



It is All About Winning...Isn't It?

By Dean Donley

Your team leads by two points in an early season non-league match. There are two bouts left. The opposing coach puts his wrestler on the mat first and he is of state qualifier caliber. You have a wrestler of similar ability at the same weight. You also have the option of sending

out a wrestler of less talent with instructions to minimize the team score damage and then bump your stud up to the next weight where a pin and thus the victory is highly likely. I would venture to guess that this is virtually a no-brainer for the vast majority of coaches.

The reasons in support of playing the

odds and preserving the win are numerous. While wrestling is a highly individual sport the dual meet season has a significant team component. Team victories breed team confidence and reflect favorably on the school, coach, and all team members. A group of wrestlers on a winning streak is much easier to teach and manage than a team mired