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Lancers dominate Blue Devils, 64-9

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BRISTOL – By the time, the Bristol Eastern and Central wrestling teams square off in its annual city series clash, the two squads should be the only ones left standing in the CCC South.

Wrestling

And for teams like the Lancers, dominating foes like Plainville will help to keep the team fresh and ready for the bigger challenges that lie and wait.

While the Blue Devils are still in a rebuilding mode, Eastern is certainly not and proved that fact on Wednesday, Jan. 25 by thrashing Plainville 64-9 in a CCC South meet from the Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium in Bristol.

Eastern (8-3 overall) were leading the young Plainville squad by 46-0 at one point and simply never looked back.

"It's always nice to get a win like that," said Eastern coach Bryant Lishness. "It builds confidence as the season is coming to an end. A couple kids need that ship for them. I'm pleased with that."

Plainville (2-14) had to forfeit matches at 182, 195 and 120 and that meant side-stepping a boatload of Eastern's most talented grapplers.

DeJeahn Brown (182), captain Mike Cassin (195) and scrappy Peyton Soucy (120) all won by forfeit and put the Blue Devils in an early hole.

And things just got tougher from there for the visitors.

Starting the meet off at 170 pounds, Eastern's Kyle Marquis picked up an 8-0 major decision over Marcus Slivinsky and by the time the 220 showdown between



TAMMI KNAPIK

AJ Mangual of Bristol Eastern, left, wrestles Plainville's Mike Walton at Bristol Eastern

the Lancers' Brett Akerley and Plainville's Tim West was on tap, the Blue Devils trailed 16-0.

Grappling to a 0-0 stalemate after one period, West had Akerley down in the second frame but the Eastern captain made a quick escape, reversed the hold and quickly pinned the Plainville grappler at 3:08.

"We love Brett," said Lishness of Akerley. "I made him a captain this year. He's

a senior and he just works so hard. He's a wrestler. He might not be an athlete out there but he's a wrestler. He always puts himself in good positions, he always put himself in good strength positions where he can make his moves and he never really loses his head."

"We love watching Brett...he's a smart wrestler."

Eastern's A.J. Mangual (285) had Plainville's Mike

Walton on the mat early and was in control but an illegal headlock got the Blue Devils' a point.

After two minutes, it was a 2-1 affair and anyone's match for the taking.

Twenty seconds later, Mangual made a takedown and had the pin-fall win in 2:20.

At 106, Eastern's Dan Morocho overwhelmed Justin Plourde with a pin in 41 seconds while the

Lancers' Justin Paradis was a pin-fall winner over Tim Lister at the 1:29 mark of the first period.

Soucy picked up six points via forfeit at 120 as Eastern was in control of the meet 46-0.

Lister and Pedraza went back and forth in the 126 pound bout as the Plainville grappler tried a cradle a couple times before finally finding the winning combination for the pin and victory via pin at 3:31.

At 132, Plainville captain Doreen Barbagallo showed grit against Louis Morocho as the duo grappled for the full six minutes.

While Morocho controlled most of the action, Barbagallo hung tough to the end as the 6-0 decision for the Lancers made the meet a 55-6 contest in the home team's favor.

Craig Sassu (138) cradled Dan Manzano early and eventually picked up a pin in 47 seconds while the Mischa Hoffman/Donovan Marciano bout at 145 was easily the match of the evening.

The grapplers went back-and-forth for six straight minutes but the affair went into overtime tied at 1-1.

In the second overtime period, Marciano made a takedown and captured a 3-1 push but with three seconds remaining the second OT stanza, Hoffman made a reverse and tied things up at 3-3 apiece.

Again, an extra period was needed.

At the end of the final frame, Hoffman escaped from being underneath Marciano and took the final point of the bout for a hard fought 4-3 decision.

"Donovan is working hard," said Lishness of Marciano. "He's one we're waiting for a breakout match with. He's got all the tools in the world and sometimes it's more a men-

tal battle for him that a physical battle. All the respect to Mischa, he's a really tough freshmen (who's) got a lot of experience before he came to high school, but that was a match I was hoping Donovan would get."

"I think he should have gotten it and I think he's got a good chance of getting (Hoffman) later...it's just getting him to believe in himself."

From there, Eastern's Christian St. Peter (152) grabbed a close 2-0 decision over Plainville's Connor Oakes and at 160, the Lancers' took the final bout as Matt Marquis (160) won via pin-fall in 1:47 over Jacob Ramos.

"I think we're starting to pull together," said Lishness of his squad. "In the beginning of the year, we were really in a lot of tough duals tournaments. They took their lumps but it's going to be up to the coaches to keep their confidence up and it's starting to build."

"Hopefully, we can string some things together as the season ends as we go into the states."

BRISTOL EASTERN 64, PLAINVILLE 9

from the Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium, Bristol

170 pounds: Kyle Marquis (BE) maj. decision Marcus Slivinsky (P), 8-0; **182:** DeJeahn Brown (BE) forfeit; **195:** Mike Cassin (BE) forfeit; **220:** Brett Akerley (BE) pin Timmy West (P), 2:52; **285:** AJ Mangual (BE) pin Mike Walton (P), 2:20; **106:** Dan Morocho (BE) pin Justin Plourde (P), 0:41; **113:** Justin Paradis (BE) pin Tim Lister (P), 0:31; **120:** Peyton Soucy (BE) forfeit; **126:** Brian Lister (P) pin Rob Pedraza (BE), 3:31; **132:** Louis Morocho (BE) dec. Doreen Barbagallo (P), 6-0; **138:** Craig Sassu (BE) pin Dan Manzano (P), 0:47; **145:** Mischa Hoffman (P) Donovan Marciano (BE), 4-3 (3OT); **152:** Christian St. Peter (BE) dec. Connor Oakes (P), 2-0; **160:** Matt Marquis (BE) pin Jacob Ramos (P), 1:47.

Records: Bristol Eastern 8-3; Plainville (5-0 CCC South); Plainville 2-14 (0-4 CCC South).

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