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- [Comments RSS](#)
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- [The morning after: ICH vs. ICW](#)
- [Iowa City High at Iowa City West \(01/08\)](#)
- [Ranked wrestlers clash: West visits THE CLASH](#)
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The morning after: ICH vs. ICW

Posted on January 9, 2009 by kjpilcher

Iowa City West looked very good last night. They really took control and seized a lot of matches. There were the inevitable blowouts with Justin Koethe (140), Dylan Carew (145), Matt Behnami (215) and Jack Hathaway (103) building double-digit leads before getting falls, but the “toss-up” matches went in West’s favor.

Most notably, Garrett Hathaway vs. Stephen Blayer at 130 to start the meet. Blayer seemed in control getting in on almost every shot, scoring a pair of takedowns and a 4-2 lead in the second. Hathaway answered with escapes and then scored a nice takedown, countering a Blayer shot with a single of his own and the decisive takedown. He rode Blayer hard the remaining 20 seconds of the second and all of the third. A big win for Hathaway and a big way for West to start the meet.

The key in many of West’s championship years hasn’t necessarily been how its top-tier kids do, it’s how some of the others improve and solidify their lineup. Names like Andrew Moreno, Evan Shaw and Tyler Carew come to mind. Maybe David Solis, Berkley Strand or Jon Skarda, who all won by fall, will fill that role this year.

I really liked Nick Moore’s straight-forward response about the Trojans wanting to be dominant. What he essentially said is they want to beat a team so bad that they eliminate any chance to play the “what if” game with the outcome. They certainly did that.

Cameron Tucker and Kevin Harp took care of business last night. By the way, Harp is strong on top, using the legs which is foreign to many heavyweights. I’d look for more big guys to avoid going underneath him.

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		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31

◦ [« Dec](#)

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