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West takes title

Trojans win home tournament for 4th time

RYAN SUCHOMEL • IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN • JANUARY 11, 2009

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No. 2 West High, which had only won its own tournament three times in the previous 16 years, beat Marian Catholic of Chicago 45-26 Saturday in the final round and took the crown at the 17th annual Lepic Duals.

"Once we won it the first time (in 2003), I kind of said jokingly, if we win again, we'd better be a top-five team," West coach Mark Reiland said. "There were some good teams here, and they were all in our pool."

West topped No. 10 Keokuk 55-15, No. 4 Southeast Polk 37-28 and No. 7 Council Bluffs Lewis Central 44-20 in pool play in the morning.

The Trojans then dispatched Fort Dodge -- which finished second to Marian Catholic in the other pool -- 58-12.

Fort Dodge had been scheduled to wrestle at a tournament at Benton Community before it was snowed out. They were able to divert to Iowa City to take the place of Ballard of Huxley. The No. 1 team in Class 2A could not make it because of heavy snow.

"That was lucky," Reiland said of the last-minute substitution.

The biggest Trojan win of the day came from Justin Koethe. The freshman, ranked seventh at 135 pounds, upset top-ranked Julian Fiekert, a junior from Keokuk, 6-4.

"I was kind of nervous," Koethe said. "It was the first match of the day, and I wasn't even ready because I just woke up. But I just went after it."

Koethe said he relied on his defense and turned one of Fiekert's shots into his own takedown.

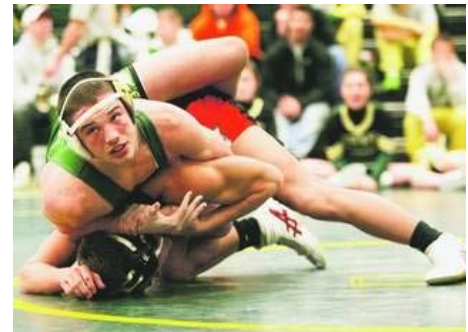
"It's a huge win," Reiland said. "To beat a state finalist as a freshman is a big win. I hope he can build on it. We've had other instances where kids have had big wins and they haven't followed up.

"I know he didn't let up the rest of the day."

Koethe ended up winning the rest of his matches on the day, including three by pin. In his final match, he took a hard hit to the chin and hit the mat for a second, but shook it off and won.

"I'm happy," Koethe said. "I can't be first in the rankings because I've lost to the number two kid, but I'll be at least number two."

The Trojans' three nationally ranked wrestlers racked up bonus points most of the day. Nick Moore (152) and Derek St. John (160) both finished 5-0 with a total of nine pins and one technical fall.



Press-Citizen / John Richard

West High's Dylan Carew, top, drives Fort Dodge's Nate Halverson into the mat in a 145-pound match Saturday at the Lepic Duals at West High.

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Dylan Carew (145), ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 4 in the country, was upset by Elias Larson of Marian Catholic 3-2 in his final match of the day. Larson placed sixth in the Illinois state meet last year.

"(Larson) is a tough kid," Reiland said. "Maybe it's mat time. We haven't had enough competition. He just didn't get his offense going, and he was taken out of his game a little bit with the kid's strength. He's just got to work on that.

"He'd like to wrestle him again but probably won't get that chance."

That trio helped fuel several comebacks. West trailed Southeast Polk 25-13 and was behind Lewis Central 20-13 before the big run through the middle weights.

West trailed Marian 26-12 following Carew's loss, but consecutive pins by Moore, St. John, David Solis, Berkley Strand and Matt Behnami put the match away.

Solis' pin put West in the lead for the first time.

"I was somewhat worried when Dylan lost, but then I thought to myself, we still had Nick and Derrick," Solis said. "I also knew that I had to go through and pin this guy. It'll boost my teammates up."

In other featured matches, West freshman Jack Hathaway, ranked eighth at 103, lost to No. 4 Cory Clark of Southeast Polk 6-4.

Carew beat No. 6 Nate Halverson of Fort Dodge 16-8.

Unranked Gradey Gambrell (125) beat No. 10 Chris Hoskins of Keokuk 12-5.

"We've got a lot to build on," Reiland said. "Our goal is always to bring in the best teams around to help us get better."

West Lepic Duals

Pool A results

Davenport West 45, Oak Park 30

Marian Catholic 50, Fort Dodge 27

Fort Dodge 43, Davenport West 36

Marion Catholic 48, Oak Park 27

Oak Park 51, Fort Dodge 30

Marian Catholic 49, Davenport West 24

Pool B results

West High 55, Keokuk 15

Lewis Central 33, Southeast Polk 26

West High 37, Southeast Polk 28

Lewis Central 43, Keokuk 33

Southeast Polk 54, Keokuk 23

West High 44, Lewis Central 20

Semifinals

Keokuk 53, Davenport West 30

Lewis Central 39, Marian Catholic 27

West High 58, Fort Dodge 12

Southeast Polk 48, Oak Park 23

Finals

Southeast Polk 70, Davenport West 6

West High 45, Marian Catholic 26



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Fort Dodge 39, Lewis Central 33

Keokuk 46, Oak Park 33

WEST 55, KEOKUK 15

171 -- David Solis (W) pinned Canyon McCarty :38.

189 -- Berkley Strand (W) pinned Anthony Vallone 3:01.

215 -- Matt Behnami (W) maj. Dec. Dakota Riddle 10-2.

Hwt. -- Ethan Thompson (K) pinned Brandon Kuehl 1:33.

103 -- Jack Hathaway (W) pinned Chase Helenthal :33.

112 -- Jon Skarda (W) pinned Tyler Hatfield 2:58.

119 -- Hunter St. John (W) dec. Ethan Cooper 18-15.

125 -- Gradey Gambrall (W) dec. Chris Hoskins 12-5.

130 -- Derek Rose (K) dec. Garrett Hathaway 2-1.

135 -- Justin Koethe (W) dec. Julian Feikert 6-4.

140 -- Brandon Briggs (K) pinned Adam Millers :46.

145 -- Dylan Carew (W) pinned David Walker 3:38.

152 -- Nick Moore (W) pinned Matt Kelley 1:28.

160 -- Derek St. John (W) pinned Frank Waisath :49.

WEST 37, SOUTHEAST POLK 28

189 -- Brian Johnson (SP) pinned Strand 1:59.

215 -- Ethan Bass (SP) pinned Behnami 2:39.

Hwt. -- Jake Crawford (SP) pinned Dan Downing 5:30.

103 -- Cory Clark (SP) dec. J. Hathaway 6-4.

112 -- Skarda (W) dec. Drew Stewart 6-4.

119 -- H. St. John (W) maj. Dec. Sam German 10-2.

125 -- Gambrall (W) dec. Tyler German 11-4.

130 -- G. Hathaway (W) dec. Alex Meyer 7-4.

135 -- Bill Borseth (SP) maj. Dec. Tracy Bowers 11-2.

140 -- Koethe (W) pinned Mark Dillavou :44.

145 -- Carew (W) pinned Bud Smith :13.

152 -- Moore (W) pinned Cody Clark 1:55.

160 -- D. St. John (W) pinned A.J. McBroom :55.

171 -- Taylor Bowie (SP) dec. Solis 7-5.

WEST 44, LEWIS CENTRAL 20

215 -- Behnami (W) won by forfeit.

Hwt. -- Kyle Mohr (LC) dec. Downing 1-0.

103 -- J. Hathaway (W) maj. dec. Trevor Paulson 12-4.

112 -- Tyler Feller (LC) dec. Skarda 6-4.

119 -- Jay Hildreth (LC) dec. Collin Lord 7-2.

125 -- Gambrall (W) dec. Klint Foristall 14-8.

130 -- Bret Baumbach (LC) pinned G. Hathaway 5:34.
135 -- Elijah Sullivan (LC_) tech. fall Bowers 17-0 2:52.
140 -- Koethe (W) dec. Zeb Wahle 9-3.
145 -- Carew (W) pinned Ben Schwery 2:14.
152 -- Moore (W) pinned Nick Pursel :28.
160 -- D. St. John (W) pinned Kyle Putnam 1:47.
171 -- Solis (W) maj. dec. Pat Gillespie 18-4.
189 -- Strand (W) pinned Austin Blay 2:53.

WEST 58, FORT DODGE 12

Hwt. -- Sean Springer (FD) dec. Kuehl 3-1.
103 -- J. Hathaway (W) pinned Matt Birnbaum 1:45.
112 -- Skarda (W) maj. dec. Monty Arens 10-2.
119 -- H. St. John (W) won by forfeit.
125 -- Gambrall (W) dec. Chase Grove 7-4.
130 -- G. Hathaway (W) pinned Keegan Nelson 1:14.
135 -- Bowers (W) won by forfeit.
140 -- Koethe (W) pinned Keaton Dunn 1:10.
145 -- Carew (W) maj. dec. Nate Halverson 16-8.
152 -- Moore (W) tech. fall Cody Marsh 26-8 5:13.
160 -- D. St. John (W) pinned Trevor Cook 2:44.
171 -- Solis (W) won by forfeit.
189 -- Tyler Wingerson (FD) pinned Strand 3:27.
215 -- Taylor Morrow (FD) dec. Bennami 3-1.

WEST 45, MARIAN CATHOLIC 26

103 -- J. Hathaway (W) won by forfeit.
112 -- Nate Jackson (MC) dec. Skarda 4-3.
119 -- Steve Murphy (MC) maj. dec. Hunter St. John 12-2.
125 -- Matt O'Boyle (MC) maj. dec. Gambrall 13-0.
130 -- Brendan Murphy (MC) pinned G. Hathaway :55.
135 -- Koethe (W) pinned Kennedy :58.
140 -- Mark Marianovich (MC) pinned Adam Millers 1:03.
145 -- Elias Larson (MC) dec. Carew 3-2.
152 -- Moore (W) pinned Mike Glenn 2:44.
160 -- St. John (W) pinned Mark Crosetto :58.
171 -- Solis (W) pinned Caleb Dyson 3:03.
189 -- Strand (W) pinned Josh Mayers 5:41.
215 -- Behnami (W) pinned Matt Crosetto 1:52.
Hwt. -- Dan Downing (W) dec. Kevin Linde 2-1.

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