

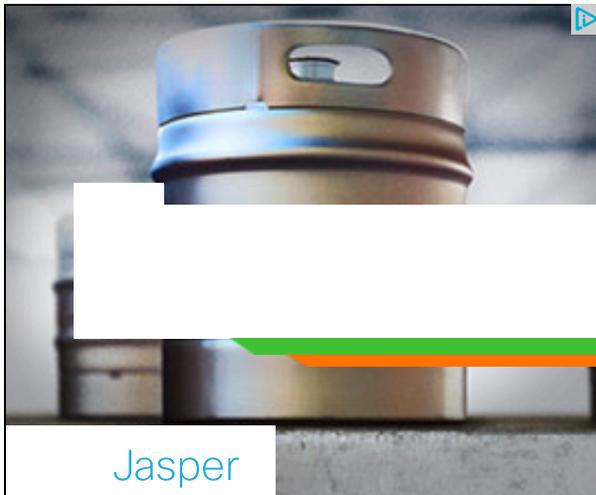
## Danbury wrestler Camacho earns All-America honors

By Richard Gregory Published 9:50 pm, Thursday, October 20, 2016



**IMAGE 1 OF 2**

FILE PHOTO: Danbury High School's Jakob Camacho celebrates after his 113 lb final against Devon Schoenberger of South Windsor during Saturday's State Open wrestling championships at Flyod Little Athletic Center ... [more](#)



The **Danbury High School** wrestling program has been so good for so long that it's rare that someone accomplishes something new – quite simply, there's not a lot the Hatters haven't been able to on the mats, which is a testament to their coaches, their wrestlers, their feeder programs and everyone in between.

But junior **Jakob Camacho** did something last week that no other Hatter wrestler had ever done – no other wrestler from Connecticut, in fact.

Camacho placed fourth and earned All-America honors in the 120-pound class at the Super 32, an elite national tournament in Greensboro, N.C. Connecticut's previous best showing in that particular tournament, according to Danbury coach **Ricky Shook**, was when Hatter great **Kevin Jack** placed fifth at 120 pounds in 2012. Jack, of course, is now a standout at North Carolina State.

"The competition was amazing, especially in the later rounds," said Camacho, the 14th-ranked wrestler in the country in his weight class, according to Flowrestling.org. "Every match was close, and it really just came down to pure grit and who wanted it most."

### More Information

#### Danbury High School Athletic Hall of Fame

2016 induction banquet

"Decades of Dominance," honoring the Hatter wrestling program

Oct. 21, Amber Room Colonnade,  
Danbury

For tickets, contact Betsy Merullo at  
203-744-1223.

The 120-pound bracket started out with 256 wrestlers from all over the country, and Camacho made it all the way to the quarterfinals with five straight wins – including a 5-3 win in his third match over fourth-ranked **Drew Mattin** of Ohio – before suffering his first loss, an 8-decision, in the quarterfinals to **Joshua Saunders** of Missouri.

The win over Mattin was big, of course, but there were still a lot of matches after that one.

"It was very exciting, but I still had to wrestle, so I had to calm down after that one and keep wrestling," said Camacho, who has attracted some interest from some big-time college programs. "I made it to the quarters, and I lost there, a tough loss, but the kid was pretty good. From there, I just had to keep going. I went down there and got All-American and did as well as I could.

"I had tons of fun down there," he continued. "Just being down there with the best wrestlers in the country and competing with them, it was a really fun experience."

The upcoming season promises to be an exciting one for Camacho and the Hatters, who last year won their 29th FCIAC title in 30 years, took first at the Class LL state championships and second at the State Open.

"It'll be a lot tougher knowing that I'm No. 14 in the country and people are going to be coming for me," Camacho said. "But I kind of like that, because it makes me want to go out there and wrestle even harder."

The Danbury High School Athletic Hall of Fame's annual induction dinner is set for Friday at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury, at which time the entire Hatter wrestling program – wrestlers, coaches, volunteers, parents and supporters alike – will be enshrined. For tickets to the banquet, entitled "Decades of Dominance," contact **Betsy Merullo** at 203-744-1223.

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