



McCovey, Stevenson win at H-DNC Championships

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On Saturday in Eureka, Del Norte's Roger McCovey and Arcata's Trent Stevenson each had outstanding performances at the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference wrestling championships.

Stevenson, who became the sixth four-time White Star winner after defeating Eureka's Jason Spellenberg in the 140-pound final, was also named the championship's Most Outstanding Lowerweight wrestler as Arcata finished in first place.

And McCovey, who defeated Arcata's Stephan Vaudiau in the 285-pound final, was named the championship's Most Outstanding Heavyweight wrestler in helping his team finish in second place overall.

Eureka's day was marred by a flagrant misconduct by one of its wrestlers, which led to the wrestler losing placing points and, in turn, Eureka finishing behind both Arcata and Del Norte for third place.

Eureka's Keith Adams said he was pretty happy with the majority of his wrestlers because they met his expectations.

"They put in a lot of hard work and applied what they've learned," Adams said.

Adams is stepping down to spend more time with his family after the season is over and came up short in his bid for a fifth league title as a head coach.

He will be succeeded by Clint Hunter, who has been an assistant for Eureka the past three years.

Hoopla had one wrestler win, with Merk Robbins defeating South Fork's Gabriel Miclette at 112 pounds, and according to head coach Mike Lee, the team will send all four of its wrestlers to North Coast Sections.

"Robbins came out and accomplished what we set out to do," Lee said. "We're getting stronger and we're going to get ready for sections."

As for Fortuna, Ivan Cardoza and Jared Santos were both winners and head coach Sean O'Day said he was proud of how they performed.

"I expect both of them to win some matches at sections," O'Day said. "There's a good possibility they'll both place."

Ferndale did not have any wrestlers place on Saturday, which disappointed head coach Kenny Simpson.

"We had a tough tournament," Simpson said. "Last year, five of our six kids went to sections."

Simpson added that he was impressed with Sarah Hubbard's courage at 103 pounds, considering Hubbard was still recovering from a broken foot and had to ice the area after every match she wrestled.

Del Norte assistant head coach Clinton Schaad didn't think his team held its seeds very well despite the Warriors' high finish and was quick to point out that the championships come down to how the team performs as a whole.

"It's a team deal, not an individual thing," Schaad said.

As for Arcata head coach Robert England, he was ecstatic with how his team performed in winning the conference championship.

"It was an incredible performance," England said. "The kids were ready to wrestle today, even though it was a see-saw between three teams. Almost every match meant something."

England added that even though the Tigers lost to Eureka and Del Norte in the dual meets, they continued to work hard and believed in what they were doing, which led to the team coming together at the right time and putting together a spectacular effort.

England also was very pleased with Stevenson.

"Trent is in elite company," England said. "He's been a great wrestler and he's (still) a great wrestler."