

SOL National Wrestling: Hawks storm back to beat Neshaminy

By Tom Waring, staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 11:45 pm

NORTHAMPTON — When Cary Palmer stepped on the mat Wednesday night, his Council Rock South Golden Hawks trailed Neshaminy by 25.

"We had to dig out of a hole," he said.

Palmer started the comeback with a technical fall, and the Hawks went on to dominate the rest of the way in a 47-25 victory in Suburban One League National Conference wrestling action.

"Kids stepped up," Palmer said. "I was pretty confident after my match. We had it from there because we have hammers."

Council Rock South, which was competing in its first dual meet of the season, was coming off strong efforts in the Cumberland Valley Kickoff Classic and the King of the Mountain.

"We have one of the top teams in the state," Palmer said.

Neshaminy (4-2 overall, 0-1 SOL National) had fared well in the season-opening Battle of Bethlehem Duals and won the Travis Manion Tournament, then raced to a 25-0 lead on CR South before faltering.

"We're so thin in the middle, and Council Rock South is so deep," said coach Michael Stewart. "But we came and battled one of the best teams out there."

Neshaminy received pins from Mike Megahan (113 pounds), Kyle Osterhoudt (220) and Bruce Graeber (285), a major decision by undefeated freshman Colton Jordan (106) and a decision by Jackson Erb (120).

Graeber, fifth at the PIAA Class AAA championships a year ago, needed 3:35 to pin a good opponent in John Anderson.

"He wrestled very well. He was patient, waited for an opportunity and pinned him," said Stewart, whose team returns to the mat Monday at home against Abington.



Council Rock South's John Anderson (left) wrestles Neshaminy's Bruce Graeber in the 285 pound match Wednesday December 16, 2015 at Council Rock South in Newtown, Pennsylvania. (Photo by William Thomas Cain)

Palmer, at 126, put South on the board with a 20-5 technical fall in 4:40.

"Cary is really good. We expect him to get big wins and bonus points," said coach Brad Silimperi.

Returning state runner-up Zack Trampe followed with a pin at 132, then freshman Eric Woloshyn decked his opponent in 3:09 at 138.

The next four wrestlers bumped up a weight, and all won. At 145, Riley Palmer posted a 5-2 decision over former teammate Joe Little, who transferred to Neshaminy this year. Nick Verdi gave South a 26-25 lead with a 58-second pin at 152. Lucas Martoccio used a cradle to earn a pin in 2:43 at 160, and Dylan Schwartz clinched the victory with a pin in 2:41 at 170.

For good measure, Joe Doyle closed the night with a pin in 2:39 at 195. Right before that, Tyler Gettmann notched a surprising 4-3 win over previously unbeaten Noah Kisselback at 182.

"That was a huge win for Tyler Gettmann," Silimperi said. "The match was locked up, but it was great to see him wrestle six minutes and get the W."

South was missing returning state qualifier Ben Radner, but the early deficit was a jolt.

"I was very surprised," Martoccio said. "We have some work to do, I'll tell you that."

Martoccio, who captured medals at the team's two invitationals, said the bump up in weight was the difference.

"The coaches had everything planned out, and we do as we're told," he said. "Once we get everything cleaned up, we'll do real well this year."

Silimperi, whose team will be at Bensalem on Tuesday, was expecting to be behind once he saw the match would begin at 220.

"That's a tough spot to start. The guys had to respond, and we ran off 47 straight," he said.