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By Jared Keene

Daily News staff

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Lincoln-Sudbury 32, Wayland 32: Evenly matched on the mat

SUDBURY — When the Wayland and Lincoln-Sudbury wrestling teams squared off Wednesday evening, position was at play.

The teams came in with just two losses between them, and the winner would have a leg up in the chase for the Dual County League title, with each still having to face Westford Academy, the DCL's other top team.
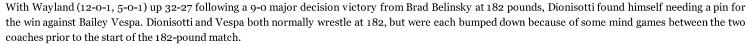
In the end, no one won. And no one lost.

With Wayland up five points heading into the last match of the night, L-S's Nico Dionisotti wont by technical fall at 195 pounds to earn his team a 32-32 DCL tie.

"This wasn't a surprising result to us," L-S coach Nick Avery said. "Both teams wrestled hard and it lived up to the billing of the excitement of the match. We knew it was pretty much going to come down to the last match. There's obviously some things I would've liked to take back and work out, but that's the point of these matchups is to keep moving forward. We were trying to go for it all at the end there and I'm happy with our kids that won, but hats off to them, their kids did a good job out there."

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The Lincoln-Sudbury bench looks for a pin in the final match of Wednesday night's 32-32 tie with Wayland.

"Just a gutsy performance up and down the lineup," Wayland coach Sean Chase said. "Both teams wrestled great and both teams wrestled very tactical. Lots of mat strategy going on. But yeah, I'm spent."

With Wayland (12-0-1, 5-0-1) up 32-27 following a 9-0 major decision victory from Brad Belinsky at 182 pounds, Dionisotti found himself needing a pin for the win against Bailey Vespa. Dionisotti and Vespa both normally wrestle at 182, but were each bumped down because of some mind games between the two coaches prior to the start of the 182-pound match.

Dionisotti went on the offensive right away knowing he had to get a technical fall or a pin. Holding a 14-2 lead in the third period, Dionisotti went for a pinning move with roughly 25 seconds left. He came close to getting Vespa's shoulders down, but Vespa was able to keep himself from getting pinned.

Dionisotti was awarded three near fall points at the end, which gave him the 17-2 victory and L-S (6-2-1, 3-0-1) the draw.

"I knew he expected me to go for the pin," Dionisotti said. "But I thought if I attacked right away and got some takedowns, he would maybe get a little sloppy and I'd be able to catch him at a point. That didn't happen, but I also knew a tech fall would tie it up, so either way, I had to take it to him the whole time. I would have loved a pin, but he knows how to wrestle and knows how to fight off his back, so props to him, he did a great job."

If not for a rule change in the last two years, L-S would have actually won this match.

At 170 pounds, Wayland's Ben Jones and L-S's Daniel Parangi went to overtime, with their match tied 1-1 after the third period. No points were scored in the first overtime, but Parangi scored an escape in the second OT. A few years ago, that would have meant a win for Parangi and a team win for L-S, but nowadays, the kid who is losing gets a chance to score in the next overtime.

Jones did score an escape in the third overtime, and after the third overtime, it went to sudden death, with Jones getting another escape in the fourth overtime to get a 3-2 victory.

Other L-S winners were Jack Pamir (220), Sam Forman (126), Jake Goldman (132), Russell Feye (138), and Alec Melamut (145).

The other winners for Wayland were Jared Thompson (285), Tommy Cope (106), Chris Oyola (152), and Ryan Dache (160).