

Editor-In-Chief
LANNY BRYANT
Managing Editor
CODY BRYANT
Assistant Editor
CAL JOHNSON
National Editor
DAN FICKEL
Design & Art Director
LADY BRYANT RUSS
Administrative Assistants
LANANN BRYANT
ANN BRYANT
SHANNON BRYANT WOLFE
JACKIE NEWMAN
Circulation Director
EVELYN BRYANT
Contributing Writer
BILL WELKER
Advertising/Promotion
LANNY BRYANT
National Office
109 Apple House Lane
Missoula, MT 59802
406-549-4448 FAX 406-549-4879
Wrestling USA (ISSN) 0199-6258

Wrestling USA, Inc. is published 12 times yearly as follows: twice a month in October, March and May; once a month in September, November, December, January, February and April.

Editorial Office: 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802, 1-406-549-4448. All contributions are welcome. Please enclose postage with manuscripts, illustrations and photographs submitted if they are to be returned. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials. All rights, in letters and photos sent to *Wrestling USA*, will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes. They are subject to *Wrestling USA's* unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. Printed in USA; entire contents © 2003 *Wrestling USA*; reprinting in whole or in part is forbidden except by written permission of publisher.

Subscriptions: One year (12 issues) \$31 in United States and Possessions. Bundle rate for 10-subscriptions, \$24. All other countries \$41 in US currency or international money order. Send to Subscription Department, *Wrestling USA*, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802.

Send National Record Proposals: Cal Johnson, 465 Timber Lane, Friday Harbor, WA 98250, 360-378-6016.

Send All-American Nominations or Correspondence on High School and College Wrestling: Dan Fickel, 10757 Woodrun Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136, 440-878-1150 (phone and fax). E-Mail: dfickel@msn.com

Change of Address: Six weeks are required to change your mailing address. Forwarding postage is paid by you and lost copies cannot be replaced. To ensure delivery, send us your old and new address at least six weeks before moving. Include your new zip code.

Advertising: Rates available upon request. Contact Lanny Bryant at the National Office. 406-549-4448.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Wrestling USA, Inc.*, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802. Periodicals postage paid at Missoula, MT 59802 and at additional offices.

PRINTED IN THE USA

E Mail: wrestling@montana.com

Web Site: <http://www.wrestlingusa.com>

Guest Editorial

By Ira Fleckman

There is nothing more fun than an in-school wrestling dual meet. The atmosphere is electric. The coaches don't need to do or say anything to fire up the competitors. The home team sees their fellow students and teachers in the stands and understands that anything less than an all out effort will haunt them for the remainder of their high school career. The visiting team understands that they must represent their school's honor, that the home team's wrestlers are going to make every effort to shine at their expense and that for some reason guys from another school always look better to girls from another school. The referee will not need to call stalling nor worry about minor infractions of the rules, as these won't cause either wrestler to be distracted from the task at hand. Sportsmanship will not be an issue as no wrestler wishes to show himself less than a worthy competitor and representative of his school. The coaches, too, will show restraint and allow their wrestlers to take center stage.

All the referee must do is remind the wrestlers not to forget the rules and to make certain to penalize the very first act that is too aggressive or results from frustration. No wrestler wishes to be penalized for doing anything wrong in front of his peers and mentors. The referee may find it advisable to not look too closely at minor infractions that don't give either wrestler an advantage. Any stop in the action may cause the spectators to indulge in providing their own entertainment. It is necessary for the referee to make his signals crisp and clear and to insure that the scorekeepers are not distracted either by the action or by fellow students asking for explanations of the scoring. If there is a dispute over the score, the break in the action will result in the spectators becoming distracted and disinterested. In these matches it is necessary to keep the bouts moving and not have any delays.

The coach and his announcer can help by not conducting the usual pre-match face-off. Announcing the weight class and names of the competitors as they check in and perform the pre-match handshake will save time and the focus of the spectators will be on the individuals who will be wrestling. Having teams do warm-ups and other pre-match ceremonies prior to the arrival of the spectators will result in more wrestlers getting on the mat to perform in front of their fellow students. It is in everyone's interest to have as many matches wrestled while the spectators are in attendance. However, when the bell sounds ending the school day and the spectators must board their busses, it is best to stop the action until the gymnasium is cleared. Many students will stay to see the final matches if they have their own transportation.

It is also a fact that students will pay the cost of a ticket willingly in order to get out of the normal classroom activities. The money for admission is usually important to the wrestling program. However, the ability to demonstrate the sport of amateur wrestling and to allow the wrestlers to demonstrate what they have learned is worth more to the program. Some spectators will want to test their own abilities and they will join the team. Many will want to attend the next match and become team supporters.

Educationally, financially and entertainment-wise these in-school matches are a win win situation for all concerned. 🐾

Cover Photo

Beast of the East Tournament. Championship semifinals. 160 lb. Mark Perry, Blair Academy, New Jersey (blue), defeated Vinnie Salek, Toms River East, New Jersey, T20-3. Photo by Robert L. Preston.



NATIONAL ACTION WRESTLING PHOTO CONTEST

Send your best action wrestling photos. The best photos will be recognized each issue. The outstanding color photo will be featured on the cover, poster or T-shirt. Cover photos to be submitted as 5x7 print.