

Trio of H-DN wrestlers capture NCS titles

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NEWARK -- Trent Stevenson, Mike Larson and Roger McCovey from the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference captured individual wrestling championships at the North Coast Section/Les Schwab Tires meet at Newark High School on Saturday.

Each of the three wrestlers swept undefeated through their five matches.

"It says a great deal about our league to have three champions," said Rob England, Arcata's head coach.

Stevenson took the title in the 140-pound weight bracket when Sam Worth of Miramonte forfeited, after the Arcata star won technical falls in each of his four prior matches.

Regarding Stevenson's four technical fall victories, England said that "Sometimes a pin does not tell the story, but if you beat a kid by 15 or more, it's sheer dominance."

The Tiger senior beat Livermore's Aaron Sanchez 23-8, Montgomery's Michael Hall 30-12, Terra Linda's Danny Houts 18-3 and Foothill's Brandon O'Malley 21-6, before Worth forfeited due to an injury.

Larson took the 189-pound crown when he defeated Petaluma's Adam O'Brien 7-1 in the championship.

"I actually wanted the guy (O'Brien) to wrestle

me rather than backing up like everyone else did," said Larson.

In prior matches, Larson beat Ukiah's Edwin Guerrero 17-2 in a technical fall, El Molino's Alan Hanson by a fall at 4:45, Newark's Milo Anderson 15-5 in a major decision, and then he shut out Livermore's Shawne Hoehne 7-0.

Bronc McCovey won the 285-pound heavyweight title when he dominated Rancho Cotate's Bud Guinn 18-3 in a technical fall.

The Warrior junior took his first four matches by falls, defeating Concord's Adam Arce at 1:25, Ukiah's Justin Benninger at 1:45, Deer Valley's Joseph Malolo at 1:35 and Freedom's Gonzalo Hernandez at 3:32.

In addition to Stevenson, Larson and McCovey, two other H-DNC wrestlers -- Del Norte's Jake Young and Arcata's Trevor Floyd -- placed fourth and fifth, respectively, in their weight brackets.

Young won five of his seven matches, placing fourth in the 215-pound bracket after losing a 5-3 decision to Alhambra's Jeff McGee for third place.

The Del Norte star began by beating Pittsburg's Nico Gutierrez by a fall at 1:11 and Lower Lake's Justin Harrison by a fall at 5:15. Young then lost 3-1 to Foothill's Drew Carpenter, who took second place in the weight bracket.

The Warrior worked his way back through the consolation rounds with a 9-8 victory over DeLa Salle's Jordan Felix, a 5-3 win over Willits' Brian Agenbroad, and a 3-1 overtime victory over Rancho Cotate's Anthony Gordon.



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Floyd took fifth in the 171-pound bracket, winning five of his seven matches, including a 3-0 triumph over Livermore's Rodney Neale for fifth place.

The Arcata star beat Casa Grande's Dillion McEwan 7-5, Granada's Brian Engdahl 9-2 and then lost by a technical fall (16-1) to De La Salle's Tito Pica -- who won the weight class championship.

The Tiger fought back, defeating Montgomery's Robert Keegan 6-2 and Irving's Brittley Tringali by a fall at 2:46 before losing to College Park's Gerson Nkunku 13-1 in a major decision.

The top four finishers in each of the 14 weight brackets qualified for the state championships at Bakersfield next weekend, so the three champions plus Young will represent both the H-DNC and the NCS.