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FREDERICTON WRESTLERS SCORE A PAIR OF MEDALS IN MAINE



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: TOM MACRAE

Over 300 Wrestlers from across the New England States took to the mats on Sunday, April 10, in Bath, Maine, for the 2016 Maine State Freestyle Championships. Amongst the field of competitors were two New Brunswick wrestlers. Both Mario Tran and Matt Short of Fredericton's Black Bears Wrestling Club traveled to the event to compete.

The event featured competitors from a wide range of ages. Short competed in the Men's Open 125kg division, where he finished in second place, while Tran wrestled in the Junior Men's 57kg class.

Short began the tournament with a loss to Massachusetts' Donovan Lazada. He quickly rebounded to beat Cody Spicer & Jon Badger of Maine. "Dropping my first match was disappointing. My focus was off, and I paid for it." says Short. "I was able to regroup and I wrestled the remainder of the tournament the way I wanted. My goal was to get matches in and I was happy with the event."

Tran went undefeated during championship to capture the top spot. Tran defeated Aedan Pellicone, Jonathan Mackaman, and Nuo Li to make the finals where he faced Cody Craig of Maine. Craig was able to build and maintain a lead during the match, but Tran was able to battle back late in the second round to capture the state title.

Both wrestlers will now rest up and begin preparations for their summer training back in Fredericton.