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## McDonough makes his move McDonough's 5-point cradle sinks Carew

DES MOINES — Linn-Mar's Matt McDonough knows how to get a leg up on the competition, and he used every inch of his own to secure another trip to the state finals.

McDonough cinched up leg-cradle for a 5-point move against Iowa City West's Dylan Carew that propelled him to a 10-4 victory in the 130-pound semifinals of the Class 3A state wrestling tournament last night at Wells Fargo Arena.

The pair are familiar with one another. The friends off the mat had met twice already this year with McDonough winning 1-0 and 4-0. Carew's approach this time seemed to work better, and he threatened to score multiple times.

"This time he was going for his big go-to stuff," McDonough said. "He was being more tactical with me. We got into a couple of dogfights. Luckily, I came out on one big one and that carried me through the match."

That move was the leg-cradle, which came in the second period while defending a Carew single-leg shot. McDonough tried to come around behind but saw the chance to lock up the unusual pinning move. He claims he often uses the unusual pinning move, which broke open a 1-1 tie.

"Over half of my pins, and I have 29 pins so far this year," McDonough said. "I get a lot of back points and a lot of pins on that move."

The entire match was a flurry of action, especially in the final period when the two traded takedowns and escapes. McDonough (37-0) was able to hold on, getting a chance to earn his third state title in the championship against Keokuk's Julian Feikert (34-2), who beat Waverly-Shell Rock's Anthony Campbell.

A win would put him with Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Mel Wieland, Cedar Rapids Prairie's Barry Davis and Linn-Mar's Jay Borschel as the Metro's only three-time state champs (Borschel won four).

"It's a huge honor," the top-ranked McDonough said. "It's a pretty exciting feeling you have a chance to do that. I have one more match tomorrow. Hopefully, it goes my way."

West lost the war with Waverly, which has a record 197 points and locked up the team title. The Go-Hawks broke the record of 188 set by Council Bluffs Lewis Central in 2001.

The Trojans are in second with 114.5 and were tested in the semifinals. Brothers Nick and Nate Moore at 125 and 140, Derek St. John at 145 and 171-pounder Grant Gambrall advanced to defend their state titles. None cruised.

"They had some battles," West Coach Mark Reiland said. "These were some fights. Some were closer than we wanted to be."

Nate Moore (45-0) was taken down right away by Davenport Central's Max Mayfield, but rebounded to build a lead before a third-period fall. He becomes just the 36th four-time finalist when he goes for his second state title tonight against No. 2 Casey Strub of Indianola. He'll be joined in the finals for the second year by his

sophomore brother. Nick (45-0) advanced with a tight 10-8 win over Cedar Rapids Prairie's Tyler Hardin.

Nick wants to end Nate's career with both winning gold.

"I would love nothing more (than) to have that happen," said Nick, whose win contributed to Prairie's 1-3 semifinal showing.

Top-ranked 215-pounder Mickey Sprague (33-1) was the lone Prairie Hawk to win last night, pinning third-ranked Garrett Hamilton in 5:38. Sprague had a lead late when he finally felt he broke Hamilton's spirit.

"Once he shot that final takedown and I got it, I just felt his body go limp knowing that defeat," Sprague said, "That's when I hit it hard and he didn't even fight off (his back).

Sprague, a two-time placewinner, said he's been working his whole life for a state title, and he hasn't won anything yet.

"I'm not going to worry about the win or loss," Sprague said. "I'm just going to wrestle the way I can."

West 285-pounder James Ferentz (39-1) advanced to the final with an overtime takedown to beat Waterloo East's Trey Pendleton, 3-1. He gets another crack at the nation's top 285-pounder, Eric Thompson of Waverly-Shell Rock.

"I just focused on the match in front of me and I've been fortunate enough to win," said Ferentz, who received a fist pump and clap from father, Kirk, in the stands. "Now, I'm in the state finals. That's something I've looked forward to all year."

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