

Cowboys corral Hawk wrestlers, 24-6

By NOLAN ZAVORAL

Press-Citizen Sports Editor

STILLWATER, Okla. — J Robinson, Iowa's interim wrestling coach, slammed the locker room door shut and held out the press and even the team trainer here Friday night.

Dan Gable, who turned over the Iowa team to Robinson this season to coach the U.S. Olympic team, sought no such isolation. It was still, after all, his team — and he was fighting mad about how it wrestled in a 24-6 loss to Oklahoma

State.

"Robinson will blame the ref, but I don't blame him for this," Gable said. "We started off losing and we just fell like dominoes."

"You just can't have that many close matches like we had and lose them all and expect to come out all right. They just outthrustled us; they beat us in the hand-fighting, and they had more hustle, better movement than we did."

Oklahoma State, sweeping through the first five matches with victories of three points or fewer, accomplished the following in the

swelter of the Gallagher Hall gymnasium:

- Beat — and beat badly — the top-ranked collegiate team in the country. Come next poll time, it will be Oklahoma State No. 1, and Iowa No. 2 — when it had been the other way around all season.

- Handed Iowa its worst loss in a dozen seasons, since the 29-9 loss to Iowa State in the 1972-'73 campaign. Gable wiped his sweating brow and shook his head. "I know that's the worst my kids have been beaten," he said. The Iowa State loss came in Dave McCuskey's last

year as coach.

- Ended Iowa's winning streak over the last two seasons at 25, and extended the three-year Oklahoma State string to 43. Iowa now is 14-1 this season, and the Cowboys 17-0.

- Made Oklahoma State more of a scourge to the Hawkeyes than a pest. The last time Iowa lost, before last night, was to Oklahoma State last season, 27-23, in Iowa City.

- Emboldened the Cowboys for a run at Iowa in the nationals in March, where the Hawkeyes will

bid for their seventh straight title. Tommy Chesbro, the Cowboy coach, said, "This brings us one step closer to the national tournament" — to winning it, he might as well have said.

Gable was particularly distressed with the Hawkeyes' laborings at the edge of the mat.

"They killed us at the edge," he said. "We should have stayed right on them, shot right through them out-of-bounds. OK, that wouldn't have given us any points, but it would have made 'em look bad. And the ref could have got on 'em

more (for stalling, presumably)."

Gable, staring at the floor, lifted his head and shook it. "The story of the night was the heavyweights. We turn our back on them, and we get taken from behind, and that's the thing right there."

What happened was Steve Wilbur, the Hawkeye heavyweight, apparently thought he had taken Oklahoma State's Perry Kaufman out of bounds. Wilbur, behind his man, released his bear hug and began trudging back to the center

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of the mat to start fresh.

Kaufman tackled Wilbur from behind for a two-point takedown, and ended up winning by only one point, 4-3, the final verse of the Hawkeyes' edge-of-the-mat blues.

Kaufman admitted afterward it was "a cheap shot," but added, "It doesn't bother me. A guy makes a mistake like that, you capitalize on it."

In the din created by 6,640 howling fans, two top-rated Hawkeyes won for Iowa's only points of the evening — and another lost. Jim Zalesky, two-time national champion and top-ranked at 158, finally got the Hawkeyes on the board with a 3-1 win over Bill Dykeman.

A takedown in the final second did it for Zalesky, who came within a wink of having his win streak severed at 79.

Zalesky said, "I wasn't even thinking about that. All I was thinking about was the takedown. He just leaned into me and I popped

one (a head snap-and-whip move) on him."

Duane Goldman, Iowa's top-ranked 177-pounder, didn't let a little thing like a nose gushing blood stop him from beating Oklahoma State's Alan Lauchner, 9-2 — a blowout by this meet's standards.

And the top-ranked Hawkeye who lost? It was Greg Randall, who just this week took over No. 1 at 134. Clar Anderson, defending national champion who has had an up-and-down year, was up for Randall. He beat him, 4-2, on the strength of a first-period takedown, and said, "Those were key points for me — the only offensive points of the whole match. I just caught him off guard with a single leg just about out of bounds."

When Robinson finally emerged

from the locker room, he did criticize referee David Kincaid of Ponca City, Okla., for not calling more stalling against the home team. But Robinson added, "I'm not trying to make excuses. They did better than we did tonight."

As for the great weight-cutting experiment, Robinson said he saw enough benefits to have it continue through nationals. Meaning that Tim Riley would stay put at 118, when he had been 126; and Mark Trizzino would likewise remain at 126, where before he had been at 134 with Randall.

Riley lost, 7-4, and Trizzino lost, 6-5.

The Hawkeyes finish their home season Sunday with a 4 p.m. match against Michigan State at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

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