

Dominant start continues for New Milford High wrestling team

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New Milford's Colin Lindner, top, has the upper hand in his wrestling match against Bristol Central's Leo Kavanaugh in the 120-pound class during a dual meet at New Milford High School Dec. 23, 2016.

NEW MILFORD – Three straight dual meets, three straight victories on three straight dominant performances for the **New Milford High School** wrestling team to start the season.

And as one of the elite programs in the state, one which year after year is consistently in the running for multiple pieces of championship hardware – having won 12 of the last 15 SWC championships and five of the last six Class L state crowns – the Green Wave couldn't have asked for a better start to its season.

But while dual-meet victories in December are nice – New Milford beat Bristol Central 70-6 on Saturday to improve to 3-0 – the real glory waits at the end of the

season.

"We want to win a State Open championship this year," said New Milford junior **Colin Lindner**, last year's Class L state runner-up at 113 pounds. "That's our goal every year, but I really feel like, if we work hard enough and everyone does what they need to do, we can achieve that goal."

New Milford has never won a State Open team title. Since team scores began counting at the State Open in 2001, the Green Wave has finished second twice, to Danbury in both 2006 and 2014. The Wave has, however, been either first or second in Class L every year since 2009.

New Milford won all but one match on Saturday against a Bristol Central team which had placed fifth in the Class L state championships last season. The Wave was so dominant that, of its 13 victories, only three lasted longer than the second period. **Mike Haggerty** won a major decision at 195, **Cameron Berger** won a decision at 170 and **David Angulo** won a decision at 220. **Alex Richardson** (160), Kyle Fabich (182), **Julian Reza** (285), Shayn Donaldson (106), Lindner (120) and Brandon Leonard (126) all scored first-period pins for New Milford, while **Vincent Rago** (152), **Mel Ortiz** (132) and Tyler Schultz all scored second-period pins and **C.J. Schultz** (145) won by forfeit.

"It's good that our team had a lot of energy today and kept going at it," said Ortiz, a junior and the reigning Class L state champ at 120 pounds. "I hope we can keep it up all throughout the season."

Chris Trelli put Bristol Central on the board with a second-period pin at 113. Trelli, a junior, placed fifth in Class L at 106 pounds last season.

Both teams are set to compete in tournaments on Tuesday, with New Milford set to battle in the **Ryan Sabbagh Holiday** Tournament at Danbury, and Bristol Central ready to compete in the Frank Chaves Invitational at Simsbury.

NEW MILFORD 70, BRISTOL CENTRAL 6

(at New Milford) 152: Vincent Rago (NM) pinned Caleb Buden 3:47; **160:** Alex Richardson (NM) pinned Andrew Beaucar 0:45; **170:** Cameron Berger (NM) dec. Jeremy Ganavage 13-6; **182:** Kyle Fabich (NM) pinned Jason Johnson 1:19; **195:** Mike Haggerty (NM) major dec. Damian Mahaffy 12-3; **220:** David Angulo (NM) dec. Connor Stauble 4-1; **285:** Julian Reza (NM) pinned John Duncan 1:11; **106:** Shayn Donaldson (NM) pinned Jaisu Kreciglwa 0:30; **113:** Chris Trelly (BC) pinned Steven Brooks 3:57; **120:** Colin Lindner (NM) pinned Leo Kavanaugh 1:30; **126:** Brandon Leonard (NM) pinned Mason Hale 1:55; **132:** Mel Ortiz (NM) pinned Travis Parsons 2:55; **138:** Tyler Schultz (NM) pinned Nevin Anderson-Tulloch 2:27; **145:** C.J. Schultz (NM) won by forfeit. **Records:** Bristol Central 0-3; New Milford 3-0.

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