

# State Open Wrestling: Danbury Dominant To The Finish; Southington Finishes Fourth

**WES CROWELL**

Danbury won six of its final seven bouts to improve on last year's second-place finish, winning the State Open Wrestling Championship on Saturday at the Floyd Little Athletic Center.

The Hatters scored 212.5 points to finish well ahead of second-place Newtown (90). Southington (85.5) started the day in second but finished one point behind Fairfield Warde (86.5) for fourth.

**FROM OUR PARTNERS:**

Big Ten wrestling champ credits amazing mullet

"We had a great day yesterday, not quite as good today," Southington coach Derek Dion said. "We were in second place most of the day and fell a little short at the end."

The Blue Knights had several matches go into overtime. If they had won one of those matches, they would have finished second.

---

**Paid Post**

WHAT'S THIS?



## **Forget Social Security if you Own a Home (Do This)**

A Message from [MorningFinance](#)

If you own a home, you should read this. Thousands of homeowners did this yesterday, and banks are furious! Do this now before it's...

[See More](#)

---

One of those bouts was wrestled by sophomore Paul Calo in the 160 final. He lost a 5-3 overtime decision to Xavier's Ryan Devivo.

Jackson Rheault became the first Somers wrestler to win back-to-back State Open championships since Tim Vollaro in 2008-09. He defeated his offseason training partner David Verizzi of Lyman Memorial/Windham Tech with a 7-3 decision to reclaim his 195 title.

"Two's better than one, that's all I can say," Rheault said. "One, they'll say you got lucky. The second one, you go out and defend it and prove you really are the best kid two years in a row."

Rheault won his first two bouts with first-round pins and took an 18-7 major-decision in the semifinals.

"[Verizzi] is a really great competitor," Rheault said. "We're training partners. I'm really proud of both of us, the way we competed. He definitely gave me my toughest match of the year."

Berlin finished 22nd with 32 points. The Redcoats' senior captain Nick Arborio (113) won the program's first Open championship since 2007. Last season Arborio finished fourth in 113 and was in danger of finishing second this year.

Arborio was up 4-2 when Ellis Tech's Sean Johnson was able score a point on an escape with 20 seconds left. The Berlin captain was able to hold him off and win a 4-3 decision.

"It feels amazing. I've worked for this," Arborio said. "I worked all offseason. I had no rest at all."

The Open title was an exclamation point on an incredible season for Arborio. His only loss came in the Class M final.

"He does a great job, from a leadership standpoint also," Berlin coach Jim Day said. "He's gotten a hundred matches in the offseason. It's like three seasons' of experience."

According to Granby coach Nick Watson, sophomore Benjamin Kibby (170) was the first Bear to make it to the Open final in program history. Kibby fought until the last period, when Newtown's Joe Accousti scored the pin with 5:51 left in the match.

"For a sophomore, it's incredible," Watson said. "This is something people strive for to accomplish as a senior. To be able to do that at such a young age, it shows that there are great things to come."

Kibby has been wrestling for eight years, but this was his first Open experience.

"It's an amazing feeling to get this experience and just be in this atmosphere," Kibby said. "It's going to help me a ton. I'm going to get here again, and I'll be a lot more experienced."

The top five of each class qualified for the New England Championship next week in Providence.

**SIGN UP**

[Privacy Policy](#)