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I.C. West punishes City High

By K.J. Pilcher
The Gazette
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IOWA CITY — Iowa City West's brutal schedule has had the Trojans facing some of the state's and nation's best wrestling teams. The only thing that might be more brutal is having is having to wrestle the battle-tested Trojans.

They taught that to their crosstown rival last night. Second-ranked West pounded Iowa City High, 63-12, in a Mississippi Valley Conference dual at West.

The City High dual is sandwiched between the nationally touted The Clash duals tournament and Saturday's Lepic Duals with some of the best from Iowa and the Midwest.

"Take these three weeks out of the year, they're tough," Nick Moore said. "I don't know if this is the best time to get us, because this is a time of year that we're really turned on."

West got nine falls against City High. Six of those came in consecutive matches with the only interruption top-ranked Derek St. John's collecting a forfeit at 160 pounds.

Moore, top-ranked at 152, said the team hit the mat raring to go and ready to dominate.

"You look up at the scoreboard and there's no question tonight. So everyone knows," said Moore, who needed just 27 seconds to pin Kody Dailey. "You want that kind of win, because winning by one or two points people always go back and look at it and if this wouldn't have happened the other team would have won. "Tonight that can't happen."

A lot of good things happened for West (15-2 overall, 3-0 MVC), right from the start when West's Garrett Hathaway scored a big win by beating Stephen Blayer, 5-4.

Blayer reached Hathaway's legs at will early to build a 4-2 lead early in the second with two takedowns. Hathaway stayed close and scored a go-ahead takedown on a re-shot after thwarting a deep single-leg by Blayer. He sealed the victory by riding Blayer the short time to close the second and the entire third period.

Trojans Coach Mark Reiland said it was a big win for Garrett.

"He knocked off a state placewinner. I don't think he done that yet," That's a big win for Garrett," Reiland said. "He's beaten some pretty good kids and stayed in matches with some pretty good kids. That's the first time he's beaten one that has been on the medal stand. Hopefully, we can take it from here and build on it."

West won seven straight matches, crushing any attempt for City High to stay in the meet.

Justin Koethe (140), Dylan Carew (145), David Solis (171), Berkley Strand (189), Jack Hathaway (103), Jon Skarda (112) and Gradey Gambrall (125) all won by fall for West.

"It's more of a matter of going out and doing what we're capable of," Reiland said.

"If they just go out and do what they're capable of good things are going to happen. We saw it tonight. In most cases, we wrestled pretty well."

The night started bad and turned worse for the Little Hawks (5-2, 2-1 MVC).

"Pretty much got hammered," City High Coach Brad Smith said. "They're a good team, but we're better than what we showed."

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Cameron Tucker gave City High a 3-point lead after the second match, pinning Tracy Bowers in 56 seconds at 135.

Kevin Harp, ranked second at 285, notched the second win for the Little Hawks with a 9-0 major decision over Dan Downing. Little Hawks 119-pounder Jimmy Lazaro added a decision late.

"Our 135-pounder did a pretty good job with Bowers," Smith said. "After that it was kind of down hill.

"Just have to go back to work and see what we can do."

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