



SPORTING MEN

The Few - The Proud Marine Wrestlers



By Marine Major Jay Antonelli

Lieutenant Isaac Moore was on a manhunt. Still, he didn't know exactly what to expect as he led his team of 20 Marines into a hot, musty building in Karbala, Iraq. The campaign to unseat Saddam Hussein had just given way to the difficult work of bringing stability to the newly freed country, which

was still a dangerous place. After days of preparation built on a thin stream of intelligence, Lieutenant Moore had found his man.

There, standing in the sweltering confines of the dilapidated building, was Hussein Khadim. For Lieutenant Moore, already sweating in the heat, it was the

moment of truth.

But Khadim wasn't a terrorist. He didn't even want to fight. In fact, he wanted to challenge the Americans to a sporting match-up. He wanted to wrestle.

Moore and his Marines - assigned to the 7th Marine Regiment - were actually a pickup team of former high school