 pins from 1990-93.

"Anything Mark Ironside holds is a good record to break. You betcha," said Briggs, who coached the Ironside brothers. "Conner is a treat to coach. And he's a great kid, too."

Witte raised his record to 32-0 this season and to 100-13 in his career at Prairie with two victories during the double-dual at Jefferson that included Waterloo West.

"Well, so far so good," he said. "I'm still undefeated, and this is the part of the season where you don't want to change that. I'm going to do the best I can and hope it stays that way."

Witte won his second MVC title last Saturday and collected his 100th victory five days later.

"That's pretty special," remarked Prairie Coach Blake Williams. "One hundred wins is a great accomplishment. To do that as a junior is really good."

"It's a nice honor," said Williams, "but I know that he would trade that for getting a bigger prize toward the end, that's for sure."

All three meets in the MVC double-dual turned out to be lopsided on Senior Night at Jefferson. Prairie whipped Waterloo West, 65-6, and dumped the J-Hawks, 51-12. Jefferson claimed a consolation prize with a 54-21 conquest of Waterloo West.

JEFFERSON 54, WATERLOO WEST 21

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103 -- Bollman (J) pinned Brockman, 3:10; 112 -- Hensel (J) pinned Risse, 1:30; 119 -- Rashed (J) won by forfeit; 125-- Moncivais (J) won by forfeit; 130 -- Sturgeon (J) won by forfeit; 135 -- Carson (J) pinned E.Martin, 2:43; 140 -- Steimel (WW) dec. Smith, 1-0; 145 -- Moenck (J) pinned A. Martin, 4:55; 152 -- Kohlmeyer (WW) pinned Boesenberg, 1:50; 160 -- Harrington (WW) pinned Butler, 1:36; 171 -- Brauer (WW) pinned Leary, 1:43; 189 -- Welsh (J) dec. Laird, 13-6; 215 -- Herman (J) dec. Moore, 6-1; 285 -- Vesey (J) pinned Phillips, 2:21.

PRAIRIE 65, WATERLOO WEST 6

103 -- Blaha (P) pinned Brockman, 1:57; 112 -- Flege (P) major dec. Risse, 11-1; 119 -- Walters (P) won by forfeit; 125 -- Becicka (P) won by forfeit; 130 -- Whitters (P) won by forfeit; 135 -- Day (P) pinned E.Martin, 3:38; 140 -- Becker (P) dec. Steimel, 4-3; 145 -- Witte (P) pinned A. Martin, :55; 152 -- Rathje (P) dec. Kohlmeyer, 4-1; 160 -- Wagner (P) major dec. Harrington, 8-0; 171 -- Steenblock (P) dec. Brauer, 6-1; 189 -- Netolicky (P) pinned Laird, 1:13; 215 -- Moore (WW) pinned Tonn, 5:05; 285 -- Brunscheen (P) pinned Roof, 5:45.

PRAIRIE 51, JEFFERSON 12

103 -- Blaha (P) pinned Bollman, 5:28; 112 -- Flege (P) major dec. Hensel, 11-2; 119 -- Walters (P) tech fall Rashed, 20-5; 125 -- Becicka (P) pinned Moncivais, 3:32; 130 -- Carson (J) dec. Whitters, 11-4; 135 -- Smith (J) dec. Day, 10-3; 140 -- Becker (P) pinned Lockhart, 3:48; 145 -- Witte (P) major dec. Moenck, 18-6; 152 -- Rathje (P) pinned Boesenberg, 4:11; 160 -- Wagner (P) tech fall Butler, 16-0; 171 -- Steenblock (P) dec. Leary, 6-1; 189 -- Netolicky (P) dec. Welsh, 5-4; 215 -- Herman (J) pinned Tonn, 3:26; 285 -- Brunscheen (P) dec. Vesey, 3-1.