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McDonough makes it 3 titles

DES MOINES — Before having his third state championship gold medal placed around his neck, Linn-Mar senior Matt McDonough placed a quick call to the greatest Lion wrestler of all time.

McDonough informed four-time state champion and longtime friend Jay Borschel that he had company in the school's record book. The top-ranked McDonough equaled Borschel's season record for pins with 30 after flattening Keokuk's Julian Feikert in three minutes in the Class 3A 130-pound state final last night at Wells Fargo Arena.

"I told him he had to share the record," McDonough said. "He was laughing. He wasn't too disappointed. He has a state title on me."

McDonough (38-0) joined elite company in state tournament annals, becoming one of 65 wrestlers to have won three state championships. Gilbertville Don Bosco's Bart Reiter and Creston/Orient-Macksburg's Andrew Long also captured third titles last night.

"This is right there with the other two," McDonough said. "It's just as prestigious and came against different opponents. Every year I won state, there was a state champion in my bracket.

"The reality of it, it's good to know I did something like that."

Iowa City West, which finished second to Waverly-Shell Rock after winning the previous two team titles, crowned repeat state champions in senior Nate Moore (125), sophomore Nick Moore (140), junior Derek St. John (145) and senior Grant Gambrall (171).

All four top-ranked competitors were dominant in the finals, just as they were all season and in 2007. Nate Moore (46-0) pinned Indianola's Casey Strub in 2:50 to get the ball rolling.

"This one seemed a lot easier going. Last year, the title got everything off my chest," said Nate Moore, a four-time finalist who settled for second as a freshman and sophomore. "This is something I should win. I have higher expectations for what I can do in the future."

Nate Moore, McDonough and Gambrall will wrestle at the University of Iowa.

Gambrall (43-1) allowed his first offensive points of the tournament by surrendering a takedown to Council Bluffs Lewis Central's Justin Rau, only to later score a fall in 3:15.

By the time Gambrall took the mat, three teammates had won state titles.

"It was the same three guys in front me as last year and they did their jobs in dominating fashion," Gambrall said. "Seeing that, you can't be any more confident that you can do that, too."

Nick Moore (46-0) duplicated his brother's feat by scoring a 12-2 major decision over Davenport North's Alec Hoffman.

"I was keeping up the family business, I guess," Nick Moore said.

Trying to keep up with his brother is no easy task, especially with the way he wrestled in his final state tournament, scoring three falls and one technical fall.

"He's good. You don't have to say much," Nick Moore said of his brother. "He's tough and showed everybody. He walked through it. He owned this tournament."

Nick Moore isn't too shabby, either. He is halfway to becoming a four-time state champion.

"Before tonight, I was six minutes from two (titles). I'm just going for next year," Nick Moore said.

St. John (46-0) put the finishing touches on an undefeated season with an 18-6 major decision over Waterloo East's Kyven Gadson.

There was just no stopping this Trojan foursome for a second straight season.

"Once we get the ball rolling, the momentum keeping building," St. John said. "Everyone feeds off it."

Cedar Rapids Prairie senior Mickey Sprague came up short in the 215-pound final, dropping a 5-2 decision to Clinton's Byron Tate. Sprague, top ranked, finished with a 33-2 record after allowing a first period takedown and another takedown in the final seconds.

At 285, Waverly-Shell Rock's Eric Thompson (42-0) showed why he's ranked No. 1 nationally, pinning Iowa City High's James Ferentz (39-2) in 1:25.

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