

Fresh off strong out-of-state performances, Danbury wrestlers takes down Ridgefield

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Ridgefield's David Deem, top, and Danbury's Ryan Jack wrestle in their 113-pound class match during a dual meet Wednesday at Danbury High School. Jack pinned Deem in 1:13.

DANBURY — No strangers to tangling with premiere out-of-state competition, the Danbury wrestling team was at it again this past weekend.

Highlighted by a phenomenal championship-winning performance by **Jakob Camacho** in the 120-pound division, Danbury competed in the Eastern States Classic in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. on Friday and Saturday, then went head-on with **Mount Anthony Union** in Bennington, Vt. on Monday.

"It was a tournament for me to put my name on the map and prove to myself I can wrestle with anyone in the country," Camacho said.

Camacho claimed the 120-pound crown by earning a 5-4 victory over **Orion Anderson** of Schuylerville, N.Y. in the championship bout of the Eastern States Classic. Camacho, who won five matches to be the last man standing in the brackets, also received the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.

"My (championship) opponent was very explosive," Camacho said. "Very quick. Very athletic. He was a good wrestler. He had the lead, but I was able to come back. It was great coming out with the win. It was a tough tournament, tough competition and everything I could have asked for happened."

In addition to Camacho, **Ryan Jack**, AJ Kovacs, **Kyle Fields** and Michael Gaboardi placed at Eastern States.

"(Camacho) beat the number one guy in the country in the semis and then beat a two-time state champ from New York in the finals, so they were all good matches for him," Danbury coach **Ricky Shook** said.

Following the Eastern States Classic, Danbury fell to Mount Anthony 31-23 on Monday. Victorious Hatters at the dual meet were Jack (106), Camacho (120), **Shaun Williams** (138), Kovacs (145) and **Andrew Marquis** (220).

Competing back in Connecticut for the first time in a week, Danbury won 12 of 14 varsity matches to take down Ridgefield, 63-8 on Wednesday.

Hatter grapplers who won by pin fall against the Tigers were Marquis (220), Jack (113) and Fields (132).

"I think we're really progressing at this point," Fields said. "The postseason is coming up and we really need to get in shape, so we're working harder in practice."

Chris D'Entrone claimed a 3-1 down-to-the-wire victory at 195 in the opening match, and **Ben Smart** earned a 15-0 technical fall at 106 for the Tigers' two wins.

Next Wednesday, Danbury again puts its unblemished FCIAC record on the line with Warde coming to town for a 5 p.m. matchup.

"We had a long weekend," Shook said. "We're still tired. Varsity is off for a week now. A lot of traveling and wrestling. We wrestled great at Eastern States; we didn't wrestle great at Mount Anthony."

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DANBURY 63, RIDGEFIELD 8

195: Chris D'Entrone (R) dec. Montez Osbey 3-1; 220: Andrew Marquis (D) pinned Ryan Canavan 1:03; 285: **Solomon James** won by forfeit; 106: Ben Smart (R) tech. fall Max Lynch 15-0; 113: Ryan Jack (D) pinned David Deem 1:13; 120: **Ben Leblanc** (D) won by forfeit; 126: Jakob Camacho (D) major dec. Jesse Walker 18-4; 132: Kyle Fields (D) pinned Peter Murray 1:41 138: Shaun Williams (D) won by forfeit; 145: AJ Kovacs (D) major dec. Simon Preston 10-0 152: **Peterson Souza** (D) dec. Liam Courtney 4-1; 160: **Gino Baratta** (D) dec. Brian Showstead 9-3; 170: **Jesse Patton** (D) won by forfeit; 182: **Jake Constantine** (D) won by forfeit.

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