

A Point of Honor

By Tyree McCrackin



The mats were a bit too small - a couple of feet short of regulation size. They had seen better days, and vinyl paint chips littered the surface in areas. They were thin, and anything but forgiving. The crowd was a bit too close, as well. Chairs surrounded

the mats on two sides, with people sitting on the floor in front of them, with others lying down on the verge of the mat itself. The officials fought a losing battle to control the crowd and relieve the press. The stands were full, with every person on his or her feet. A crowd of coaches, trainers,

and others hovered over the scorer's table and the mat chairman. This was the provincial final match to watch.

Because of his attitude, his stoic manner surrounding training, Shane Barnert had become an icon of determination and toughness to both his teammates and