

Lancers challenged by Rams

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

When the Bristol Eastern boys basketball squad laced up its sneakers for the final regular season game of the year last Monday night, the Lancers were expecting a challenge from cross-town rival Bristol Central.

But the Rams turned it up a notch and took it to Eastern throughout the first half of play with a slow tempo and an aggressive rebounding attack.

In the end, Eastern's veterans turned the tide of the game during the third period of play to break open the game and seize a 69-41 CCC South victory from the Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium in Bristol.

With the victory, Eastern moved to 18-2 overall and 13-1 in conference play. The 18-2 ledger was the second best regular season record in school history, which was only bested by the 1961-62 squad that finished 18-1.

The 13 CCC South victories were the most ever by the Lancers in the 14-game conference format while Eastern's point differential of 12.7 per-game is the fourth highest in school annuals.

Eastern's Chris Colon just missed a triple-double with a game-high 21 points, nine rebounds and eight steals while teammate Ray Ortiz tallied a season-high tying 14 points to go along with eight rebounds.

Xavier Wade (12 points, six assists), Christian Pierce (eight points, three steals), Tom Tarantino (three points, three rebounds) and Tyrell Holmes (five points) all played well for the Lancers.

Jon Escobar led the Rams with 12 points while Justin Green came off the bench for eight big points.

Sinclair Lewis (seven points), Dan Behmke (six points) Matt Godbout (three points) played well for Central in its last game of the season.

Central clearly dictated most of the first half and were obviously well prepared for a battle with Eastern.

"We were ready to fight," said Central coach Tim Barrette. "This was a much different (Central) team that played Eastern the first time. I'm real proud of the kids' effort. It's an honor to have had those

seniors. We look forward to the future."

"This is a really strong team, a senior-driven Eastern team and what they've done over the past couple of years, that's what we strive to be."

Central's defense limited the Lancers to only 40-percent shooting from the field over the first 16 minutes of play while the Rams also enjoyed a sizeable rebounding advantage.

"The story in the first half was (Central's) energy," said Eastern coach Mike Giovinazzo. "They were picking up all the loose balls, they were beating us to the ball on the boards. They were making it very difficult for us."

A floater by Escobar and three hoops by Behmke put Central in front 8-6 with 3:06 remaining in the first period but a quick 6-2 spurt got the Lancers the lead.

Two lay-ins by Holmes plus a put-back by Colon saw Eastern claim a 12-10 edge after one stanza.

Central continued its successful slowdown attack to start the second period but was unable to get a basket of its own over the first 4:01 of the frame.

Eastern took advantage and used a 9-0 run to capture a 21-10 tilt off a free throw by Holmes.

"We didn't want to play this game in the 80s," said Barrette of Eastern's ability to run and score points. "And we had the tempo where we wanted it at the end of the first quarter. But to stay with that tempo, you can't play from behind."

Escobar scored the next five points for Central but hoops by Tarantino and a three-pointer by Colon kept the double-digit Lancer lead intact nearing the completion of the half.

A late jumper by Lewis kept the Rams within striking distance as the teams broke for intermission with Eastern leading 28-17.

"We went into halftime and very calmly said (to the players) you know what needs to be done," said Giovinazzo. "We didn't have to do any yelling or screaming. We needed to start playing better defense, we needed to come up with defensive rebounds and loose balls and then we can run."

"When we can run, we're a much better team."

Eastern turned to its

up-tempo attack to start the third stanza and scored the first 11 points of the frame as an Ortiz jumper made it 39-17 with 4:54 remaining in the period.

"We were in the game, even in the beginning of the third quarter, but Eastern made that run," said Barrette. "Once you fall down by 20, it's very difficult to play at that speed."

The Lancers used a little 1-3-1 defensive trap to force Central into a couple of costly turnovers as Eastern grabbed the momentum in the game.

"We started trapping Central at half-court a little bit and that created some turnovers, which allowed us also to get out on the break," said Giovinazzo. "We definitely had to kick it up a notch in the second half. Central came out and played really hard."

A lay-in by Colon and a three-pointer by Wade – off a nice feed from Ortiz – ended the third quarter with the Lancers ahead 47-25 with eight minutes left to play.

"We just thought there was too much one-on-one early in the game," said Giovinazzo. "We were not moving the ball at all. We tried to make that extra pass in the second half and it got us much better shots."

It was all Colon and Ortiz offensively for Eastern over the first four minutes of the final frame as Eastern's edge grew to 63-36 off an Ortiz lay-up with 3:55 left to play.

Late Eastern hoops by Ryan Darmand and Matt Malak closed out the game for Eastern while Lewis, Malik Taft and Tyler Webber made hoops for Central as the Lancers came away with a season-ending 69-41 victory to complete a perfect 9-0 home ledger.

"I knew Timmy would have (his team) coming out hard, not that we didn't expect it," said Giovinazzo. "Our guys expected it but I don't think they expected the level that Central was going to play at."

"My guys played hard," said Barrette. "I'm real proud of them. We fought to the end. (But) we have brighter days ahead. My coaching staff is very excited about the future of this team."

The game marked the final contest for Central seniors Justin Green, Jon

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Eastern's Chase wins state open

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Bristol Eastern's Andrew Chase won the 2010 Wrestling State Open at 103 pounds by defeating Conor Kirkegard of New Milford by decision 7-5.

Wrestling

It was a tremendous showing by the Lancers as the squad finished the open with 32 total points, good for 20th place.

Bristol Central finished the event with eight points and placed 53rd overall.

Chase was ranked sixth overall in the 103 pound class and scored a huge pin on Fairfield Warde's Pharoh Eaton with only five seconds

left to go in the second period to advance to the championship match.

Eastern's Josh Dess (112 pounds) was ranked ninth and lost the fifth place match by default to Xavier's Ricky Gorge.

At 119, Central's 16th ranked Joe Galvin lost to eventual champion Char Costanzo in the first round.

Central's No. 8 ranked Nick Cyr (130 pounds) defeated No. 9 Kyle Schilling of RHAM by 9-0 decision before getting pinned at the 1:47 mark of the first period by eventual runner-up Casey Mitchell of South Windsor.

Central's Class L state champion Seth Vose (135) took out 13th ranked Joe

Roberts of Fairfield Prep by 8-7 decision but the third ranked grappler from Bristol fell to No. 5 Dalton Ahern of Westbrook by 4-2 decision.

Eastern's Matt Marquis (145) had the ominous task of grappling with top-ranked Jake O'Dell of South Windsor and fell via pin-fall 3:01 to the Open runner-up.

Mike Lipka (160) squared off against top ranked Justin Scalise of Hall but the Eastern wrestler fell by a 15-0 technical decision.

In the heavyweight division, Central's D.J. Sanderson, ranked 14th, fell to No. 3 Jeff Starr of Brien McMahon by 9-4 decision.

Comments? Email mltetendre@BristolObserver.com

2010 state open wrestling results

Wrestling

2010 OPEN WRESTLING
Saturday, February 27 (12 p.m. start)
Sunday, February 28 (12:30 p.m. start)

NEW HAVEN ATHLETIC CENTER
Team Scores

1) Danbury, 98.5; 2) South Windsor, 84; 3) New Milford, 67.5; 4) Daniel Hand, 64; 5) Bacon Academy, 57; 6) Warde, 54.5; 7) Waterford, 50; 8) Middletown, 49; 9) Nonnewaug, 48; 10) Xavier, 45; 11) Bethel, 43; 12) Windham, 37.5; 13) Glastonbury, 37; 14) Shelton, 36; 15) Montville, 36; 16) Cheshire, 34; 17) Ledyard, 32.5; 18) Griswold, 32; 19) Conard, 32; 20) Bristol Eastern, 32; 21) Amity, 32; 22) Law, 28; 23) Somers, 26; 24) Rham, 26; 25) Killingly, 26; 26) Sheehan, 22; 27) Pomperaug, 22; 28) Cheney Tech, 21.5; 29) New Fairfield, 20; 30) East Lyme, 20; 31) Brien McMahon, 20; 32) New Haven Coop, 19; 33) Maloney, 18; 34) Farmington, 16; 35) Stamford, 15; 36) Manchester, 15; 37) Derby, 15; 38) Hall, 14.5; 39) Berlin, 12; 40) Westhill, 11; 41) Westbrook Old Sayb, 11; 42) Plainville, 11; 43) Greenwich, 11; 44) Fitch, 11; 45) Classical, 11; 46) Nfa, 9; 47) Newington, 9; 48) Woodstock, 8; 49) Trumbull, 8; 50) Terryville, 8; 51) Simsbury, 8; 52) Canton, 8; 53) Bristol Central, 8; 54) Gilbert, 6; 55) Avon, 6; 56) Weaver, 5; 57) Ridgefield, 5; 58) Ludlowe, 5; 59) Fairfield Prep, 5; 60) Thomaston, 4; 61) New Canaan, 4; 62) East Catholic, 4; 63) Ansonia, 4; 64) Guilford, 3; 65) Brookfield, 3; 66) Wolcott Tech, 2; 67) Wilton, 2; 68) Seymour, 2; 69) East Hartford, 2; 70) Coventry, 2; 71) Stafford, 1; 72) Platt Tech W Haven, 1; 73) Masuk, 1; 74) Haddam Killingworth, 1; 75) E.O. Smith, 1; 76) Darien, 1; 77) Bunnell, 1; 78) Wethersfield, 0; 79) Weston, 0; 80) University SMSA, 0; 81) Torrington, 0; 82) Stratford, 0; 83) Staples, 0; 84) Southington, 0; 85) Rockville, 0; 86) Platt, 0; 87) Oxford, 0; 88) Old Lyme, 0; 89) Norwalk, 0; 90) Northwestern, 0; 91) Newtown, 0; 92) New Britain, 0; 93) Morgan, 0; 94) Immaculate, 0; 95) Housatonic, 0; 96) Holy Cross, 0; 97) Fermi, 0; 98) Enfield, 0; 99) Ellington, 0; 100) East Haven, 0; 101) Branford, 0.

Place Winner

Scholarship available for student-athletes

The Filipek Family is pleased to support student athletes in central Connecticut through a series of \$250 to \$1,000 scholarships, intended to honor the life of Winton S. Filipek, Sr. A well-rounded athlete in the Meriden area, tennis held a special place

in his heart. The Filipek family has presented \$28,200 to deserving student-athletes in the past four years.

Applications can be obtained on line at: www.ymcafilipektennis.com

The completed scholar-

def. Nick Cipriano, NFA, 4-1

145

Championship: P.J. Mickens, Bacon Academy def. Jake Odell, South Windsor, 5-3

3rd Place: Zach Cooke, Killingly

def. Wm Bonagura, Bethel, 2-1

5th Place: Nick Boots, Griswold def. Cam Gonzalez, Fitch, pin 1:00

152

Championship: Andrew Ford, Bethel def. Jesse Broderick, New Fairfield, 13-3

3rd Place: Brian Onofrio, Daniel Hand def. Robert Garlick, Somers, 3-1

5th Place: Dillon Carter, Xavier def. Tom Anania, Warde, pin 1:18

160

Championship: Alex Carpenter, Amity def. Dustin Wilcox, Montville, pin 4:28

3rd Place: John Smith, Danbury def. Justin Scalise, Hall, 12-6

5th Place: Mike Zabala, Classical def. Brohen Krsulic, Woodstock, 1-0

171

Championship: Kyle Copes, Cheshire def. Devon Carrillo, Middletown, 11-3

3rd Place: Shane Sullivan, Ledyard def. Devin Covone, Bacon Academy, 5-1

5th Place: Eric Brainard, RHAM def. Jack Banks, Berlin, 7-4

189

Championship: Shane Battista, Waterford def. Tito Slaughter, New Haven Coop, 3-2

3rd Place: Sean Oconnell, Farmington def. Aren Norman, Bacon Academy, 3-1

5th Place: John Draper, Terryville def. Cosmo Iadanza, Westhill, 3-2

215

Championship: Pat Gillen, Shelton def. Luke Wiggins, Waterford, 4-2

3rd Place: Adam Lynch, New Milford def. Dylan Hancock, Danbury, 3-2

5th Place: Ted Kostopolous, Law def. Bryan Barnash, Trumbull, 2-0

285

Championship: Ronnie Walter, Nonnewaug def. Jeff Starr, Brien McMahon, 3-1

3rd Place: Joe Demichele, Daniel Hand def. Larry Burns, Conard, Default

5th Place: Matt McMahon, Montville def. Steve Storozuk, Manchester, 10-6

BRISTOL EASTERN 69, BRISTOL CENTRAL 41
at Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium, Bristol

Bristol Central (2-18, 1-13)	10	7	8	16 - 41
Bristol Eastern (18-2, 13-1)	12	16	19	22 - 69

BRISTOL CENTRAL (41): Matt Godbout 1-1-3, Dan Behmke 3-0-6, Tyler Webber 0-1-1, Jon Escobar 5-0-12, Zack Signore 0-0-0, Jordan Sforza 1-0-2, Justin Green 4-0-8, Sinclair Lewis 3-0-7, Malik Taft 1-0-2, Mike Scalia 0-0-0, Danny Siemiatoski 0-0-0, Andrew Laviero 0-0-0. TOTALS: 18-2-41.

BRISTOL EASTERN (69): Tyrell Holmes 2-1-5, Steve Delcegno 0-0-0, Christian Pierce 3-1-8, Xavier Wade 5-1-12, Chris Colon 9-2-21, Trey Tucker 0-0-0, Tom Tarantino 2-1-5, Ryan Darmand 1-0-2, Andre Brooks 0-0-0, Matt Malak 2-0-4, Ray Ortiz 6-2-14, Matt Yopp 0-0-0. TOTALS: 29-8-69.

Three-point goals: Bristol Central 3 (Escobar 2, Lewis), Bristol Eastern 3 (Pierce, Colon, Wade).