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Davison's Donahoe claims national championship

FLINT

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By **Scott Keyes**
sports@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6184

AUBURN HILLS - Davison native Paul Donahoe is in a very select group, one that can call themselves a national champion.

It wasn't easy, though, to gain admittance as Nebraska's Donahoe earned the right by upsetting Oklahoma's Sam Hazewinkel 3-1 in overtime in the 125-pound weight class in the finals of the NCAA wrestling championships at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday.

"I can't tell you how this makes me feel," Donahoe said. "I am truly at a loss for words. I went to bed last night praying to God to give me the strength to meet Sammie, and fortunately for myself he must have been listening. I couldn't be happier. No other way to put it."

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With the score tied 0-0 after the end of one period, Donahoe started flirting with a near fall at the beginning of the second, but it wasn't there as Hazewinkel escapes 18 seconds into the match. Up 1-0, Hazewinkel, was trying to keep Donahoe in check, but 30 seconds into the third, the former Davison wrestler gave a good fake, and tied the match at 1-1 and eventually moving into overtime.

In overtime, Donahoe took over, with a single-leg takedown early in the overtime period, scoring the match winning points.

"During the Big 12 meet a few weeks back, I tried a similar move on Sammie, and it didn't work, but in the overtime I just knew if I landed the move right I could win," Donahoe said. "Sam is one heck of a wrestler, and tonight I guess


was my night."

Nebraska coach Mark Manning knows he has one of the most level-headed wrestlers in the country.

"The kid has guts," Manning said. "Paul has shown all year long the kind of wrestler he is, now he can call himself a national champion."

"I hope one day my current and former teammates from Davison can enjoy this feeling because there is nothing like it," Donahoe said.

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