Warrior Run's Hunt comes up with big Sectional win

Sun Gazette February 17, 2014 By Mitch Rupert

BENTON—Not one to show much emotion, Eric Hunt just couldn't help himself after a five-point move in overtime Saturday night.

The returning state qualifier from Warrior Run had pushed the pace of his 113-pound Central Sectional final with Kyle Drick for much of the night, but just couldn't seem to score the points he wanted to. Then his opportunity arose at the most opportune of times.

He scrambled, trying to get behind Drick, only to find himself in a position to take the Montgomery senior to his back as well for 7-2 win. The excitement for Hunt came as he avenged a loss to Drick a week earlier in a 1-0 match in the two teams' final dual meet of the season.

"When we wrestled last week, he beat me by one in the same exact match," Hunt said after receiving his second consecutive sectional gold medal. "I upped the anty a little bit and took some more shots and I'm glad I could get the win."

Hunt forced Drick to play catch-up for much of the final two periods of the match after he scored a reversal less than 30 seconds into second period. But even after Drick tied the match with a third period escape, Hunt was active on his feet.

He consistently was able to get a front headlock where he was able to snap Drick to the mat. Hunt was never able to scramble behind for the takedown though.

"That's a dogfight position," Hunt said. "It's who is stronger right there and who has better positioning. Even though I had the upper hand, he had the clinch on tight and I couldn't move my arms to get it tight."

But Hunt had the motivation of the week of second-guessing what happened in last week's loss. And even though he hadn't scored on his feet through the six minutes of regulation, he had his opportunities.

The Mohawk-sporting junior finally got an opportunity in overtime he didn't miss on.

"He's a tough competitor," Hunt said. "I know being a senior he's going to come out in a brawl. I knew I could beat him, but I knew it was going to be tough."