



6th Annual Dream Team Dual Classic



Dream Team Prevails In Tough Dual

Team USA won 11 matches, but was in a battle with Wisconsin

Outfitting passion.

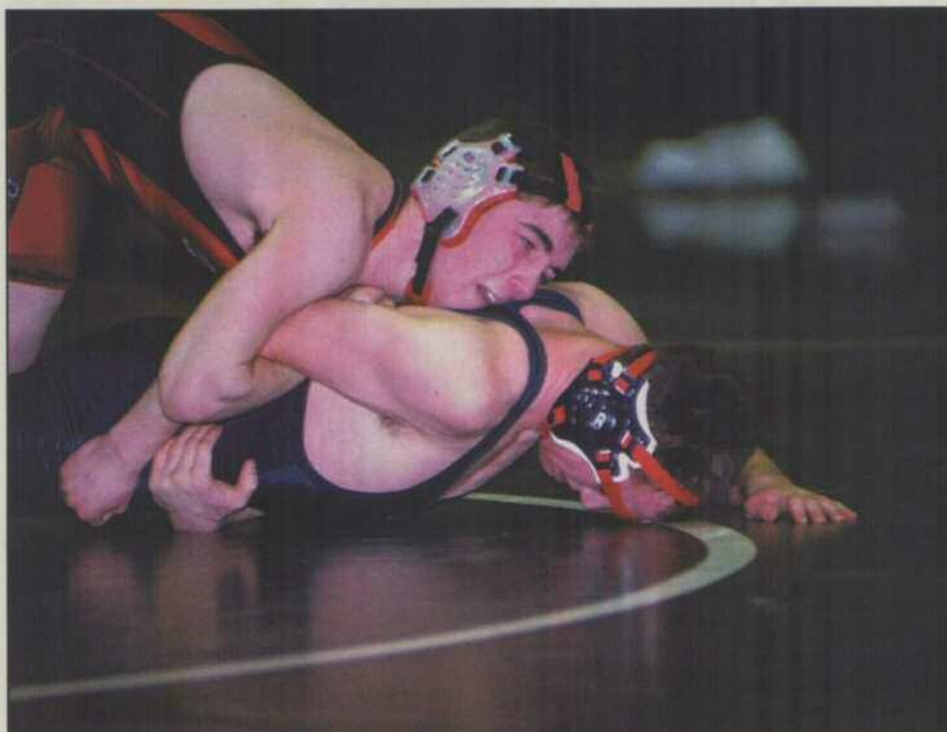
-By Paul Adamski-
Photos by G. Wyatt Schultz

The dual was over after Matt Herrington's major decision at 171 pounds gave the Dream Team an insurmountable 30-6 lead with three matches remaining.

Team Wisconsin, however, made the dual more difficult than the 36-9 final score indicated. With a few more seconds at 135 pounds, one more takedown in a handful of matches and two more state stars - who declined invites - the Badger State might have made the Dream Team sweat it out till the end at the 6th Annual Wrestling USA Magazine/Cliff Keen Dream Team Dual Classic.

Of course, the Dream Team is filled with stalwarts who have a history of leaving good wrestlers wondering "What if?" after vanquishing their dreams of victory. And winning the close matches that lead to great disparity in the final score is another art they are adept at. It has much to do with them winning a combined 35 state titles, and has them favored to claim All-American honors at the college level.

The 2002 Dream Team was no different than its predecessors, as they won 11 of the



Team USA's 112 lb. Tim Hunt, White Bear Lake, Minnesota vs. Team Wisconsin's Josh Miller, Arcadia, Wisconsin.



103-Gerrad Contreras
Clovis, California



112-Tim Hunt
White Bear Lake, MN



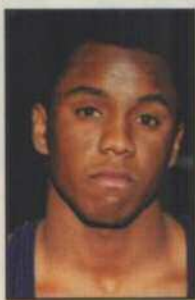
119-Mark Jeffery Moos
Loraine, Ohio



125-Matt Ciasulli
Easton, Pennsylvania



130-Burke Barnes
Lake Stevens, Washington



135-Teyon Ware
Edmond, Oklahoma



140-Andy Simmons
Williamston, Michigan



145-Trent Paulson
Council Bluffs, Iowa



152-Zach Esposito
Three Bridges, New Jersey



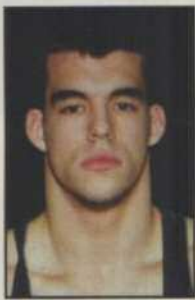
160-Johnny Hendricks
Edmond, Oklahoma



171-Matt Harrington
Cambridge, New York



189-Kurt Backes
Three Bridges, New Jersey



215-Nathan Moore
Indianapolis, Indiana



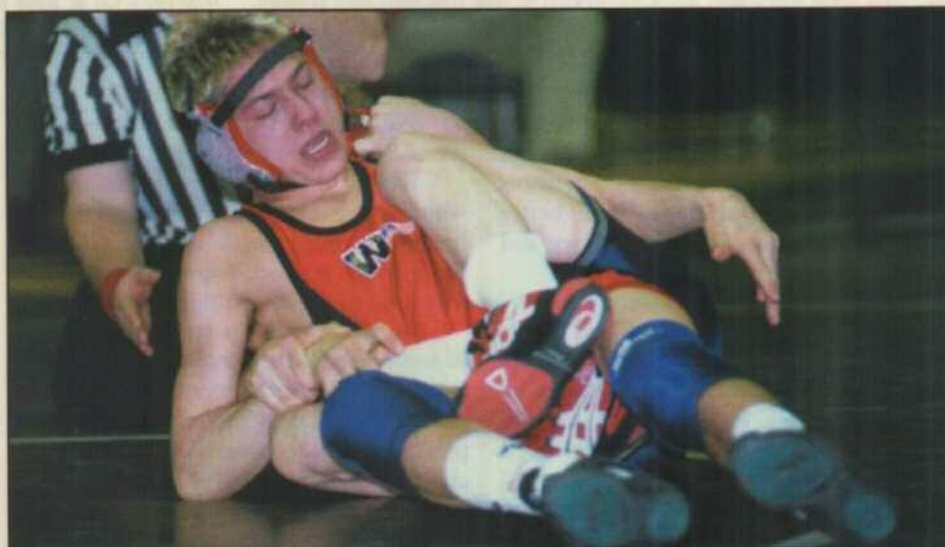
275-Mike Behnke
Villa Park, Illinois



14 matches over Wisconsin en route to a sixth straight victory. A spirited effort by the Wisconsin delegation, however, left the Dream Team without a fall and extra team points in just three matches - 103, 130 and 171.

"In a match like this the kids are going to be a split second slower and that sometimes brings a match closer than it should be," Dream Team coach William Weick (Chicago Mt. Carmel) said.

The Dream Team won five of the first seven matches to jump to a 17-3 lead, but Wisconsin could have gained some momentum at 119 and 125, but were out two of its best wrestlers. While backups Nick Conklin and Scott Schramm only lost by decision, Wisconsin coach Troy Steiner couldn't help but wonder about the outcome if his team was at full strength.



Team USA's 119 lb. Mark Jeffery Moos, Loraine, Ohio vs. Team Wisconsin's Nick Conklin, Milton, Wisconsin.



103-Matt Demars
Neenah, Wisconsin



112-Josh Miller
Arcadia, Wisconsin



119-Nick Conklin
Milton, Wisconsin



125-Scott Schramm
Crivitz, Wisconsin



130-Zach Chambers
Mineral Point, Wisconsin



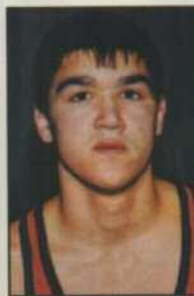
135-Cole Wunnicke
Hillpoint, Wisconsin



140-Joe Henning
Altoona, Wisconsin



145-Tyler Turner
Spring Valley, Wisconsin



152-Matt Pell
Luxemburg, Wisconsin



160-Ben Askren
Hartland, Wisconsin



171-Jason Lulloff
Kiel, Wisconsin



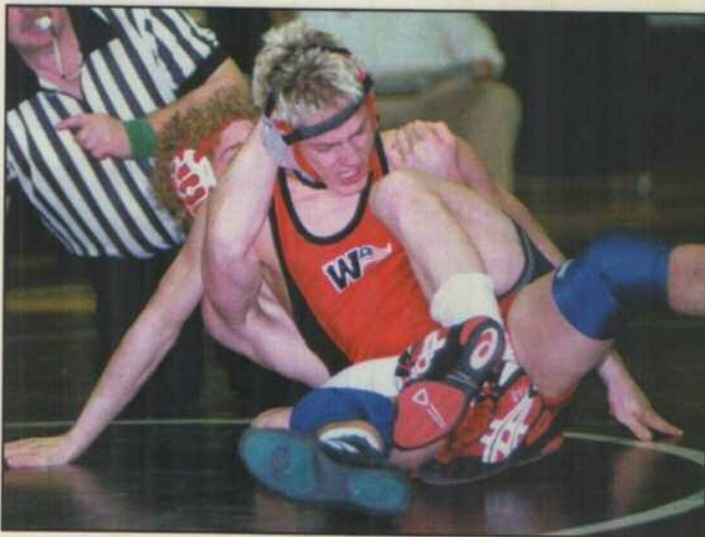
189-Kelby Mack
Lodi, Wisconsin



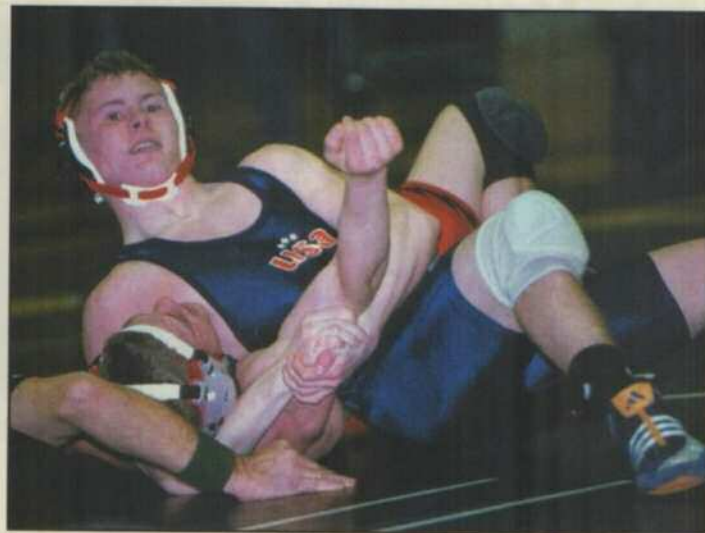
215-Joel Whipperfurth
Dane, Wisconsin



275-Cole Konrad
New London, Wisconsin



Team USA's 125 lb. Matt Ciasulli, Easton, Pennsylvania vs. Team Wisconsin's Scott Schramm, Crivitz, Wisconsin.



Team USA's 130 lb. Burke Barnes, Lake Stevens, Washington vs. Team Wisconsin's Zach Chambers, Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

"Sure, you'd like to have those (other two) kids out there, but at the same time we went to battle with this team," Steiner said. "I tell you what, not many other teams in the nation could have done better against this group of kids than we did today."

Steiner had a point. The record for victories by a host state is four and while Wisconsin left one shy of that, it lost six matches by four points or less and in four matches - 125, 135, 160 and 215 - it was tied or within two points late in the third period.

Steiner felt Wisconsin could have won those four matches and perhaps one more if his team would have opened up, but as Wisconsin team member Cole Wunnicke

said, "We just didn't get it done."

Wunnicke's match was a perfect example of Wisconsin's day.

With a few more seconds, he perhaps would have received a stalling call and forced overtime with a back pedaling Teyon Ware. Instead, Wunnicke was on the short end of intense battle at 135 pounds.

Ware used a defensive takedown with 32 seconds remaining in the match to go up 3-1. Wunnicke managed an escape with 20 seconds later, but Ware fended off his desperation shots to claim a 3-2 victory in a clash of four-time state champions, the only such battle of the night.

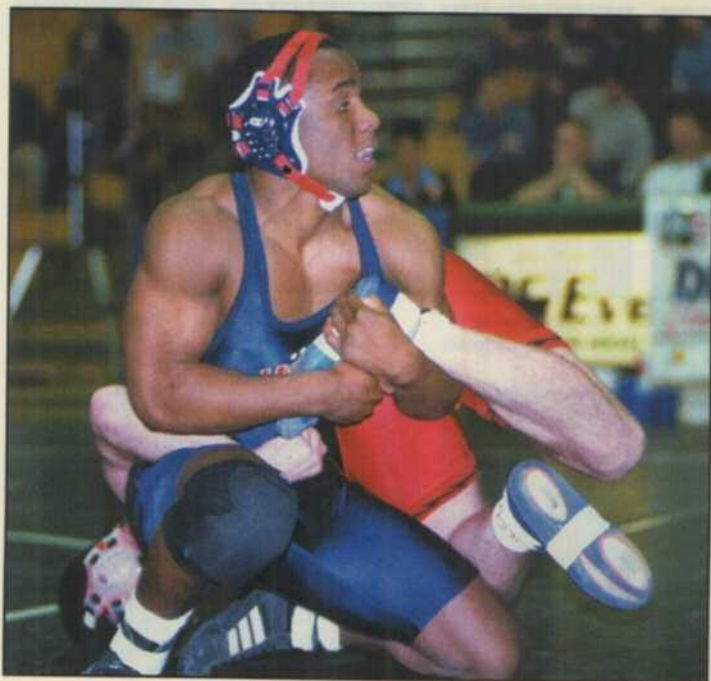
Many in attendance thought Wunnicke had out wrestled Ware, but he didn't want anything to do with that.

"To say he wrestled better or I wrestled better is not something I want to comment on," Wunnicke said. "He won the match this time and that is how it goes. I'll meet him again and it will be another good match."

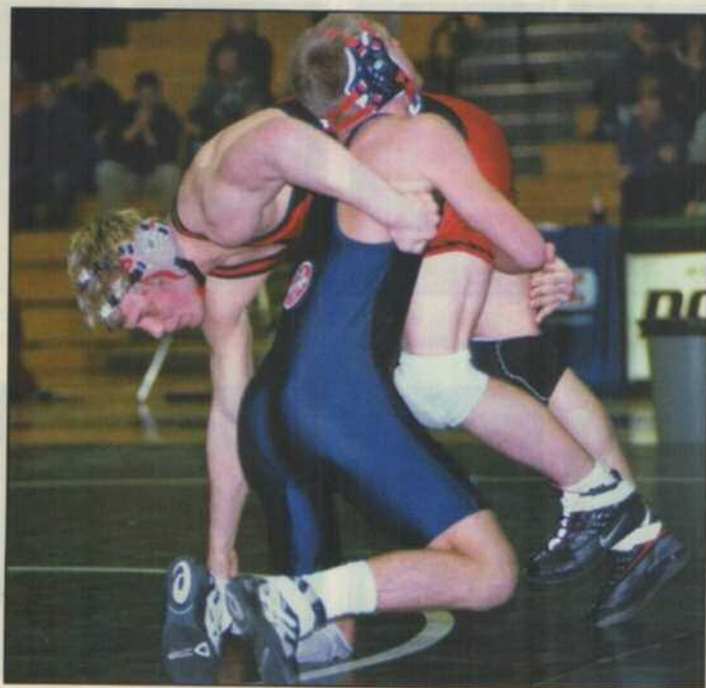
Give Wisconsin decisions at 119, 125 and 135 and Badger State would entered the 140-pound match leading 12-8. But, that is not how it works and the talented Dream Team did what it does best - prevail in the close matches - to take a 17-3 lead into the 140 pound match.

Weick gave Wisconsin its due as a solid team and said, "Wisconsin has always had a good group of wrestlers, so I knew it was going to be a good match."

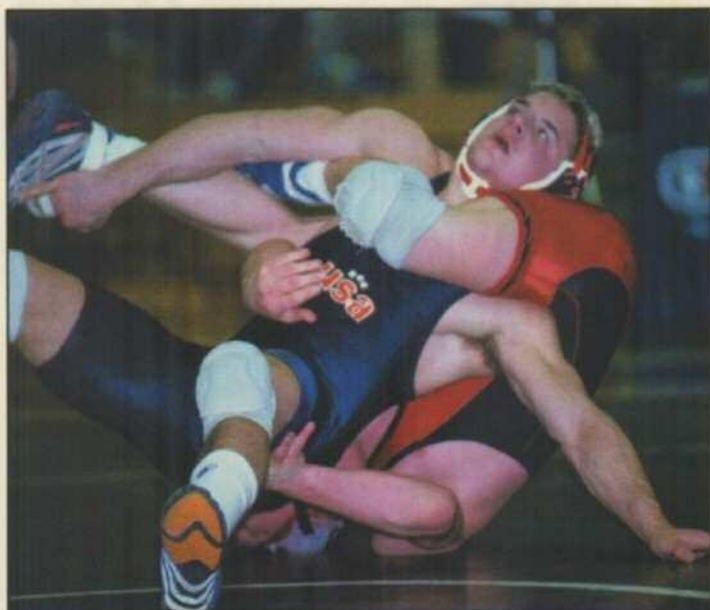
One of the few close matches to go



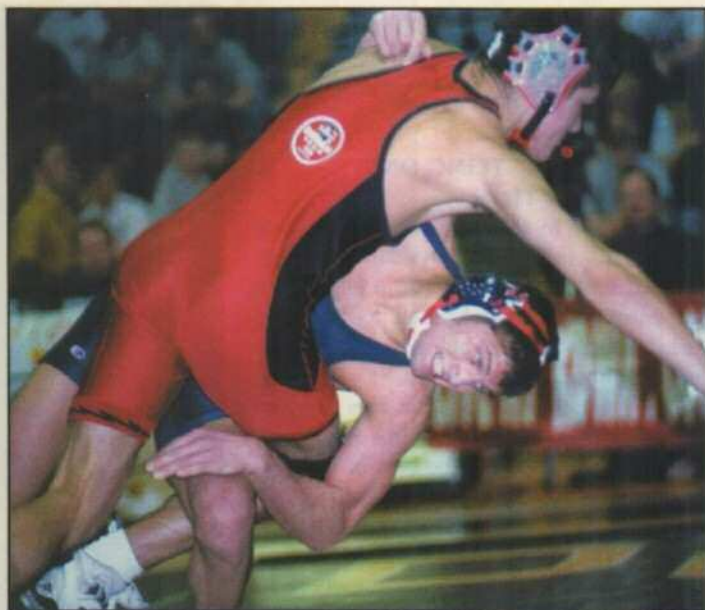
Team USA's 135 lb. Teyon Ware, Edmond, Oklahoma vs. Team Wisconsin's Cole Wunnicke, Hillpoint, Wisconsin.



Team USA's 140 lb. Andy Simmons, Williamston, Michigan vs. Team Wisconsin's Joe Henning, Altoona, Wisconsin.



Team USA's 145 lb. Trent Paulson, Council Bluffs, Iowa vs. Team Wisconsin's Tyler Turner, Spring Valley, Wisconsin



Team USA's 152 lb. Zach Esposito, Three Bridges, New Jersey vs. Team Wisconsin's Matt Pell, Luxemburg, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's way was at 140, where Wisconsin's Joe Henning upset four-time undefeated Michigan state champion Andy Simmons, 7-5, to stop the snowball effect of wins by the Dream Team.

While nobody disputed the match was the most exciting of the dual, the outcome, however, was met with much debate.

Simmons came into the dual with a national record of 219 consecutive victories and appeared to have the match won in overtime after a quick shot, but Henning bounced to his feet, reached between his legs to grab Simmons, right leg, before dropping to the mat to come out on top in a 10 second flurry.

"Everybody gets lucky once in a while," Simmons, a Michigan State recruit said. "I feel like the referee gave him that match."

"It seemed like (Simmons) was tired late in the match," said Henning, a three time Wisconsin state champion. "I didn't think he was going to shoot in so quick, but I did what I had to do not to give up the takedown."

The Dream Team picked its way through the middleweights - which was Wisconsin's strength - claiming six consecutive victories after Henning's win at 140, highlighted by Johnny Hendricks, 7-5 come-from-behind victory at 160 over Ben Askren.

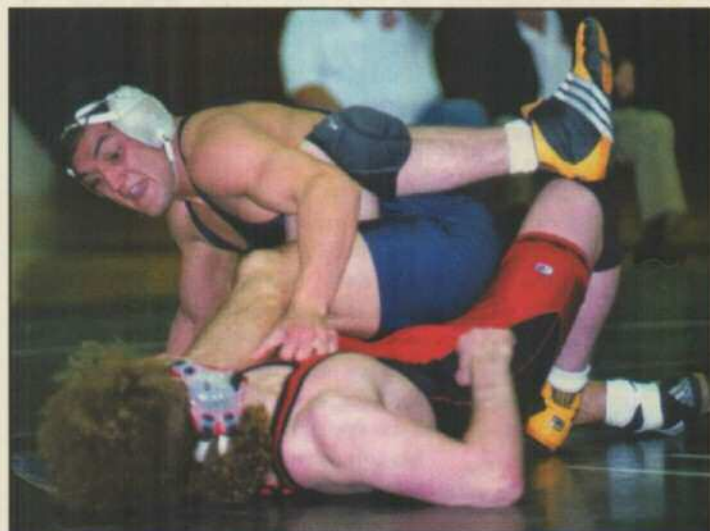
Wisconsin's Cole Konrad stopped the Dream Team winning streak with a 5-3 victory at heavyweights to end the dual.

"Wisconsin came in wanting to knock off the top guy," said Herrington, who owns the national record for most career victories at 243. "They had the motivator

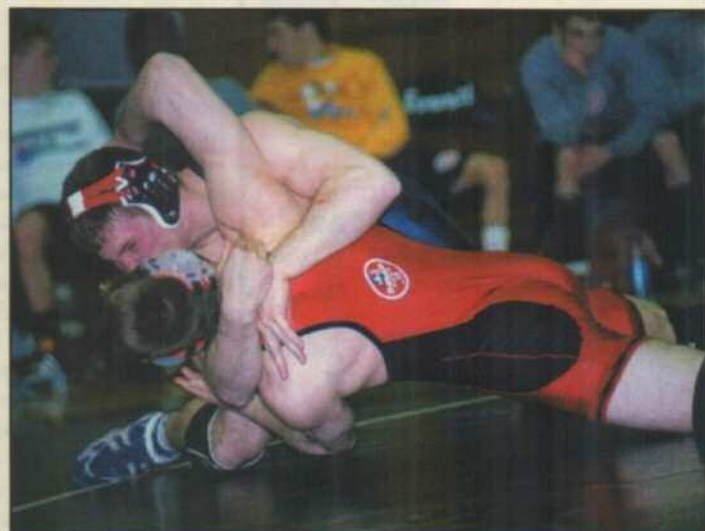
today and battled. Overall it was a great experience. Wisconsin had a great crowd and they were a great host state."

Dream Team 36, Wisconsin 9

103-Gerrad Contreras, USA beat Matt Demars, WIS 14-1; 112-Josh Miller, WIS beat Tim Hunt, USA 5-2; 119-Mark Moos, USA beat Nick Conklin, WIS 14-7; 125-Matt Ciasulli, USA beat Scott Schramm, WIS 8-4; 130-Burke Barnes, USA beat Zach Chambers, WIS 19-9; 135-Teyon Ware, USA beat Cole Wunnicke, WIS 3-2; 140-Joe Henning, WIS beat Andy Simmons, USA 7-5 OT; 145-Trent Paulson, USA beat Tyler Turner, WIS 7-1; 152-Zach Esposito, USA beat Matt Pell, WIS 10-6; 160-Johnny Hendricks, USA beat Ben Ashen, WIS 7-5; 171-Matt Herrington USA beat Jason Luloff, WIS 10-2; 189-Kurt Backes, USA



Team USA's 160 lb. Johnny Hendricks, Edmond, Oklahoma vs. Team Wisconsin's Ben Askren, Hartland, Wisconsin.



Team USA's 171 lb. Matt Harrington, Cambridge, New York vs. Team Wisconsin's Jason Luloff, Kiel, Wisconsin.

beat Kelby Mack, WIS 9-4; 215-Nathan Moore, USA beat Joe Whipperfurth, 6-3; 275-Cole Konrad, WIS beat Mike Behnke, USA 5-3.

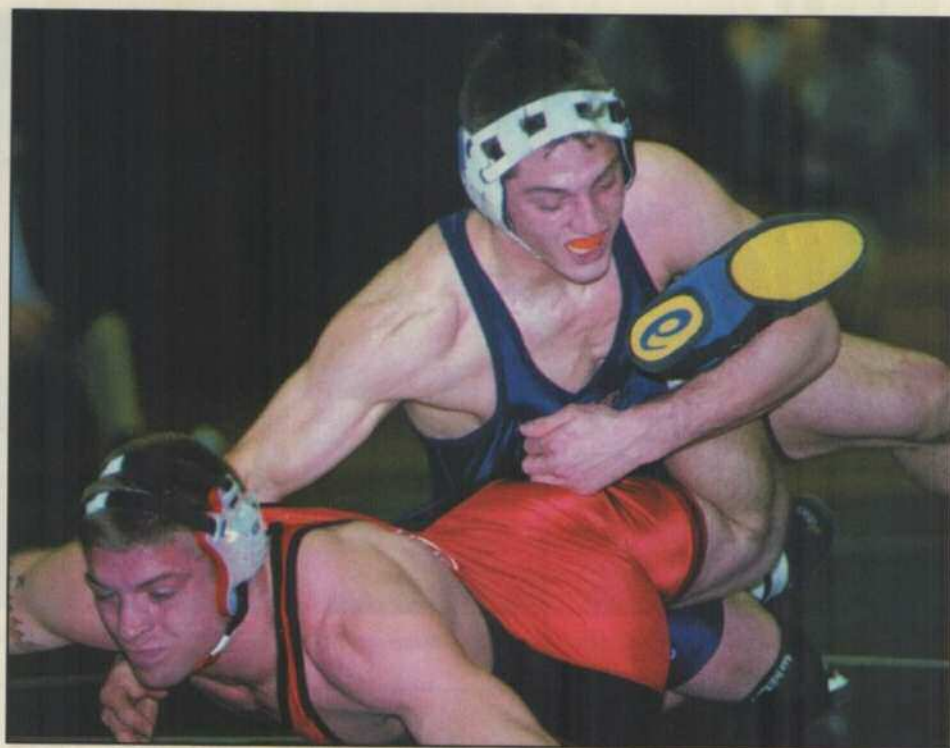
PROMOTE WRESTLING ONE PERSON AT A TIME

I awoke to the high-pitched buzz of my alarm clock that Saturday morning, around 8 o'clock. Of course, pretty much the entire night had been a tossing and turning battle, so well being rested was the furthest thing from my mind.

The anticipation of what was to come had gotten the best of me. In roughly six hours I was to witness the best of the best do battle on the mats. You are looking at a man who loves the sport of wrestling - it has always been my refuge. That's where I went when I needed to go somewhere to find an answer to a problem, or just calm my mind.

My days on the mat are over, but I continue to explore and witness the simple purity of the sport via reporting. So, when Lanny Bryant offered me the opportunity to cover the 6th Annual Dream Team Classic I jumped at it.

That Saturday was a busy one from the start, but it was a conversation with a



Team USA's 189 lb. Kurt Backes, Three Bridges, New Jersey vs. Team Wisconsin's Kelby Mack, Lodi, Wisconsin.

friendly clerk at a local gas station before I began my journey to D.C. Everest High School in Wisconsin that really got me thinking.

As I went to pay for the gas, bottle of Gatorade and a Snickers candy bar, Earl looked at me and asked, "Why do you do it Paul?"

"Earl and I have known each other for years, but never before had he asked why I cover wrestling events.

"I gave him my stunned look, because wrestling to me was the pure sport, where there was no salary cap. No 25 million contracts. No shoe scandals. No lockouts. No leaving for the pros early. Wrestling was a sport that demanded ones best and most often got it.

I pondered that for a second before telling him this:

"I do it to watch, at least once, as the clock ticks down on a weary wrestler just to see him thump the headlock from heaven to get the pin and the win. Then, in a panic, switch my lead, my story, call my editor, tell him its going to be a better dual, only to hang up and witness the exact same thing happen two matches down the line."

"And then switch my lead."

"I do it to listen to the trembling voices of the winning freshman after pinning the undefeated senior in the biggest match of his life. Or get in at least one really good quarrel about who is the top wrestler in the state, just to see him destroy my testimony by losing his next match.

"I do it to shoot the bull at a tournament. Try to forecast the future of that same

tournament, all while getting paid peanuts and praying that my editor will run the story - because, as he once said, nobody cares about wrestling Paul.

"I do it to witness one of Wisconsin's best wrestlers (insert Luxemburg-Cascos Matt Pell) do everything that has been asked, win three state titles, become an All-American and still be looking for a college scholarship.

Earl interrupted my rant and asked, "You do it because you hate basketball, don't you?"

"Yes," I replied.

"But, also because there is no professional league for Cael Sanderson to skip his senior year and go into the draft early; which in turn gives thousands more the pleasure of watching him grace the mats one last time.

"I do it because wrestling is one of the dying true sports."

"Oh," Earl said.

He wished me a safe journey and we parted ways.

My car rolled into D.C. Everests parking lot a little later that day, but it didn't matter. Earl finally understood why wrestling is so important to so many people around the nation. He told me he was going to try and attend a local dual or two the next year, even though he didn't understand the sport that much.

I laugh now when I think about it, but the sad part is so many people out there are like Earl. They dismiss the sport because they don't understand it. I have a feeling that many administrators at Universities

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around the country that are dropping the sport don't understand the sport either.

It's a shame, because the athletes like those who wrestled that Saturday at the Dream Team Classic are pure athletes and should be given the chance to earn an education via their wrestling talents. Many are on full scholarship to big time schools, but they are the few. They are the best of the best.

Nonetheless, more and more colleges are dropping the sport because of Title IX, hence more and more wrestlers are not able to further their education and wrestling talents.

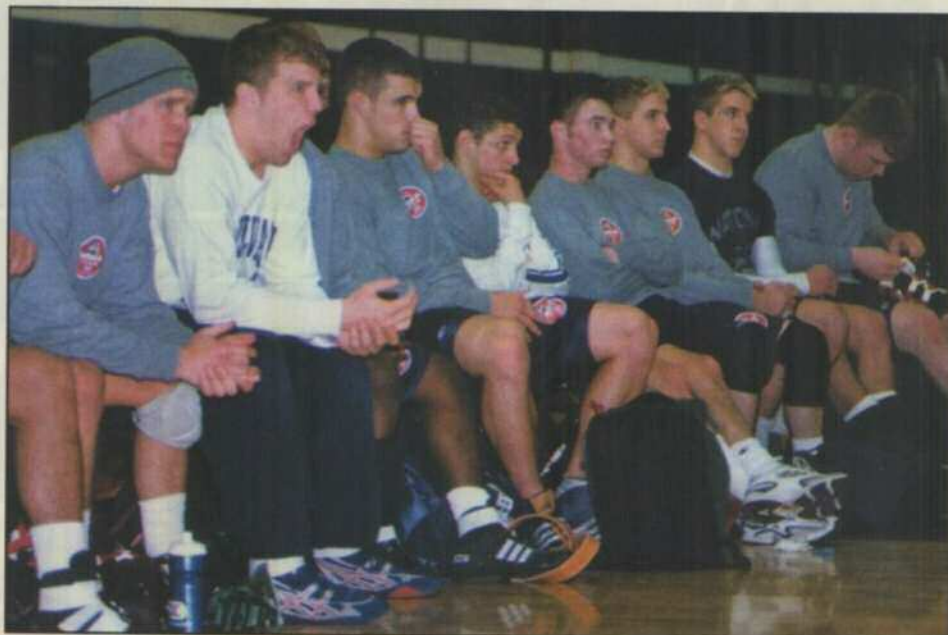
It's a shame, to say the least, because somewhere there is a little kid working to enhance what the former wrestlers have done. It may take a while before everybody comes around to see what the wrestling community has known for years, but when it happens it will be worth it.

Just ask Earl, who was once lost but now has found the wrestling way.

HERRINGTON ENDS PREP CAREER WITH "SOME FUN"

Cambridges Matt Herrington looks forward to the college level after stellar prep career.

The annuals of high school wrestling will mark the career of Matt Herrington



both for his two New York state titles and the distinction as the kid that won the most high school matches ever.

But for the fans in attendance at the 6th Annual *Wrestling USA Magazine*/Cliff Keen Dream Team Classic, they will perhaps remember the way Herrington left the prep level, closing the door on a remarkable career with a 1-2 major decision, a winning smile and a purity rarely seen in today's youth.

One of three Dream Team captains, Herrington's victory at 171 pounds clinched the dual for the Dream Team, which won 11 of the 14 matches en route to a 36-5 win over Team Wisconsin.

While wrestling was the first thing on many peoples minds during the week before the Classic, Herrington came to Wisconsin looking for an experience. He left his first trip to Wisconsin with many memorable moments, but it was his grace and sincere manner - not to mention his outstanding wrestling talents - that had the Wisconsin crowd in awe.

Herrington might have been from New York, but he and Wisconsin were a good fit.

I've never been to Wisconsin, Harrington began, before stopping to poke fun at one of the host family fathers. "These guys are great here. They tried to fatten us up with all those pancakes and gave us the opportunity to do some things we have never been able to do, they were just great hosts.

"It was nice to get away from it all and just have a good time," Harrington added. Wrestling has created a lot of opportunities for me and this is one I'll never forget."

Herrington is the national record holder for career victories, with 243. He is headed for the University of Pennsylvania in the fall and he brings an impressive resume of

summer accolades with him - including a junior national Greco title.

"My high school career ended with a state title," Herrington said. "The Dream Team was fun. We all love to wrestle and we love to wrestle the best. That is what we got here today."

As well as a whole new contingent of fans.

SEE YOU IN COLLEGE

Many of the battles seen at the Classic were matches that pitted future college foes.

The most interesting of these bouts that will likely be replayed at the college level in a year or two was at 135 pounds, where Oklahoma State recruit Teyon Ware beat Wisconsin recruit Cole Wunnicke 3-2. While they are not in the same conference, the two standouts will likely meet at the NCAA tournament.

Other such rivalries are:


Oklahoma recruit Johnny Hendricks and Missouri recruit Ben Askren. Both will do battle in the Big XII and at the Classic Hendricks won his second consecutive bout over Askren with a 7-5 come-from-behind victory at 160 pounds. Hendricks had beaten Askren in the Junior National tournament last summer as well.

EXTRA POINTS

Five wrestlers entered the Dream Team Dual Classic as four-time state champions, but just three won matches.

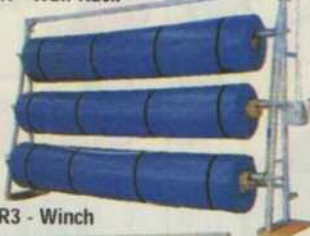
The Dream Team was the superior on the feet, scoring 34 takedowns to Wisconsin's 10.

The Dream Team had nine undefeated wrestlers, while Wisconsin had three.

The Dream Team had 35 combined state titles, while Wisconsin had 25. 

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