

Rams get top finishers at invite, top Platt

By **MICHAEL LETENDRE**
STAFF WRITER

WEST HARTFORD – The Bristol Central wrestling team had its collective hands full at the Greater Hartford Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 15 but the Rams had several top finishers at the event.

Wrestling

Central placed fourth at the event with 157.5 points and placed only 7.5 points behind third place Conard.

Southington won the event with 207 total points while Newington was second with 175.5.

But the biggest winner on the day from Central was Matt Trelli at 120 pounds.

Trelli won the championship with a 3-1 decision over Nick Crudo of

Newtown.

He wasn't the only grappler in the championship mix on the day, however.

At 160, Nathaniel Gonzalez dropped a tough 6-1 decision to Platt's Kristion Neysmith while at 195, Robert Swain of East Hartford just got by Cy McIntosh by a close 3-2 decision.

The Rams cleaned up in several third place matches and gave plenty of opponents fits.

At 126, Zach Mastromarino picked up a big 8-3 decision over Plainville's tough Brian Lister while Tyler Burrow (132) was a 4-3 decision winner over Manny Torres of Classical Magnet.

Connor Hayes (138) was a 5-3 decision winner over Ryan Dupuis but at 182, Geri Hoxha hung tough

but lost via pin-fall to Jimmy McDunnah of Wethersfield at 3:39.

Three Central grapplers were also involved in fifth place matches.

At 106, Jamie Diaz won via forfeit, Randy Boye (152) pinned Calvin Williams of Hartford in 5:20 while at 170, Conard's Warren Elkey defeated Gino Rafaniello by 3-1 decision.

And then on Wednesday, Jan. 17, Central picked up five big pins as the Rams downed tough Platt 37-30.

Central was down early in the meet but came from behind to take the lead.

Gino Rafaniello (182), Hoxha (195), McIntosh (220), Jamie Diaz (106) and Tyler Burrow (132) all picked up pin-fall victories in the winning effort.

Bristol Central 37, Platt High 30

from Francis T. Maloney High School, Meriden

152 pounds: Issac Cartagena (P) dec. Jordan Pelletier (BC) 9-3. 160: Christian Neysmith (P) pin Glenn Pierce (BC) 1:04. 170: Mike Carrero (P) dec. Nathaniel Gonzalez (BC) 5-1. 182: Gino Rafaniello (BC) pin Jacob Skalsky (P) 2:23. 195: Geri Hoxha (BC) pin Malik Brown (P) 0:30. 220: Cy McIntosh (BC) pin Jonathan Melendez (P) 5:53. 285: Jesse Wolfe (P) dec. Andrew Lane (BC) 5-3. 106: Jaime Diaz (BC) pin Chris Oyola (P) 3:33. 113: Alex Tixi (P) inj. def. Breck Conlon (BC) . 120: Matt Trelli (BC) maj. dec. Chris Jackowicz (P) 14-5. 126: Zach Mastromarino (BC) dec. Brandon Dellavalle (P) 7-6. 132: Tyler Burrow (BC) pin Jesus Torro (P) 2:58. 138: Youssef Saez (P) dec. Brandon Poirier (BC) 8-3. 145: Alex Lopez (P) pin Sean Ziogas (BC) 5:40.

Greater Hartford Invitational from Hall High School, West Hartford

Team results – 1. Southington 207, 2. Newington 175½, 3. Conard 165, 4. **Bristol Central 157½**, 5. Newtown 129½, 6. Platt High 125½, 7. Hall 119, 8. Hartford 111, 9. Manchester 105, 10. Hartford Classical/Capital Prep 66½, 11. Wethersfield 55, 12. Plainville 54, 13. SMSA/University 51, 14. East Hartford 49, 15. Granby 25½

Individual results

106 Pounds – 1. Tyler Mirando, Southington, dec. Brendan Zotti, Newington, 7-2; 3 Ed Bello, Conard, dec. Hunter Roberts, Hall, 2-1; 5. **Jaime Diaz, Bristol Central, over Luis Quinones, Classical Magnet, forfeit**

120 – 1. **Matt Trelli, Bristol Central, dec. Nick Crudo, Newtown, 3-1;** 3 Chris Jackowicz, Platt, dec. Alex Richardson, Southington, 9-7; 5. 5 Harris Petry, Hall, dec. Brian Concalves, Newington, 7-3

126 – 1. Christian Zotti, Newington, dec. Nate Soloman, Southington, 4-3; **3 Zach Mastromarino, Bristol Central, dec. Brian Lister, Plainville, 8-3;** 5 Matt Gonzalez, Newtown, Pin Dylan Meredith, Hall, 3:27

132 – 1. Alex Pignone, Newington, tech fall. Favion Williams, Hartford, 22-7; **3 Tyler Burrow, Bristol Central, dec. Manny Torres, Classical Magnet, 4-3;** 5. Ryan Potterson, Manchester, over Noah Sheffy, Southington, forfeit

138 – 1. Allen Currier, Hall, dec. James Leuci, Newtown, 7-0; **3 Connor Hayes, Bristol Central, dec. Ryan Dupuis, Southington, 5-3;** 5 Tracy Trice, Hartford, over Alex Perez, Manchester, forfeit (5-match rule)

152 – 1. Lucus Muntz, Conard, dec. Kiante Macon, SMSA/University,

11-3; 3 Alex Fern, Wethersfield, dec. Zachary Rivera, Granby 5-2; **5 Randy Boyne, Bristol Central, Pin Calvin Williams, Hartford, 5:20**

160 – 1. **Kristion Neysmith, Platt, dec. Nathaniel Gonzalez, Bristol Central, 6-1;** 3 Alex Jojin, Conard, dec. Jamie Doyle, Manchester, 2-1; 5 Tyler Hyde, Southington, dec. Alex Stott, Hall, 5-2

170 – 1. Chris Chorzepa, Newington, dec. Cory Fisher, Newtown, 15-2; 3 David Gary, Hartford, win by forfeit over Mike Carrero, Platt; **5. Warren Elkey, Conard, dec. Gino Rafaniello, Bristol Central, 3-1**

182 – 1. Sheldon Rhonden, Hartford, win by forfeit over Rickey Cotton, Conard; **3 Jimmy McDunnah, Wethersfield, pin Geri Hoxha, Bristol Central, 3:39;** 5 Zach Maxwell, Southington, Pin Jamane Ward, East Hartford, 3:43

195 – 1. **Robert Swain, East Hartford, dec. Cy McIntosh, Bristol Central, 3-2;** 3 Kayron Macon, SMSA/University, dec. Connor Morrell, Southington, 8-2; ; 5. Tim West, Plainville, Pin Eli Jewel, Hartford, 2:26



Herbie Browne of displays his gold medal matside as Coach Will Williams congratulates him on winning the 73kg men's novice division at the Starrett Cup Judo Championships held on Jan. 15 at Island Garden West Hempstead, New York.

Resident earns gold medal in judo tourney

Herbie Browne, a Bristol Eastern High School graduate and Tunxis Community College student competed in the Starrett Cup Judo Championships held on Jan. 15 at Island

Garden in West Hempstead. Browne (3-0) dominated his opponents, placing first for the gold medal in the men's novice 73kg division. Gentle Way Coach Will Williams says that Browne is

starting the year off strong with a win at the Starrett Cup, which is a large regional tournament.

Diamond Kings registering for Disney baseball tourney

Diamond Kings baseball in Bristol is now accepting registration for 8U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U, and 16U Disney World Baseball Tournament Teams in 2012.

Participation is open to players wishing to play Labor Day Weekend 2012 in the "Turn Back the Clock" tournament at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports.

Contact John at jmvarrone@gmail.com, visit www.dkacademy.com, or call (860)584-1386 to reserve a spot or for more information.

Wrestling: Bristol Eastern in R.I.

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Eastern) dec. Jon Maccini (Cumberland) 3:14; 3. Nick Champagne (Durfee) dec. Josh Ribizzo (Johnston) 11-2 **160: Matt Marquis (Bristol Eastern) dec. Aaron O'Toole (Cumberland) 11-3;** 3. John Labonte (South

Windsor) dec. Connor Humphries (East Longmeadow) 15-2 **195: Tom LaCroix (Cumberland) dec. Sebastian Dziadkiewic (North Providence) 6-1;** 3. **Mike Cassin (Bristol Eastern) dec. Bobby Deveau (North Attleboro) 22-6** **220: Anthony Zambarano (North Providence) dec. Brett Akerly**

(Bristol Eastern) 11-5; 3. Cam Williamson (Cumberland) dec. Mike Anderson (North Attleboro) 1:36 **285: Nick Zicuis (Lincoln) dec. Andre Torres (Durfee) 3-2;** 3. **John Sturgis (La Salle) dec. A.J. Mangual (Bristol Eastern)**

Fastbreak over Bristol

By **MICHAEL LETENDRE**
STAFF WRITER

I'm going to try something different this week.

In a new twist, I going to bring up an unique topic and will follow up by writing up a quick reaction to it.

It might be something from this past week or it could have been something from way back when.

Opinion

Either way, this should prove interesting and you'll never know what you'll find in this column.

For instance:

Topic: A couple weeks ago, UConn coach Jim Calhoun appeared to "jab" one of his players – DeAndre Daniels – in the gut during a timeout against Rutgers.

My Conclusion: This coach has lost his mind. Now, he's not just yelling, but he's physically assaulting players. Is this how a world class, Hall of Fame coach properly responds to a player? This recently suspended coach is now becoming a world class embarrassment.

Topic: Back on Jan. 18, 1978, the Hartford Civic Center roof collapses just six hours after UConn played a game there against UMass after days worth of snow finally becomes too heavy to handle.

My Conclusion: Can you imagine if that happened if Calhoun was

coaching the Huskies back then? Upon seeing the collapse, he'd start screaming at the building, throwing snowballs at it and demanding an offensive foul be called. Take a look at some of the old pictures of the collapse...it's just incredible to view.

Topic: Earlier in the month Governor Malloy, proposed to set standards for power companies to respond to emergencies and fine them if they fail to do their job.

My Conclusion: Well, can't we do the same thing to the governor...you know, fine him for failing to do his job as well? Yeah, we can point to CL&P all you want but our state government failed its citizens during not once but for two different storms in September and October of last year. And if we have to collect from the governor, boy, he owes us a whole lot of cash...

Topic: On April 30, 1979, rookie Larry Bird was demanding a \$1 million dollar a year salary from the Boston Celtics. "I want \$1 million dollars per year," said Bird. "That's a fair working wage."

My Conclusion: Bird eventually signed for "only" \$650,000 a year and, of course, led the Celtics to three NBA championships. That's a fair working wage back in 1979?? Okay, I need to redo by my deal with the Bristol Observer: I would like \$10 million a year – for the next five years. Hey, it's

a fair working wage.

Topic: Last week on WWE RAW, Mr. Belding from "Saved by the Bell" fame made an appearance on the wrestling show.

My Conclusion: Who cares? If you want to read about that kind of thing, pick up that other Bristol newspaper and read about it. Why write about local sports when you can write about "professional actors" dancing around, playing out pre-determined matches and botching carefully written scripts. Holy cow...

Topic: This past week, the Bristol Eastern girls basketball team defeated the Central squad 50-26.

Conclusion: Eastern's chemistry is starting to gel quite nicely and the back-court of Cassie Aiken and Amanda Zdun has steadily cut down their turnovers. But the Rams still have a shot at qualifying for the state tournament. Don't bet against them.

Topic: Also this past week, the Bristol Eastern boys basketball team defeated its Central counterparts by a close 43-36 final.

Conclusion: The Lancers earned the right for a spot in the state tournament for the fifth straight season while the Rams must win five out of its final nine games which is very doable. When Timmy Barrette is running your program, you always have a chance.

HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

Bristol high school coaches are encouraged to send in their team results.

Email them to mletendre@BristolObserver.com