

Iran and Wrestling

By Ira Fleckman

It is a given that the wrestling fans from Iran are fanatic in their support and devotion to wrestling, their national sport. It is also a fact that the Iranian fans seem to appreciate all wrestlers. Iranian wrestling fans at the Olympic

games held in Atlanta in 1996 were vocal in support of their wrestlers and when an Iranian wrestler won a championship, they couldn't be kept in their seats. Subsequently, this author noted that American wrestlers who competed in Iran

were treated as well as wrestlers from any country. The reader may know that political relations between the United States and Iran are not good. Why is it that wrestlers are loved in Iran?

At the World Championships held in