

December 14, 2008

## West settles for second

### No. 2 Trojans fall to No. 1 Go-Hawks

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CEDAR RAPIDS -- West High put itself back in the finals of the Five Seasons Duals on Saturday and back in position to walk away with another championship.

The Trojans just couldn't finish the job.

Top-ranked Waverly-Shell Rock bested No. 2 West in late-match situations Saturday, tipping the title meet in its favor to claim a 37-33 victory in the first clash of the season between the Class 3A wrestling titans.

"We didn't finish matches very well, that's for sure," West coach Mark Reiland said. "There's no explanation. We just didn't do it, and some of them need to learn how. I don't think shape is an issue, I think their mindset is an issue. Right now, they're afraid to get tired and they're looking for the easy way out. You look for the easy way out and it's going to haunt you."

A collection of slips at the end came back to haunt the Trojans (9-1) Saturday.

The Go-Hawks (7-0) ran up a 31-7 advantage in third-period match points, outscoring the Trojans in all seven of the bouts that reached the final frame to beat West for the second straight year in the tournament championship meet.

"That's where it happens," said top-ranked 152-pounder Nick Moore, who recorded a second-period fall for one of West's six wins. "You can't lay around, you can't wait for things to happen. You've got to push the action. You can't let the other guy determine what happens or let the ref determine what happens."

City High, on the other hand, did its best work at the end of tournament. The Little Hawks bounced back from a 43-36 opening-round loss to Urbandale, cranking out victories against Marshalltown (48-28), Linn-Mar (38-29) and Cedar Falls (38-36) to finish ninth.

Ben DeVos, Jimmy Lazaro and Kevin Harp each went 4-0 on the day for the Little Hawks (5-1).

"I thought we wrestled pretty well and battled hard and saw some positive things," City coach Brad Smith said. "We felt pretty good about what we did."

The Trojans, wrestling without suspended state champion Dylan Carew, would have felt a lot better about their day if they could have re-scripted the ending in a one of the several bouts that got away late.

West beat up on Charles City, Waterloo East and Bettendorf by a 153-46 margin to reach the championship. But every mistake was costly against the Go-Hawks.

"That's a meet we let get away," Reiland said.

The theme of the dual developed in the first match when West senior Matt Behnami's upset bid came unraveled in the final minute of an 8-2 loss to third-ranked Cody Krumwiede at 215. Behnami, ranked ninth, seized the lead early in the third period with a go-behind takedown. But Krumwiede tied the match with a stalling point, grabbed the lead with an escape and scored seven points in the final 72 seconds.

The biggest turn of events came at 103. Waverly-Shell Rock sophomore Tanner Werner fought off his back and out of a 5-0 hole in the first period to pin West freshman Jack Hathaway in 3:58.

The Go-Hawks picked up another pivotal win at 130. Luke Pint, ranked 10th, turned Garrett Hathaway for a two-point near-fall with 21 seconds remaining to pull out a 2-0 victory.

Waverly-Shell Rock won seven of the first eight matches of the dual, rolling up a 33-6 lead. The Go-Hawks padded their advantage when third-ranked Jordan Rinken scored 13 points in the final 96 seconds to secure a technical fall win at 119 against Collin Lord, and No. 2 Cody Caldwell locked up a cradle for a third-period fall against freshman Gradey Gambrall at 125.

Heavyweight Brandon Keuhl, freshman Justin Koethe (140), Moore and Dexter Curry (189) notched falls for the Trojans. West got its other wins when the Go-Hawks forfeited to two-time state champion Derek St. John at 160 and David Solis pulled out an 8-3 win at 171 against Roger Hoeper.

"I don't think their team is that much better than us," Koethe said. "I think it should've been us out there winning."

There was no argument on either side that the dual lacked the energy that became a regular part of the meetings between the two high-powered programs in recent years.

"The fire wasn't there," Waverly-Shell Rock coach Rick Caldwell said. "Why? I don't know. I didn't think we'd win. I thought they'd whip us, I really did. I didn't think we had the balance to beat them. We found a way to do it. I'm proud of my team, but boy, we've got a long, long, long ways to go."

Caldwell said he told Reiland afterward that it was a "pretty ugly" performance by both teams.

"I don't know where the intensity was from both teams," Moore said. "It just wasn't there today. You either pinned or got pinned, it seemed, and there wasn't any fight in the losers' eyes. You could see it in both teams, and that's got to change."

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