

Champions Never “Come Out of Nowhere”

By Ruben Leon

Wrestlers don't wake up one morning and say to themselves "I think I'll win State today". These guys have been fighting it out on the back mats for years, in bush-league local tournaments that very few parents even attend, where the only guy watching you

from the bleachers is your next opponent.

I once passed out flyers for a "Super Tournament" to the parents and wrestlers in my kids club and told everyone that all the first year wrestlers should go to the "local" tournament that weekend. I was a little annoyed when I got there and saw one of the first year dads there with his 4th

grader. I naturally figured I had another "little league" wrestling dad throwing his son to the wolves.

Since they were brand new I had never spoken to the father [the mother mostly brought the boy to practice because the dad worked nights at a gas station] so I went up to the dad and started repeating everything