



Novel Approaches for the 30-Second Tiebreaker

By Bill Welker, Ed.D.

The sport of wrestling has always had the quandary of determining how to break the “tie” in a match, without compromising fairness to the matmen. First, we developed the “referee’s decision.” Unfortunately, the approach was too subjective in nature. Permit me to share one personal coaching

experience I had in reference to the referee’s decision.

My heavyweight and his opponent were tied after the regulation bout. Thus, they had to compete in the overtime which consisted of a new match with three one-minute periods. There was no takedown in the first period, my wrestler escaped quick-

ly in the second stanza, and after about 45 seconds of riding, his adversary escaped in the third period.

I felt confident my wrestler had won the match because of his swift escape, and he rode out his opponent much longer. The referee raised his competition’s hand.

Immediately following the match, I