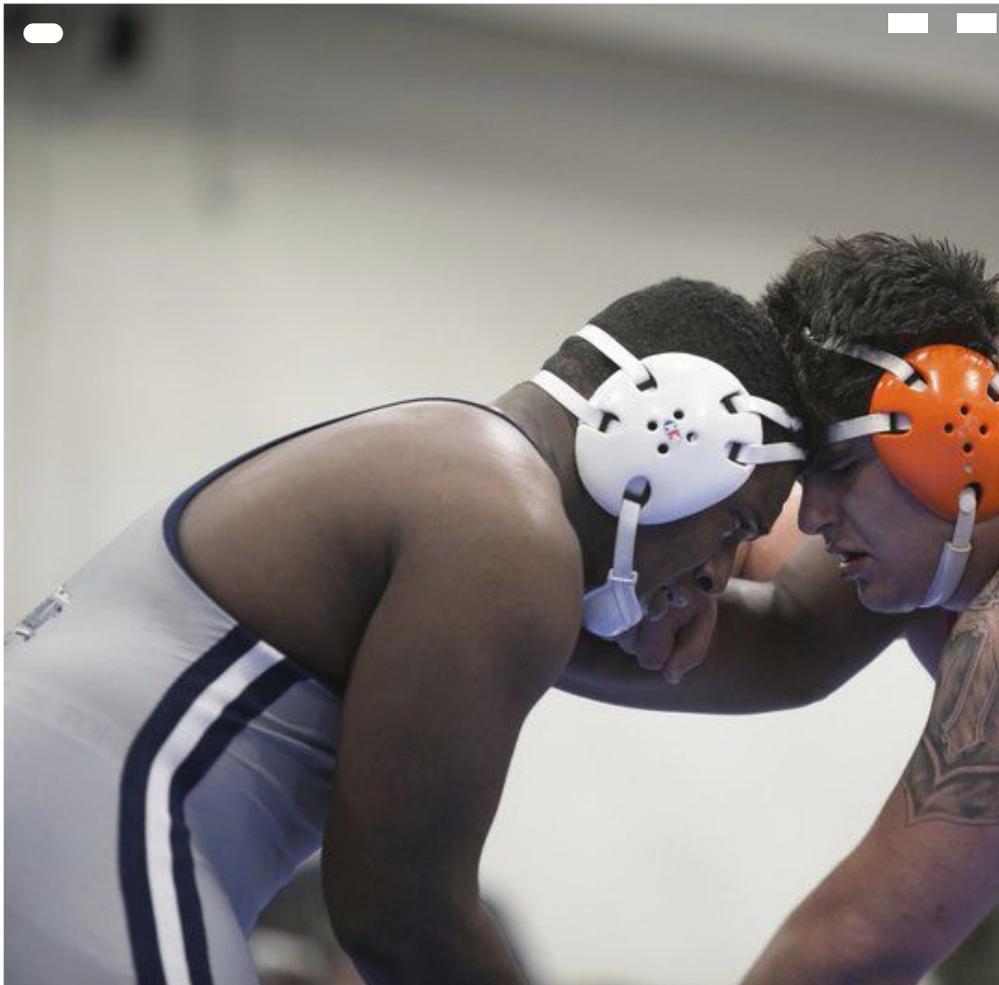


Wrestling proved a boon for disappointed Cabrera

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Takedowns Dave Dyer Mar 7, 2017



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Photo/Reba SaldanhaCentral Catholic's Carlos Cabrera, left, tangling with Pinkerton's Deene... undefeated record to the New England tournament. Although disappointed by not placing, he... football player.



Things just didn't work out the way Central Catholic heavyweight Carlos Cabrera expected at the New England Tournament over the weekend.

The Division 2 and All-State champion, Cabrera went to Providence with a 48-0 record and a lot of confidence.

"I take it one match at a time, but I was expecting to make it to the finals," said Cabrera.

Instead, Cabrera lost his first match, in overtime. Then after winning by injury default, he was eliminated with a one-point loss, finishing the season at 49-2.

Although disappointed, Cabrera — who is headed to Trinity to play football — is looking at the silver lining now that the season has ended.

“I’m kind of relieved,” he said. “I did love wrestling, but now I can focus on football.”

Cabrera originally got involved in wrestling as a sophomore at the urging of Central football coach Chuck Adamopoulos, who “felt it would be a real good fit for me.”

Like a lot of football players, Cabrera found wrestling difficult at first, but he grew to appreciate it and — no surprise — believe it made him a better football player.

“Wrestling helped me a lot,” he said. “It made me more physical and less scared of contact. And the conditioning really helped — all we did most of the time was wrestle and run.”

Cabrera, who was the Eagle-Tribune defensive Player of the Year last fall, will now put his immediate focus on outdoor track, where he throws the shotput. It’s another activity which can only help him become a better football player.

NEW ENGLAND TIDBITS

It was quite a day for Danbury Saturday. The Hatters not only won their first New England title since 1990, but head coach Ricky Shook was inducted into the New England Wrestling Hall of Fame and former star Kevin Jack won his second Atlantic Coast Conference championship for North Carolina State.

While there is no question that Connecticut wrestling is on the rise, Mass. flexed its strength in several weight classes, with 113 and 120 in particular.

In the 113 finals, defending champ Jake Ferri of Shawsheen clipped St. John’s Prep’s Ryan Garlitz in their fourth meeting in four weeks while Masconomet’s Jack Darling finished third.

At 120, nationally ranked Jakob Camacho of Danbury was the champion and named the tourney Outstanding Wrestler, but the next three places were Mass. wrestlers, including Billerica’s Chris

Derosa, who was a New England champ two years ago. For North Andover, sophomore Joey Valentino to finish fifth was quite an accomplishment.

Repeated kudos to the New England Council for moving the time of the finals a couple of years ago to 5:15 p.m. from the start of 7:45. Not only does this improve the coverage of the meet but it was a popular move for wrestlers, coaches and fans — particularly those coming from Maine and Vermont.

G/I NOW CAL CHAMP

The Georgetown/Ipswich wrestling team has captured its first Cape Ann League title after all. It was awarded the crown after it was discovered that North Reading/Lynnfield used an ineligible wrestler in its 34-31 championship victory. The wrestler's six points were deducted, giving Georgetown/Ipswich a 31-28 victory.

The win gives Georgetown its first ever Cape Ann League dual meet championship and a final record of 22-1, which is the best in school history.

NATIONALS UP NEXT

The NHSCA national tournaments will be held March 24-26 in Virginia Beach with several of the region's top wrestlers participating.

Timberlane New England 126-pound champ Connor McGonagle, who was a freshman national champ last year, will be competing in the sophomore nationals at 135 pounds while New England 195-pound runner-up Mike Tanguay of Windham, says he hopes to compete at 170 pounds in the senior nationals.

A comprehensive list of local wrestlers competing will be published the week before the meets.