

Xavier wrestler forfeits to IC West girl

Written by Jim Ecker

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Iowa City West sophomore Jasmine Bailey wants to be treated just like any wrestler when she's on the mat, not like a girl.

She got half her wish Thursday night in a Mississippi Valley Conference double-dual at Linn-Mar High School.

Linn-Mar freshman Matt Wempen agreed to wrestle Bailey and handed her a 16-0 defeat, but Xavier freshman Camden Chicchelly declined to wrestle a member of the opposite sex and forfeited.

"I go to a Catholic school. My faith is a really big part in everything I do," Chicchelly said. "I didn't believe that I should address any girl in that manner."

Wempen felt otherwise.

"I always want to wrestle," Wempen said. "I prefer not to wrestle a girl, but I'm going to go out there and wrestle. I just want to wrestle."

"She does all the work that everyone else does, so she should be able to wrestle."

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Wempen did not take it easy on Bailey, who also wrestled for Iowa City West last year as a freshman. "I want to go out there and wrestle just like I would any other time," he said.

That's exactly what Bailey wants. She doesn't want any favors from anyone. "Why should I get favors or anything that everyone else wouldn't get?" she remarked.

Bailey wrestles for one of the top high school teams in the country. Iowa City West finished second in the state tournament last year and has four future Division I grapplers on the team with Phillip Laux (Wisconsin), Jack Hathaway (Oregon State), Dakota Bauer (Iowa State) and Justin Koethe (Wisconsin).

Iowa City West whipped No. 5 Linn-Mar, 45-18, and demolished Xavier, 71-3. Linn-Mar also buried the Saints, 69-9.

Linn-Mar might have given Iowa City West a stiffer battle at full strength, but the Lions were missing Joel Northrup (failed to make weight), Mitch Wantock (broken ankle) and Mark Atwater (hernia operation). The Trojans won 10 of 14 bouts against the Lions.

"No excuses," Linn-Mar Coach Doug Streicher said.

Northrup became part of a national firestorm last season when he declined to wrestle Cassy Herkelman at the state tournament. Just like Chicchelly, he did not want to wrestle a girl for religious reasons.

"Some people feel that way," said Bailey, who received a few forfeits last year as well. "Everybody loses out on competition and mat time."

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She simply enjoys the sport.

"It's a tough sport and it inspires much dedication and hard work," she said. "It's fun."

A.J. Garcia had a good night for Linn-Mar with two pins. He stuck Jacob Meyers of Xavier in nine seconds to set a school record, breaking the old mark of 10 seconds set by Jay Borschel in 2005.

Ross Lembeck, Andrew Holladay, Garcia and Wempen won matches against Iowa City West, but the Trojans prevailed in all the other bouts.

Chantz Rodriguez put Xavier on the board against Iowa City West with a 3-2 victory in overtime against Colin Foerstner. Jack Boland gave the Saints a victory with a 4-3 verdict over Ryley Stancel of Linn-Mar and Nick Drahozal picked up a win for Xavier by forfeit.

All told, the Saints dropped 25 of 28 matches and were outscored 140-12 in the double-dual.

"I expected more," Xavier Coach Ryan Chambers said. "It's too late to run home from here, I guess."

IOWA CITY WEST 45, LINN-MAR 18

106 - Matt Wempen (LM) tech fall Jasmine Bailey, 16-0 (4:30)
113 - Phillip Laux (ICW) dec. Alijah Jeffery, 4-0.
120 - Ernest Willis (ICW) dec. Damon Griffin, 5-3 (ot)
126 - Jack Hathaway (ICW) pinned Trevor Berry, 1:52
132 - Dakota Bauer (ICW) won by forfeit
138 - Kegan Wakefield (ICW) pinned Spencer Clabough, 1:01
145 - Ross Lembeck (LM) dec. Gradey Gambrall, 6-4
152 - Payton Kauzlarich (ICW) dec. Josh Pederson, 3-0

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160 - Justin Koethe (ICW) pinned Dakota Digmann, :54
170 - Blake Bohner (ICW) dec. John Conner, 3-1
182 - Andrew Holladay (LM) major dec. Mike Watkins, 12-2
195 - Mickey Pelfrey (ICW) pinned Ryley Stancel, 3:54
220 - A.J. Garcia (LM) pinned Ayson Wynoss, 1:33
285 - Colin Foerstner (ICW) dec. Justin Green, 3-1

IOWA CITY WEST 71, XAVIER 3

106 - Jasmine Bailey (ICW) won by forfeit
113 - Phillip Laux (ICW) won by forfeit
120 - Ernest Willis (ICW) major dec. Jerry Duball, 20-7
126 - Jack Hathaway (ICW) pinned Drew McGraw, 1:19
132 - Dakota Bauer (ICW) tech fall Nick Drahozal, 26-11 (5:47)
138 - Kegan Wakefield (ICW) won by forfeit
145 - Gradey Gambrall (ICW) major dec. Tyler Laska, 17-7
152 - Payton Kauzlarich (ICW) pinned Ryan Persick, 1:18
160 - Justin Koethe (ICW) pinned Sean Ickes, :55.
170 - Mike Watkins (ICW) pinned Jay Kortemeyer, 2:29
182 - Blake Bohner (ICW) won by forfeit
195 - Mickey Pelfrey (ICW) major dec. Jack Boland, 10-1
220 - Ayson Wynoss (ICW) pinned Jacob Meyers, 2:32
285 - Chantz Rodriguez (X) dec. Colin Foerstner, 3-2 (4 ot)

LINN-MAR 69, XAVIER 9

106 - Matt Wempen (LM) pinned Camden Chicchelly, :24
113 - Alijah Jeffery (LM) won by forfeit
120 - Damon Griffin (LM) pinned Jerry Duball, 3:52
126 - Trevor Berry (LM) pinned Drew McGraw, 2:35
132 - Nick Drahozal (X) won by forfeit
138 - Spencer Clabough (LM) won by forfeit
145 - Ross Lembeck (LM) pinned Cory Donithan, 2:34
152 - Josh Pederson (LM) pinned Ryan Persick, 2:20
160 - Dakota Digmann (LM) pinned Sean Ickes, 5:01
170 - John Conner (LM) pinned Jay Kortemeyer, :23
182 - Andrew Holladay (LM) pinned Jarred Joens, 5:20
195 - Jack Boland (X) dec. Ryley Stancel, 4-3
220 - A.J. Garcia (LM) pinned Jacob Meyers, :09
285 - Justin Green (LM) dec. Chantz Rodriguez, 2-1