

New Milford wrestlers edged by Bristol Eastern for Class L title

By Jon Chik **Published 10:41 pm, Saturday, February 18, 2017**

BRISTOL — Narrowly leading New Milford heading into the final match of the Class L State Championship, there was nothing the Bristol Eastern team could do but cheer like crazy — for New Canaan's Tyler Sung.

A 126-pound finalist, Sung was pitted against New Milford's Mel Ortiz, who needed to pin Sung to give the Class L title to his team for the third straight year (or win by major decision to tie Bristol Eastern).

Ortiz indeed won the championship match with a four-point victory, but Sung's ability to last the full six minutes gave the championship to the Lancers, who amassed 231 points to New Milford's 230.

"We started cheering for the other teams because we needed them to not get pinned," said Bristol Eastern's Mikey Barrett, the 160-pound champion. "We congratulated them even though some of them didn't get the outcome they wanted. It was great. I feel like the whole team came in with the mind set of winning everything. It's a really hard tournament.

"I think that you just have to keep on wrestling and be aggressive," Ortiz said of his championship match. "You should always go for as many points as you can no matter what. Everyone had good competition and did the best they could and now they know where they stand for Opens and New Englands and how much harder they have to work."

By the time the title matches were set to kick off, the Green Wave was ahead of the Lancers by just six points at the top of the leaderboard, and Bristol Eastern was 75.5 points ahead of Hand, which was in third place at the time.

And while Bristol Eastern and New Milford didn't meet head-to-head in any championship tussles, the former enjoyed more success in the finales, going 3-0 while the Green Wave went 2-3.

The Lancers' three champions were Barrett, Trinidad Gonzalez (270) and Zachary Marquis (182).

"All I was thinking about was going and getting the pin and helping my team get the lead on New Milford," Gonzalez said. "It feels good. It really came down to who wanted it more."

In addition to Ortiz, New Milford's other tournament champion was Colin Lindner, who earned a 13-3 major decision victory over Hand's Mark Hartmann in the 120 finale.

"I tip my hat to Bryant Lishness and Jeff," New Milford coach Chris Piel said. "Those guys work so hard. Fantastic coaches. Bristol Eastern fans and the kids are class acts."

Tyler Schultz (132), CJ Schultz (138) and David Angulo (195) were the Green Wave's runner-ups.

"All those guys from 113 to 138 is the heart and soul of our team," said Piel, whose team fell just short in its quest for a third straight Class L crown. "Mel and Colin are right there in the middle. For Colin to wrestle as well as he has after being hurt most of the season is fantastic. And Mel is Mel. Mel is lights out."

The No. 6 seed of the 145-pound tournament, Barlow-Immaculate's Carson LiCastrì enjoyed a memorable romp through the brackets, winning by pin, major decision and decision in his first three matches before taking down top-seeded Eli Perry of Hall 7-2 in the championship match.

Up 6-4 with 31 seconds left in the second period, Pomperaug's Matthew Pangle at 152 was one of only four grapplers to earn a pin fall victory in his championship match, prevailing over Middletown's Tom Gatti.

Next on tap is the State Open, which was won by New Fairfield a season ago and will be contested at the Floyd Little Athletic Center at 4 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.

"New Milford is the big dog that you have to get after," said Bristol Eastern coach Bryant Lishness, whose team was the Class L runner-up last year. "I've known these guys forever and I've been around them and their families forever and I couldn't even look at their fathers when they won the championship because I didn't want to get choked up."

"It's hard because there's a lot of things that could have been done to just get that one point," Lindner said. "It's hard. We're going to come back out, wrestle hard and see if we can get an Open title."

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CLASS L CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Bristol Central

Team scores: 1. Bristol Eastern 231, 2. New Milford 230, 3. Hand 143.5, 4. New London 127.5, 5. Hall 117, 6. Simsbury 113, 7. Middletown 107, 8. Fitch 95, 9. Wilton 85, 10. New Canaan 84, 11. (tie) E.O. Smith and Pomperaug 83.5, 13. Masuk 76, 14. South Windsor 74, 15. Immaculate/Barlow 69, 16. Bristol Central 66.5, 17. Wethersfield 60, 18. Ludlowe 59, 19. Maloney 58, 20. Manchester 54, 21. (tie) Farmington and Newington 41, 23. Darien 26, 24. ND-West Haven 22, 25. Windsor 11.

Individual weight class results

106: championship: Jarod Kosman (Fitch) dec. Christopher Trelli (Bristol Central) 1-0; third: Travis Longo (Wilton) dec. Bryce Beebe (Bristol Eastern) 6-0; fifth: Steven Brooks (New Milford) dec. Nick Khzouz (New Canaan) 8-2; **113:** championship: Devon Schoenberger (South Windsor) pinned Robert Hartling (E.O. Smith) 3:25; third: Brandon Leonard (New Milford) dec. Jordan Champagne (Bristol Eastern) 3-1; fifth: Finnegan McGovern (Wilton) dec. Dylan Brochard (Hand) 3-2; **120:** championship: Collin Linder (New Milford) maj. dec. Mark Hartmann (Hand) 13-3; third: Michael Fedorko (Masuk) dec. Noah Sylvester (Middletown) 10-7; fifth: Carson Sassu (Bristol Eastern) pinned Kyle Wolkner (Farmington) 3:16; **126:** championship: Mel Ortiz (New Milford) dec. Tyler Sung (New Canaan) 7-3; third: Nicholas Rende (Wilton) dec. Austin Robertson (Fitch) 9-2; fifth: Tyler Savluk (Newington) dec. Connor Massey (ND-West Haven) 6-4; **132:**

championship: Demetre Carnot (Maloney) dec. Christopher-Tyler Schultz (New Milford) 5-4; third: Kyle Sheehan (Pomperaug) dec. Shamar Schand (Manchester) 10-9; fifth: John Kachidurian (Bristol Eastern) pinned Jacob Hill (South Windsor) 2:16; **138:** championship: Joshua Kowalski (Simsbury) dec. Charles Schultz (New Milford) 7-4; third: Michelangelo Bolorin (Wethersfield) won by forfeit over Nate Sibbett (New Canaan); fifth: Curtis Fedorko (Masuk) dec. Daniel Germain (Pomperaug) 10-5; **145:** championship: Carson Licastri (Immaculate/Barlow) dec. Eli Perry (Hall) 7-2; third: Zakery Santoemma (Hand) dec. Anthony Lozier (Bristol Eastern) 2-1; fifth: Nickolas Richardson (E.O. Smith) pinned Jason Lobdell (Masuk) 2:51; **152:** championship: Mathew Pangle (Pomperaug) pinned Tom Gatti (Middletown) 3:29; third: Ben Coppock (Immaculate/Barlow) dec. Justin Marshall (Bristol Eastern) 4-2; fifth: Alex Richardson (New Milford) won by forfeit over Afran Ali (Manchester); **160:** championship: Michael Barrett (Bristol Eastern) pinned Jacob Commander (New London) 5:05; third: Cameron Berger (New Milford) dec. Bradley Currier (Hall) 7-6; fifth: Tadeusz Godlewski (Ludlowe) dec. Adam Hendrick 6-5; **170:** championship: Trinidad Gonzalez (Bristol Eastern) pinned Okotie Ikani (Hall) 4:44; third: Nick Garoffolo (Immaculate/Barlow) dec. Zachary Zeyher (Wilton) 2-1; fifth: Luis Rodriguez-Veras (New London) pinned Kyle Fabich (New Milford) 1:51; **182:** championship: Zachary Marquis (Bristol Eastern) dec. Isaiah Rivera (E.O. Smith) 9-4; third: Hugh Wells (Hall) pinned Dominick Mastro (Ludlowe) 1:27; fifth: Nicholas Gugliotti (Simsbury) pinned Xavier Alvarez (New London) 4:21; **195:** championship: Dakota Grover (Fitch) dec. David Angulo (New Milford) 4-3; third: Justin Searls (Hall) dec. Jackson King (Simsbury) 4-3; fifth: Austin Harnish (Wethersfield) pinned James Johnson (Middletown) 1:35; **220:** championship: Renelson Michel (New London) dec. Granit Hoti (Darien) 4-3; third: Robert Krajewski (Masuk) pinned Michael Guzman (Bristol Central) 1:00; fifth: Christian Westphal (Hand) pinned Hidekel Mangual (Bristol Eastern) 1:45; **285:** championship: Michael Burchell (Hand) dec. Jasper Stone (Simsbury) 3-1; third: Renel Michel (New London) pinned Jack Stewart (New Canaan) 4:19; fifth: Maxwell Cyr (Middletown) dec. Nicholas Haviland (Manchester) 4-1.

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