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# Guest Editorial

By Cal Johnson

The second week of January my wife, Kathy, and I had the opportunity to attend the Rocky Mountain Classic in Missoula, Montana. The tournament featured twenty teams from Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

It was my first return visit to the Classic, which began in 1978, in thirteen years. After coaching competitors in the event for the first eight years, I then helped for four years as an administrator before leaving Missoula.

The recent return was definitely a journey into a world of memories. I knew five of the six referees, all of which are some of Montana's best state tournament referees. I visited with my former high school coach (Lanny Bryant) and some of my former wrestlers, including one (Glenn Jarrett, Div. I AA for Oregon) who is now an orthopedic surgeon and served as the tournament doctor for the '04 event.

The thing that amazed me the most, however, was looking into the bracket room and seeing people running the tournament that, I believe, have been working with this tournament in one capacity or another since the first edition in 1978. When I saw Ken and Linda Walt, Larry and Jan Bicha, and Fred Salmonson, I was reminded of the thousands of people who have dedicated decades to the grass root operation of amateur wrestling.

As the season winds down, I hope that all of our readers will take the opportunity to thank those people. Without them the events would not happen. I also hope that our readers will nominate deserving contributors for our season ending awards.

The *Wrestling USA Magazine* awards provide an opportunity to honor those people who make the significant contributions. From the naming of the Scholastic All-Americans to the honoring of the Wrestling Manager of the Year, they recognize the wonderful contributors who have made our sport such a great one.

Here is a list of the awards, deadlines, and where to send them:

**SCHOLASTIC ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLERS** - These awards honor the nation's top high school wrestlers. A Dream Team, Academic Team, All-American Team, and Honorable Mention Team are selected. Nominations are due April 1 and should be sent to Dan Fickel, 10757 Woodrun Drive, Strongsville, OH 44136.

**CONTRIBUTOR AWARDS** - These awards honor some of the sport's top contributors. Nominations are accepted for the Master of Wrestling, Man of the Year, State Man of the Year, WUSA State Editor of the Year, Referee of the Year, and Photographer of the Year. Nominations are due April 1 and should be sent to Lanny Bryant, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802.

**TEAM RELATED AWARDS** - These awards honor those people connected with teams that have done something out of the ordinary during the 2003-2004 season. Nominations are accepted for Coach of the Year, Coaches' Wife of the Year, Assistant Coach of the Year, Wrestling Manager of the Year, and Wrestling Sportswriter of the Year. The nomination deadline is April 1 and nominations should be sent to Cal Johnson, 4708 E. Jaremko, Mead, WA 99021.

Can you imagine the pride and excitement of having someone you work with receive a national award of this caliber? You will never know if you do not take the time to nominate them. 🏆

Montana - Missoula Big Sky High School's Brandon Bryant, presses Missoula Sentinel's Andy Love into the mat en route to a 17-6 victory. Big Sky won the city title by defeating Sentinel 65-16 and Hellgate, 76-12. Photo by Kurt Wilson, *Missoulian*.



## 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.