

Strong showing in South Hadley for Wayland wrestling

By Staff reports GateHouse News Service

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The Wayland wrestling team headed out to South Hadley last Saturday to compete in the South Hadley Duals and came away with three dual meet victories to extend its record to 8-o.

The duals are a jamboree of Western Mass wrestling teams in which six teams participate in; Wayland participates with the goal of exposing the wrestlers to the Western Mass teams in preparation of the end-of-the-year tournaments.

Wayland defeated Hampshire Regional 37–24, Granby 57–18 and Dean Tech 51–24 and along with the team victory's won many individual match ups that will have seeding implications at the end of the season.

Having a big day for Wayland was 106-pound sophomore Tom Cope with two pins and no losses, 120-pound junior tri-captain Cole Elias with three pins and no losses, 126-pound sophomore Mike Connell with two pins and zero losses, 138-pound junior Charlie Tillett went 3–0, 152-pound tri-captain Chris Oyola was 3–0 with a key 3–1 decision against Carlese Santiago of Dean Tech, 160 lb tri-captain Ryan Bache defeated Brandon Wyant of Hampshire Regional 5–2 and Justin Perez of Dean Tech 2–0 both impressive wins and 170-pound sophomore Ben Jones defeated Granby senior captain and Western Mass sectional finalist 3–2 to go 2–0 for the day. Josh Brito, coming off a football injury and wrestling in his first match, earned his first pin of the season vs. Kyle Gilbert of Granby.

After the match, Wayland coach Sean Chase said "We have made it a point to wrestle the Western Mass teams each year and it has always helped come state seeding time, this year is no exception, Oyola, Bache and Jones all had big wins. of course ending the day with an 8–o record in the early season is not bad either."

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Wayland hosts Concord-Carlisle, Acton-Boxborough and Boston Latin on Saturday, starting at 10 a.m.

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The Saturday, January 11 meet is at Concord-Carlisle at 10a, NOT at Wayland. Also, the South Hadley meet included 12 teams, not 6.

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