

## High School Wrestling: Danbury trumps New Milford

By Doug Bonjour Updated 8:22 pm, Saturday, February 4, 2017

DANBURY — Danbury and New Milford, ranked first and second, respectively, in the state wrestling poll, squared off Saturday afternoon in one of the most highly anticipated dual meets of the season. Ultimately, the Hatters had the upper hand.

In their final tuneup before next weekend's FCIAC tournament, the Hatters trumped New Milford, 42-16.

"We gear towards the end of the year. ... We knew this would be our hardest match of the year," Danbury coach **Ricky Shook** said. "We came ready to wrestle. We're hopefully peaking at the right time."

No one has a better feel for Danbury's chances in the upcoming championship season than Shook, the architect of a New England powerhouse. Twenty-nine of the last 30 FCIAC championships have gone to the Hatters, and last season's Class LL crown, well, that went to the Hatters as well.

Junior **Jakob Camacho**, the defending State Open, Class LL and FCIAC champion at 113 pounds, chose to "put it all on the line" by moving up to 126 points. The All-American responded with a 3-1 victory over Mel Ortiz in one of the closest matches of the day.

"The kid at 126 was very good, very tough," Camacho said of Ortiz, the reigning Class L champion at 120 pounds. "He's a well-known wrestler in New England, so I wanted the match."

Added Shook: "He's giving up a little weight when he goes up, but he did fine. He got it done."

When all was said and done, the Hatters notched wins in 10 of the 14 weight classes, including a forfeit at 182. In the process, they upped their overall record to 15-1.

New Milford, last year's SWC and Class L champion, got wins from Cameron Berger (160), Kyle Fabich (170), Brandon Leonard (113) and **Luke Schell** (138). Fabich's takedown of **Jesse Patton** in five minutes and 16 seconds was the first of three pins on the day.

"There were great matches all day long. That's what you want to wrestle these guys for," New Milford coach **Chris Piel** said. "You want to wrestle the toughest competition you can. We weren't going to duck anybody. We want to make sure our guys get pushed."

AJ Kovacs jump-started Danbury's big day with a 13-5 victory over CJ Schultz at 145. **Peterson Souza** followed it up by edging the Green Wave's **Vincent Rago**, 4-3. Berger pulled the Green Wave closer with a sudden-victory win (4-2) over **Gino Baratta**, but Danbury was simply too mighty across the board to beat.

"We're on a roll," Shook said.

At 285, **Mike Gaboardi** took down **Nick Borek** in just 49 seconds for Danbury's first pin. In the very next match, **Ryan Jack** pinned Steve Brooks in 2:58 for their second.

"I thought I could get a pin," said Jack, a freshman. "I was going in there with that mindset."

New Milford will wrap up the regular season Monday with a visit to defending State Open champion New Fairfield.

*dbonjour@ctpost.com;  
@DougBonjour*

DANBURY 42, NEW MILFORD 16 (At Danbury High)

145: AJ Kovacs (D) dec. CJ Schultz 13-5; 152: Peterson Souza (D) dec. Vincent Rago 4-3; 160: Cameron Berger (NM) dec. Gino Baratta 4-2, SV; 170: Kyle Fabich (NM) pinned Jesse Patton 5:16; 182: **Jake Constantine** (D) win by forfeit; 195: Montez Osbey (D) dec. Mike Haggerty 5-3; 220: **Andrew Marquis** (D) dec. David Angulo 14-3; 285: Mike Gaboardi (D) pinned Nick Borek :49; 106: Ryan Jack (D) pinned Steven Brooks 2:58; 113: Brandon Leonard (NM) dec. Max Lynch 10-0; 120:

**Ben LeBlanc** (D) dec. Peter Coniglio 4-0; 126: Jakob Camacho dec. Mel Ortiz 3-1;  
132: **Kyle Fields** (D) dec. Tyler Schultz 15-2; 138: Luke Schell (NM) dec. Shaun  
Williams 13-8.

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