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Iowa Men's Wrestling
Communications Contact: Sam Basler

Hawkeyes Roll Past No. 9 Illinois

IOWA CITY, Iowa – The second ranked University of Iowa wrestling team won eight of 10 matches to put together a 28-6 victory over ninth ranked Illinois on Friday night at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

The Hawkeyes outscored the Illini in total match points 69-21 and had 15 takedowns to Illinois' one.

"I know that we need to work harder at scoring points," said head coach Tom Brands.

Joey Cruz got things started for the Hawkeyes with bonus points at 125 pounds to open the dual. He defeated Caelan Riley via major decision, 13-3.

In a top five matchup at 133, Drake Ayala used a third period takedown with 40 seconds left to win over second-ranked Lucas Byrd, 4-2.

"It has been a position I've worked on," said Ayala. "I got there, and I capitalized. I have to get more of that offense going in the first period and

second period.”

Illinois got on the board with a win at 141 with No. 12 Danny Pucino defeating Ryder Block, 4-3. Kyle Parco got the Hawkeyes back in the win column against No. 12 Kannon Webster winning a 1-0 decision.

At 157, true freshman Miguel Estrada picked up his first career ranked win in his Carver-Hawkeye arena debut defeating No. 20 Jason Kraisser, 3-2.

Michael Caliendo came out after the break and put together a 20-4 technical fall over 11th ranked Braeden Scoles at 165. At 174, Patrick Kennedy tallied his eighth win of the season defeating No. 21 Danny Braunagel, 5-0.

Gabe Arnold picked up a top 10 win at 184 pounds over No. 10 Edmond Ruth winning a 5-1 decision.

Stephen Buchanan notched his 10th bonus point victory of the season defeating No. 18 Zac Braunagel, 13-2 at 197 pounds.

Illinois closed out the dual with a victory at heavyweight as No. 11 Luke Luffman defeated Ben Kueter, 3-1.

#2 Iowa 28, #9 Illinois 6

125 – #28 Joey Cruz (IA) major dec. Caelan Riley (IL), 13-3

133 – #4 Drake Ayala (IA) dec. #2 Lucas Byrd (IL), 4-2

141 – #12 Danny Pucino (IL) dec. #30 Ryder Block (IA), 4-3

149 – #3 Kyle Parco (IA) dec. #12 Kannon Webster (IL), 1-0

157 – Miguel Estrada (IA) vs. #20 Jason Kraisser (IL), 3-2

165 – #2 Michael Caliendo (IA) tech fall. #11 Braeden Scoles (IL), 20-4

174 – #5 Patrick Kennedy (IA) dec. #21 Danny Braunagel (IL), 5-0

184 – #5 Gabe Arnold (IA) dec. #10 Edmond Ruth (IL), 5-1

197 – #2 Stephen Buchanan (IA) major dec. #18 Zac Braunagel (IL), 13-2

285 – #11 Luke Luffman (IL) dec. #12 Ben Kueter (IA), 3-1

Attendance: 12,746

Officials: Jason Wedgebury, Michael Frederiksen



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