

# Owls fall to Danbury for second straight year

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PLAISTOW — There was little joy in Plaistow Saturday afternoon.

Despite blowout wins over Nashoba (65-9) and Xavier, Conn. (51-15), the Timberlane wrestling team struck out against Connecticut power Danbury for the second straight year, 40-24.

That dropped the Owls to 16-1 and, barring a loss to Concord, leaves them well on their way to a mark similar to last year's 21-1. Danbury improved to 12-1, its only setback coming to Vermont power Mount Anthony.

Of course, losing to Danbury is no disgrace, but coach Barry Chooljian was far from pleased with the way his team wrestled. The Owls lost potential points early, dropped a pair of close decisions and got outwrestled in the third period pretty much the entire meet.

“This is one of the most disappointing performances we’ve had at Timberlane in a long time,” said Chooljian. “We had some poor performances, that’s the only way to look at it.”

The match started out fine, with Justin Berube winning a 5-0 decision at 145 and brother Brandon followed with a 10-4 decision at 152. Brandon was winning 9-1 with a major decision imminent until fading at the finish.

Danbury tied the score, 6-6, with a pin at 160 but Dylan Tremblay put the Owls back on top with a 44-second pin at 170. Steve Blaisdell then fell 7-3 at 182, but Jake Post responded with a 29-second pin at 195, putting Timberlane ahead, 18-9.

However, that’s when things fell apart.

Danbury took the next six weight classes to take control, getting pivotal close decisions at 220 and heavyweight, making a Timberlane win near impossible since Danbury is loaded at the lower weights.

“We knew we needed some momentum and we didn’t get it,” said Chooljian.

Said veteran Danbury coach Ricky Shook: "We thought the swing matches were 182 and 285. We haven't beaten those kids in a while. I thought my kids came to wrestle. It was a good performance."

Timberlane did get one more win, pretty much as expected. Despite feeling ill, sophomore standout Connor McGonagle had a 28-second pin at 132.

Tremblay and Post both had three pins on the day and looked good in the process.

Timberlane goes 2-1

Team scores: Timberlane 65, Nashoba 9; Timberlane 51, Xavier 15; Danbury 40, Timberlane 24

Timberlane records:

106: Nick Roeger 1-2; 113: Barret Kappler 1-0, Taylor Donovan 1-1; 120: Dylan Musgrave 2-1; 126: Casey Broadhurst 2-1; 132: Connor McGonagle 1-0, 138: Robbie Pinault 2-0; 145: Justin Berube 3-0; 152: Brandon Berube 2-1; 160: Dylan Hughes 1-2; 170: Dylan Tremblay 3-0, 3 pins; 182: Steven Blaisdell 2-1; 195: Jake Post 3-0, 3 pins; 220: Ryan Cole 1-2; HVY: Noah Beaulieu 2-1

Records: Timberlane 16-1