

Call young Rodney Scott what you want: Kid Dynamite, Little Big Man -- whatever. After Saturday night at Lugoff- Elgin High, you can call him and his **Fort Dorchester** teammates one more thing: champions.

"That was the key match," **Fort Dorchester** coach B.D. La Prad said after his Patriots claimed the state Class 4A **wrestling** crown with a 31-22 win against Hillcrest. "Their guy was No. 1 in the state at 103 (pounds) and Rodney had to beat him, and he did. It was an awesome win."

Scott's victory against Hillcrest's Collin Horgan, dramatic as it was, was made meaningful only by what happened before it. With Saturday's championships starting at the 119-pound weight class and working its way back around to 112, Scott and Horgan came to the mat with the issue in doubt.

"At first I was down on myself, but I had to do it," said Scott, a ninth-grader. "He was the No. 1 guy in the state, but I knew I could pull it out. I had a lot of momentum."

When Scott and Horgan came to the mat, so did Scott's team. Robert Quinn, the state's top-ranked heavyweight, brought **Fort Dorchester** out of a hole with a four-point win to give the Patriots a 25-22 lead with two matches to go.

Horgan needed at least a three-point win to tie it up for Hillcrest with one match left. But the spunky Scott took a tough 6-3 decision against the state's top-ranked wrestler at 103 pounds to give **Fort Dorchester** a 28-22 lead going into the final match.

That switched the pressure to Hillcrest's Zack Moore -- who needed a pin to tie the score -- and **Fort Dorchester's** Sonny Begeurin decisioned him 5-3 to sew up the championship in the final match of the night.

There were several schools of thought going into the championship round. In a match held at **Fort Dorchester** on Friday night, the Patriots squeaked by defending 4A champion Summerville by a single point to win the Lower State, while Hillcrest slipped past **Fort Mill** 28-26 at Lugoff to take the Upstate crown.

The question of which team would carry the momentum into the final night was answered quickly: both. **Fort Dorchester** just carried it a little further.

"We've only been No. 1 for about the last three weeks," La Prad said, "so I guess we peaked at the right time."

La Prad passed around the laurels, praising Quinn, Daunte Nixon (215), Mel Capers (160), Gerald Jenkins (125), Soji Borja (130) and Wesley Dallas (135) for getting expected wins. And, he added, doing it backto- back.

"It's two nights in a row that we've won one like this, so I'm real proud of our kids," he said.

Hillcrest coach Tommy Bell, however, put it succinctly: "Their little 103 (pounder) won it," he said. "He stepped up and beat one of our best guys when it mattered most, and that's how it boils down.

"They get the credit: We didn't lose the match; their kid won it."

103: Rodney Scott (FD) d. Collin Horgan 6- 3; 112: Zack Moore (H) d. Sunny Begeurin 5-3; 119: Ron Milligan (FD) d. Matt Garrett 17-9; 125: Gerald Jenkins (FD) d. Tommy Cotter 26-11; 130: Seji Borja (FD) d. Aaron Pettry 3-1; 135: Wesley Dallas (FD) d. Martin Taylor 23-10; 140: Bo Martin (H) d. Tyler Walker 9-2; 145: Chase Cox (H) d. Brent La Chance 14-4; 152: Taylor Lance (H) d. Ameen Tucker 13-6; 160: Mel Capers (FD) d. Matt Devita 16-13; 171: Andrew Parker (H) d. Kenneth Johnson 7-1; 189: Sean Gaffney (H) pin Dwayne Scales; 215: Daunte Nixon (FD) d. Dustin Leadford 21-6; Hwt.: Robert Quinn (FD) d. Matt Broad 11-2.

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