

Gonzalez repeats as State Open wrestling champ, leads Ellis Tech to top-five finish

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By

opoole@norwichbulletin.com, (860) 425-4257

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NEW HAVEN — Baltazar "JoJo" Gonzalez was still full of energy on Saturday night, hopping around the Floyd Little Athletic Center after one of the final meets of a high school career that will inextricably be linked to the program he helped reach unprecedented heights.

The face of an Ellis Tech program that won the program's first state championship last week and became the first tech school to ever win a wrestling state title, Gonzalez put the finishing touches on his in-state career with a second straight CIAC State Open title, defeating Montville's Joel Morth at 132 pounds, 5-3.

Gonzalez's was the only State Open champ from Eastern Connecticut for the second straight year.

Danbury claimed the team title with 212.5 points, shattering its own record set in 2005. Newtown was second with 90 and the Eagles were fifth with 84.5.

"One of our sayings is we have to be better today than we were yesterday," Ellis Tech coach Rafael Calixto said. "It's that simple. Our kids know that. Our goal is always to be at the top of the podium."

Gonzalez hadn't been particularly pleased with his performance in winning Class M last week, so he went back to the basics to prepare for the State Open.

"This is better than winning it the first time," Gonzalez said. "A lot of people last year thought maybe it was a fluke or something."

Gonzalez proved it wasn't, defeating Morth, a Silverback club offseason teammate, for the second time this season.

Montville was tied for sixth (83) and was the only Class S school in the top 10.

"For a little S school I'm extremely happy with that," Montville coach Gary Wilcox said.