

Newport powerlifters set marks

CURRITUCK – After setting state and world records in a sanctioned 100% Raw Powerlifting meet Jan. 15, Newport 's Matthew Gadziala and Drew Priddy were a wreck.

Literally.

The strong showing at the meet was some consolation for the unfortunate incident that happened the night before on the way to the meet.

“I was driving along and the guy in front of me slammed on his brakes,” recalled Gadziala. “Obviously, it was wet and rainy that Friday night and very cold. The guy in front of me slammed on his breaks, then I slammed on my breaks, mine locked up and we went up underneath his truck. They had to jack his truck up to get my car out from underneath it.”

Since Gadziala and Priddy got little or no sleep that night, it was difficult focusing on the task at hand come early Saturday morning when the meet started at 8.

“I missed my first lift, and I was kind of down about everything,” said Gadziala. “I wasn’t focused or anything. Then my mom had somebody say something about the wreck, and that just added adrenalin, and everything from there was great.”

By the time he was finished, Gadziala had set four North Carolina state and world records for the 18-19 age division of the 123-pound weight class. He not only set records in the squat, bench press, dead lift and total poundage but shattered them. He raised the squat record from 165 to 225 pounds, the bench press from 155 to 185, and the dead lift from 275 to 345 for a record total of 755 pounds.

Although Gadziala was uninjured in the accident, Priddy suffered a back strain and feared that might hamper his attempt at a state and world record in the squat in the 148-pound weight class for ages 18-19. But Priddy was able to bear through the pain and raised the new mark from 290 pounds to 300.

Both lifters will now prepare for Croatan’s annual meet in the spring, then the state meet, also again set at Croatan. Gadziala hopes to add to his six state records and four world marks when he moves up to the 132-weight class. He also holds state records in the 16-17 age division at 123 pounds with a 350-pound dead lift and 780 total, set at last year’s state meet