



# Take a Stance

PHOTOS BY MIKINNA KERNS



**1. FACE TO FACE**, Tyler Hebl '14 looks to the ref Jan. 23. "I was looking at [the referee] to make sure I was getting back points. It was a real close match, and those back points led to that win in overtime."

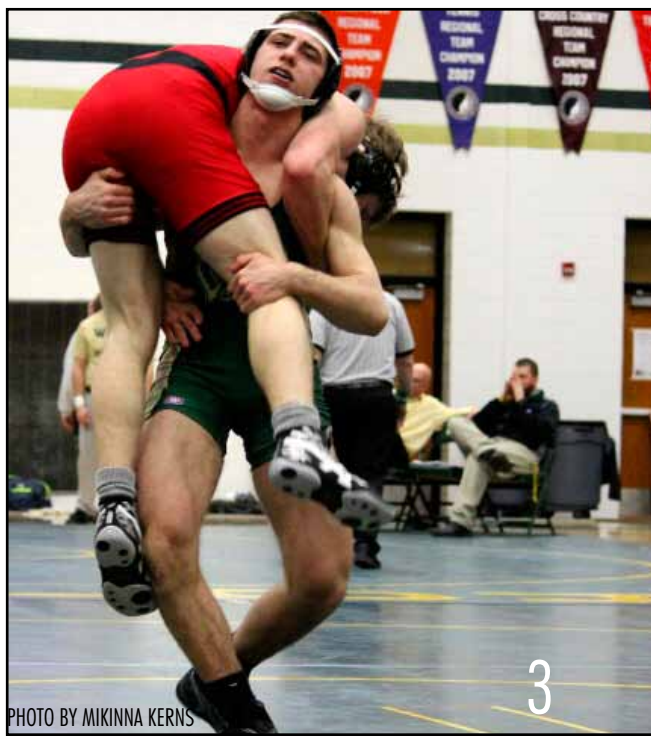
**2. STANDING HER GROUND**, Jasmine Bailey '14 looks to take down a Cedar Falls wrestler Jan 23. "I like the competition," she said. "I'm a competitive person and I like to win."

**3. HOLDING THE UPPER HAND**, Nate Kelsay '16 carries his opponent during the Lepic Duals Jan 11. "I needed to get the pin to score as many team points as possible," he said.

**4. ALL OR NOTHING**, Jakeb Bakken '15 has extra motivation during senior night Jan 23. "I wanted some revenge considering he had beaten me before ... I needed to pin him for the team," he said.

**5. A DEATH GRIP AND A READY STANCE** give Jared Ford '14 an advantage during his match Jan. 11. "When I wrestle, I don't think about a lot. I just kind of react to what's going on," he said.

**6. UP IN THE AIR**, John Milani '15 controls his opponent during the Lepic Duals on Jan. 11. "I always try to wrestle on the offense, but sometimes when I wrestle tougher kids, I tend to wrestle more defensively," he said.



OUTCOMES	
Waterloo East/CR Jefferson	2nd
Gardner-Edgerton KS Invite	4th
CRANDIC	6th
CR Xavier/Dub. Hempstead	1st
Five Seasons Duals	1st
Dubuque Wahlert/Linn-Mar	1st
Battle of Waterloo	7th
Cheesehead (Kaukauna)	15th
WaterlooWest/CR Kennedy	1st
Lepic Duals	1st
City High	1st
St. Charles West	4th
CR Prairie/Cedar Falls	1st
Ed Wingert Classic	3rd
MVC Tour	2nd
CR Washington/Dubuque Sr.	1st
Regional Dual	1st
Districts	2nd
State Duals	5th

## Wrestling squad hopes to resume string of state dual appearances

Dangerously cold temperatures started 2014 with a bang. With below-zero wind chills Jan. 6, 7, 23 and 27, the Iowa City schools closed. The wrestling squad looked to start the new year with a bang, too, but without the need for hand warmers and puffy coats. "February 19th is where the 'highlights' start," individual MVC title winner Chris Walters '14 said.

Walters was talking about state duals, the biggest competition of the season. But the team wasn't always sure it had what it took to compete at that level.

"In the beginning of the season, we weren't really expecting much of our team," Mitch Yoerger '15 said. "We didn't think we were as good as past teams, but this is the hardest we've worked."

Having Iowa's 1991 NCCA championship winner Mark Reiland as coach has contributed to their success, Micah Kelsay '14 said. "It's definitely a confidence boost to have him as coach," Kelsay said. "He's probably one of the best coaches in the state."

With the coaches just feet away during meets, the Trojans said they never lose that confidence. "They actually watch your match and can help you with what you

need to improve upon later," Aydan Wynos '14 said.

Besides coaching expertise, West stood out by being in shape. "We're definitely in better shape than most of the people we wrestle," Sage Winsler '17 said. "Going into the third period we're always still going strong when everybody else is dying off."

Stamina led the Trojans to outperform some tough competition. "Getting two big wins over Linn-Mar and Prairie felt great because they were both ranked ahead of us," Kelsay said.

John Milani '15 agreed, calling those two matches the most memorable of the year.

"Beating the number four and five team was the highlight of my season," Milani said. "It was fun being with the whole team and actually being successful."

The team's work ethic, combined with its desire to win, helped West move closer to its goal: state duals.

"Making state duals is important since we missed that opportunity last year," Reiland said. "A 10-year string was stopped, and we want to start a new string."

—By Olivia Ewing

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