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5 Iowa wrestlers win against Team USA

IOWA CITY — Grant Gambrall reached a new level of fame, receiving autograph requests and being flooded with congratulatory handshakes.

It was an understandable reaction after Gambrall handled the top-ranked 171-pounder in the country.

Gambrall shut out Pennsylvania's Quentin Wright, 6-0, during the Cliff Keen/Wrestling USA Dream Team Classic last night at West High School.

He was one of five Iowa wrestlers to win in a 40-15 loss to Team USA — an all-star made up of kids from across the country.

Getting the big win at home made it more special.

"There's a lot of motivation behind wrestling the No. 1 guy in the nation, but it's amplified when it's in your own gym," Gambrall said. "In front of the people you go to school with and see every day. It boosts the motivation as well."

Gambrall, a two-time state champion for West and ranked fourth, scored first with a takedown in the first and was in complete control riding Wright out the rest of the period.

"After the first period, I thought I kind of broke him," Gambrall said. "The match went my way."

He dictated the action and literally put himself in position, working his signature undercooks and thwarting any offense attempts by Wright. He countered Wright's attempts, mainly headlocks. He said he stayed relaxed, in good position and moving his feet.

"When all those things go well for me, so do the outcomes of the matches," Gambrall said.

Iowa City West teammate Nate Moore also won convincingly for the Iowa squad. Top-ranked Moore topped No. 2 Brian Owen of Washington, 9-3, pulling the Iowa team within four points at 10-6.

Moore took a 3-0 lead, scoring a takedown with 23 seconds left to go in the second period. Moore executed a drag to a double and drove Owen across the mat for two points.

Moore sent the crowd into a frenzy by dropping in on a double in the third, elevated Owen into the air and forcefully bringing him down to his back for a four-point move.

Moore's relentless style and aggressive nature broke open the match.

"I kept clubbing and clubbing and finally my takedowns finally opened up," Moore said. "I think it started wearing on him and he got a little frustrated and that's when (it) opened up."

The home crowd provided a bit of a rush for Moore, who was a four-time state finalist and two-time champ.

"The crowd was a lot of fun," Moore said. "They really got into it and made me get into it."

Creston's Andrew Long sparked the Iowa team and the crowd that was made up of the biggest names in wrestling, including Division I coaches Tom Brands (Iowa), Cael Sanderson (Iowa State) and J. Robinson (Minnesota) and Dan Hodge Award winner Brent Metcalf.

The top-ranked Long beat No. 2 Thomas Williams of California, 6-2, at 119.

Long controlled the match, needing just a couple seconds to score a reversal in the second for a 2-0 lead. He added two takedowns to end the scoring.

Linn-Mar's Matt McDonough couldn't make it three straight wins for the Iowa team. McDonough lost to top-ranked Jordan Oliver of Pennsylvania, 16-5.

Oliver blitzed McDonough with a slick style, showing his versatility with a variety of takedowns including a Kelly and ankle-pick. He even locked up a cradle for an 11-3 lead at the end of the first.

Top-ranked 103-pounder Gilberto Camacho pinned Marion's Kris Thompson in 3 minutes and 28 seconds.

Humboldt's Tanner Kampen surprised everyone except himself, pulling the biggest upset of the night. Kampen looked strong and confident, beating second-ranked Jon Burns, 8-4.

"I knew I could win, but I knew it would be hard for me to get to that win," said Kampen, who won the Class 2A 145-pound title in February. "I haven't done as much summer wrestling as he has. I just knew if I went out and wrestle my match I'd do all right."

Kampen wasn't intimidated by Burns, countering him for a takedown and a 2-0 lead after the first period. Kampen scored a big four-point move, taking Burns down and catching him on his back in the second.

It was another example that rankings don't mean much.

"Coming out on top is a great feeling," Kampen said. "It's one of the best."

Waverly-Shell Rock's Eric Thompson, top-ranked at 285, won the final match of the meet, beating third-ranked Elijah Madison, 4-1, in double overtime.

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