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Guest Editorial

By Jack Roller

Youth Wrestling – Alive and Well

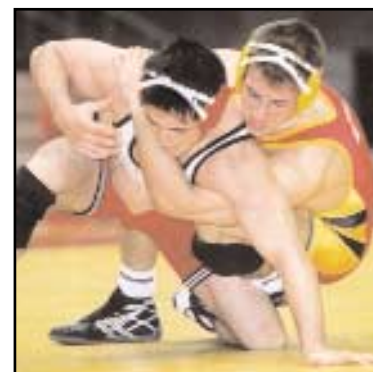
At a time when wrestling has taken a few blows such as college level programs being cut and high school programs having severe budget restraints, guess what? K thru junior high is kicking into high gear. The grass roots is certainly where it all begins and the rewards of being involved with such are truly overwhelming. People such as you, the coach, team officer, official or even the parent all have very important roles in keeping the feeder system (life-line) to the next level – Alive and Well. Without each of you doing your part, wrestling overall will certainly suffer.

Our company World of Wrestling, is definitely determined to make a difference in this great sport. We have a soft spot in our hearts for the little ones. People often ask me why, after 24 years, I still work diligently in promoting 6 national events all over the country. They just don't understand how rewarding it can be. The truth is it's not the financial rewards but it's the self-satisfaction I get when I see the World All Star Team presented at the Cliff Keen Kickoff Classic. If you could only look into their eyes and see the smiles of those kids you would see why! Often I have responded to the questions why I continue on with a bold statement... "If you ever see the day when I lose sight of why I started this years ago, please tell me and I will move on." But for now, World of Wrestling will continue to offer the greatest awards, \$14,000+ spent at the Tulsa Nationals and \$21,500 at Reno Worlds. We will spend \$6,000+ on opening and closing ceremonies so your wrestler will feel he just wrestled at the Olympics. In other words, he will experience a truly unique event and will have special memories for a lifetime.

Money cannot be the most important ingredient in running a great wrestling event. You must have an undying love for the kids and our great sport or you will never put in the effort of making it an unforgettable experience. I must take the time to thank some of my sponsors that make all of this possible. The one reason some of these national level sponsors are so special to me is they have noticed where our priorities are and share our view that it must stay all about the kids. *Wrestling USA Magazine*, Cliff Keen Athletic, Martin Screen Prints and Wrestling One have personally showed their commitment to this and that we all are one when it comes to World of Wrestling's mission statement – Dedicated to the promotion of America's youth and the great sport of wrestling. This you can witness first hand in our newsletter included in this issue. The World All-Star Team is proof of this in action.

Remember, if you have a true love for something, your passion will drive you to get up each morning and actually move mountains all day long! 🏋️

Trent Paulson, Iowa State University, won by a major decision over Justin Blumenthal, Boston University, 14-2. Trent and his twin brother Travis opened up with a pair of wins for ISU. The Paulson's are red-shirt freshmen from Council Bluff's Lincoln High School. Photo by John C. Johnson.



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.