

## Sports Briefs

# Wrestling: Knights host interstate event

From page 17

teams and six Connecticut teams. They wrestle throughout the individual tournament and we add up the points."

The tournament is a hybrid of most regular season tournament formats but most resembles a post-season tournament. Wrestlers compete in individual weight classes for 14 tournament titles. Each victory adds points to the athlete's school and the team with the most points wins. The format gives wrestlers invaluable experience for the upcoming postseason that can't be duplicated during the dual meet season.

"The key for the state open, for instance, is that you don't really know what kid you're going to wrestle and what he does," Dion said. "The scouting gets difficult. Sometimes, you know who you're going to wrestle and what he does, so kids get psyched out or psyched up.

Now, you get bunch of guys that you don't know, so you can go out there and concentrate on their own skills and wrestling techniques."

The unique twist that this tournament adds is that the scores from the Connecticut team are added up and compared to their Massachusetts opponents. The winner gets to host next year's contest, so wrestlers have the added pressure of representing their state on the mat against top competition.

Bacon Academy, ranked No. 8 in the state, edged top-ranked New Milford atop the standings, 168-154. Massachusetts placed third with Central Catholic (134.5). No. 10 Shelton (122.5) edged No. 4 Bristol Central (113) for fourth place. Southington (87) finished seventh overall.

Southington senior Doug Fontaine placed second overall in the 130-pound weight class, earning a school record 144th career

Central Connecticut Conference		CCC West Wrestling Standings			
<i>(as of Saturday, Jan. 30)</i>					
Team (overall)	W	L	GB	PCT	
Southington (11-3)	4	0	--	1.000	
Newington (14-4)	4	1	.5	.800	
Simsbury (14-4)	3	1	1.0	.750	
Conard (9-6)	2	2	2.0	.500	
Farmington (14-9)	2	2	2.0	.500	
Hall (3-15)	0	4	4.0	.000	
New Britain (0-8)	0	3	4.0	.000	

victory with a win in the semifinals. Pat Hamel (125) and Carmine Castiglione (189) finished second overall. Cory Seeger (145) finished third, and Christian Bowles (112) finished fourth.

"Our guys did pretty well, but there's a lot of really good competition here," said Dion. "Dougie wrestled real-

ly well all day. Hamel did an amazing job against a really good Bristol kid to get to the finals, and that's the best I've seen him wrestle so far. Then, Carmine got a really good kid in the semis against a good ranked New Milford kid. He did an awesome job getting to the finals."

Connecticut won the

contest, 681.5-381.5, so Southington will host next season's contest. Dion hopes to grow future contests into two-day events.

"We'll probably expand it to eight teams each next year or maybe more," said the coach. "It's been a really good event with a lot of really good competition. The local fans really got to see some of the top teams in the state and some of the top teams from Massachusetts. We've had a lot of good feedback from everyone. Maybe we'll be able to build it even bigger next year with some other really good teams."

### In control of the conference

The tournament came on the heels of a 38-31 victory over Newington on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Bowles, Nick Solomon (119), Fontaine, Seeger, and Castiglione won by pin. Nick Sforza (152) won by technical fall, and Xavier Crofton

Jan. 27  
**Southington 38**  
**Newington 31**

(215) won by decision.

The Knights improved to 11-3 overall (4-0 in the CCC West) and moved into sole possession of first place with two conference opponents remaining. Newington (13-4, 4-1 in the CCC West) dropped to second place in the conference standings.

"Simsbury's going to be a good one. They have an excellent coach over there and a good program," said Dion. "Newington was able to beat them, but it's all about match-ups most of the time. I haven't gone over the match-ups yet against them. Hopefully, it will be an exciting match and hopefully we'll wrestle well."

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Goralski, email him at [jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com](mailto:jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com).

*Our town.  
Our businesses.  
All local.*



# Hometown Business & Service Directory

**ALLIANCE PLUMBING SERVICES LLC**  
*"Service Done Right"*

- Water Heaters, Kitchen and Bath Remodeling
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Complete Fixture Repair
- Frozen Pipe Service
- Owner Operated
- Senior Discount

860-621-6993 • 203-407-1664  
[alliance.plumbing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alliance.plumbing@sbcglobal.net)  
 Fully Lic. & Ins. P-1 279678 CT

**OLDE TYME CHIMNEY SERVICES**  
**WE SELL, INSTALL, AND SERVICE WOOD/PELLET STOVES**

- CAPS/DAMPERS INSTALLED
- STAINLESS STEEL CHIMNEY LINING
- CLEANING
- OIL FLUE
- PELLET/WOOD STOVES CLEANED
- VACU-STACK
- EXHAUSTO FANS
- REPOINTING
- MASONRY REPAIRS & REBUILDING
- WATERPROOFING
- 3rd DEGREE CREOSOTE REMOVAL

**FRED ALGIERE**  
 Since 1988  
**860-676-8005**  
 Farmington

CHIMNEYS CAPPED FULY INSURED CT License #537913

**heating oil**

**CALL FOR LOWEST PRICE!**

**CF OIL Co. Inc.**  
 H.O.D. #518

**C.O.D.**

[www.CFOILCO.com](http://www.CFOILCO.com)  
 New Britain, CT 06051 **860-225-8545**

**Advertise here!**  
**You're reading it.**  
**Your customers are too!**  
**Call The Observer/ Step Saver**  
**(860) 628-9645**

**PPS Preferred Pellet Services**  
 Maintenance • Repair • Installation

On ALL BRANDS of pellet stoves.  
 We are NFI Certified Pellet Specialists and fully insured

Always choose a NFI Certified technician!

Give us a call to make an appointment  
**203.577.2409**  
[www.preferredpellet.com](http://www.preferredpellet.com)

**READY TO WORK HOME IMPROVEMENT**

FREE QUOTES

Have Your Job Done Right!

**RICCI'S**  
 • State Licensed • Fully insured #522127

Bath & Kitchen Remodeling  
 Ceramic Tile  
 No-Wax Floors  
 Carpeting  
 Counter Tops

854 South Main Street, Plantsville • **621-3858**  
 General Contractors for Residential & Commercial