

## New Milford topples Newtown in clash of SWC wrestling powers

By Richard Gregory Updated 11:05 pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2017



IMAGE 1 OF 60

[Buy Photo](#)

New Milford's Brandon Leonard, top, and Newtown's Nick Accousti wrestle in a 113-pound match Wednesday night at Newtown High School.

NEWTOWN — It was a big mid-season test, and the **New Milford High School** wrestling team passed it with flying colors.

The Green Wave, ranked second in this week's state coaches' poll, defeated fourth-ranked Newtown 36-27 in a dual meet Wednesday night. As far as dual meets go, this is about as big as they get.

"The guys came out with a positive mindset and did what they had to do," New Milford junior **Mel Ortiz** said. "They did a great job executing today."

Ortiz scored a first-period pin in the 126-pound match. Teammate **David Angulo** notched a first-period pin of his own at 195 to start the evening off, while Steven Brooks (106), Brandon Leonard (113), **Colin Lindner** (120), **C.J. Schultz** (138), **Vincent Rago** (145) and **Cameron Berger** (160) all won decisions for New Milford and Tyler Schultz (132) won by forfeit.

For Newtown, Ed Lovely (152), Joe Accousti (170) and **Anthony Falbo** (182) all scored first-period pins, **Joe Zeller** (285) won by decision and **Tom Long** (220) won by forfeit.

Berger's 6-3 win over Alex Stavola gave New Milford a 36-15 lead with two matches remaining and put the match out of reach for Newtown. It was a battle between two very seasoned and highly successful seniors – Stavola had placed second and Berger third in the 152-pound class at last year's SWC championships. Berger led 4-2 and started the third period on offense. Stavola escaped 10 seconds into the final period to make it 4-3, then nearly scored a two-point takedown 30 seconds later, but Berger held him off. Berger then scored a takedown with 37 seconds remaining and held on from there.

"It was nice to see Cameron, who has put in a lot of work in the off-season, go out there and get that win for us," New Milford coach **Chris Piel** said. "That's what sealed it for us. He was the difference-maker."

However, while a dual-meet victory in January is nice, both teams recognize that there are bigger fish to try and catch this season, namely the SWC, state and New England titles. Both teams are certain to be among the top contenders at the championship meets next month.

"We got to see what their talent looks like for this year, which is valuable to us, but quite frankly, they out-wrestled us tonight," Newtown coach **Chris Bray** said. "No excuses, they out-wrestled us."

"Having said that, this is a better tournament team than it is a dual meet team," Bray continued. "Our performance wasn't that bad, and it bodes well for us in the SWC tournament."

Piel echoed those sentiments.

"It's nice to see that we're wrestling well," Piel said. "Hopefully, we haven't peaked. Hopefully, we can continue to climb and peak at the right time. Dual meets are just dual meets, and they're great to win, but when it comes time for Opens and New Englands, I think you're going to see Newtown right there."

And as luck would have it, both teams are scheduled to wrestle in the John Gorman Invitational this weekend at Cumberland (R.I.) High School.

**VIDEO: New Milford's David Angulo with a 30-second pin at 195 against Newtown.**

**VIDEO: Newtown's Joe Accousti with a first-period pin at 170 pounds against New Milford.**

**VIDEO: New Milford's Mel Ortiz with an 18-second pin at 126 against Newtown.**

**VIDEO: Newtown's Anthony Falbo with a 23-second pin at 182 against New Milford.**

**VIDEO: Cameron Berger seals New Milford's win over Newtown with a victory at 160.**

## **NEW MILFORD 36, NEWTOWN 27**

**(at Newtown) 195:** David Angulo (NM) pinned Jake Cribbs 0:30; **220:** Tom Long (Nt) won by forfeit; **285:** Joe Zeller (Nt) dec. Nick Boreck 5-2; **106:** Steven Brooks (NM) dec. Evan Rooney 9-5; **113:** Brandon Leonard (NM) dec. Nick Accousti 6-1; **120:** Colin Lindner (NM) dec. Aidan Occhipinti 11-4; **126:** Mel Ortiz (NM) pinned Justin Bogdanoff 0:18; **132:** Tyler Schultz (NM) won by forfeit; **138:** C.J. Schultz (NM) dec. Aaron Occhipinti 3-0; **145:** Vincent Rago (NM) dec. Owen Walsh 4-3; **152:** Ed Lovely (Nt) pinned Alex Richardson 1:37; **160:** Cameron Berger (NM) dec. **Alex Stavola 6-3**; **170:** Joe Accousti (Nt) pinned Kyle Fabich 1:00; **182:** Anthony Falbo (Nt) pinned Michael Haggerty 0:23.