

Danbury wrestling dominates Trumbull on Senior Night, stays unbeaten

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DANBURY -- It's not a typo. Each member of Danbury wrestling's quartet of graduating "heavyweights"-- from 182 pounds on up to the real thing -- carried the affectionately mocking moniker on their Senior Night posters below a collage of action shots dusted with orange and blue glitter.

On this night, like countless others that start with a ho-hum, suspense-free Hatters win, "The Fatastic Four" could eat hearty.

Danbury's fantastic 14 -- ranked atop the Norwich Bulletin's state coaches poll for three weeks running -- rolled FCIAC rival and eighth-ranked Trumbull 69-3 Wednesday in front of a near-capacity crowd of photo-seeking family members to stay perfect at 10-0.

And while the "Fatastic" label draws a smile from 220-pound Eddie Garcia, who pinned Trumbull's Andrew Marino in 2:54, the farewell match did stir some emotions for he, his bulky brethren and 12 additional seniors.

"That's my group," Garcia said. "It's emotional for all of us. It's the last year we'll be wrestling as a group all together and we've been together since third grade -- 11 years. Me and (195-pounder Tyler) Hancock, we felt really emotional, almost to tears. You look around and you see people you've known for so many years, and it's a great way to finish."

Eight other Hatters joined Garcia in scoring pinfall victories, including Hancock (who clocked the fastest pin at 45 seconds), 182-pound senior Will Jack and 285-pound senior Jevon Pegues. Danbury's Dylan Bryant scored a 16-1 tech fall win over David Briganti, and Johnny Garcia recorded Danbury's other major decision with a 13-2 dismantling of John Marino.

Only Trumbull's 138-pounder Ben Anderson managed personal victory in the landslide defeat, and that was somewhat of an escape. Danbury's Shane Jennings split his deficit with under a minute left in the third round with a reversal but couldn't capitalize further.

Afterward, Trumbull's fifth-year coach Charlie Anderson dropped some weighty praise on the Hatters.

"That might be one of the better Danbury teams I've ever seen," said Anderson, who previously familiarized himself with the Danbury dynasty in the same position at Norwalk. "I told the boys coming in that when you step in the circle, don't back down...but Danbury never gave us a chance to wrestle tonight."

For Danbury coach Ricky Shook, the time is fast approaching to pit this group against past powerhouses. In the meantime, the schedule won't offer too much more breathing room.

"It's our biggest class of seniors, they don't all start, but they've all stuck it out which is a hard thing to do in our program," Shook said. "That's a good (Trumbull) team. A couple throws went our way and we got pins. We've wrestled in some tough tournaments the past two weekends, we've done a lot of live wrestling in practice and we wrestle some of the top five teams in New England the next two weeks. We wrestle Cumberland, R.I., Cranston, R.I., Mt. Anthony in Vermont and Timberlane, N.H. and Lowell, Mass."

DANBURY 69, TRUMBULL 3

160: Ryan Peterson (D) pinned Brandon Fulco (T) in 1:21; 170: Tommy Gaboardi (D) pinned Stephen Penney (T) in 2:24; 182: Will Jack (D) pinned Aabhas Wadwa (T) in 1:48; 195: Tyler Hancock (D) pinned Erik Mercodo (T) in :45; 220: Eddie Garcia (D) pinned Andrew Marino (T) in 2:54; 285: Jevon Pegues (D) pinned Jordan Pabellon (T) in 1:16; 106: Kevin Jack (D) pinned Cross Cannone (T) in 3:29; 113: Chris Bryant (D) pinned Dylan Haviland (T) in 1:26; 120: Zach Tepper (D) pinned Brandon Liscinsky (T) in 1:13; 126: Frankie Callace (D) won by dec. over Brian Greco (T) 4-1; 132: Dylan Bryant (D) won by tech fall over David Briganti (T) 16-1; 138: Ben Anderson (T) won by dec. over Shane Jennings (D) 4-2; 145: Anthony Cote (D) won by dec. over Stephen Briganti (T) 7-5; 152: Johnny Garcia (D) won by major dec. over John Marino (T) 13-2.

Records: Danbury 10-0; Trumbull 18-2.

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