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Letter from the Editor

By Lanny Bryant

Wrestling *USA Magazine* is beginning its 39th year of publishing with the start of the 2003-04 wrestling season. We are pleased to report that high school wrestling continues to grow in America. Based on figures from the National Federation of State High School Associations, participation for the 2001-02 school year rose to 248,042 students in high school wrestling. This increase marks the thirteenth consecutive year wrestling has shown an increase for participation in high school wrestling. Participation numbers for both boys and girls increased. Girl's participation increased to 3,405 setting an all-time high for female participation in wrestling. Presently there are 9,578 high schools with boys wrestling teams and 798 high schools with girls wrestling teams.

On the boy's side California remains the state with the most participants with (24,326), followed by Ohio (13,319), New York (12,646), Minnesota (8,622), New Jersey (8,389), Pennsylvania (8,389) Washington (7,896), Wisconsin (7,458), Indiana (7,353), Iowa (6,836). On the girl's side Texas remained the state with the most participants with (941), followed by California (752). Nineteen states have girl's high school wrestling teams.

The most recent NCAA research on student-athlete participation in championship sports shows 99 colleges have dropped wrestling in the last decade. Five colleges dropped their programs in 2001-2002.

USA Wrestling showed a record participation of athletes in the 2002 wrestling season. 133,289 wrestlers purchased USA Wrestling membership cards and participated in local and national tournaments. There are 2,840 USA Wrestling clubs across America.


You are the reason we publish *Wrestling USA Magazine*. You are the coach, fan or wrestler who cares a lot about the sport of amateur wrestling. Please help us promote wrestling by subscribing and passing a subscription form to your school librarian or friend in wrestling.

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As Always,
"Let's be On the Go Together"

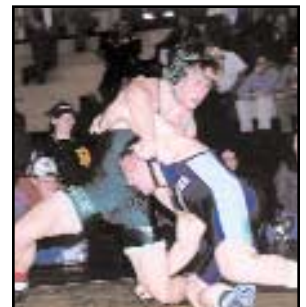
Lanny

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Cover Photo

South Carolina State Champion at 145 lbs. Alex Piper of Hilton Head High School, shoots a single leg on 2x state champion at 140, T.J. Selke, Dutch Fork. Selke won 3-2 and was honored with the South Carolina Wrestler of the Year Award. Photo by Mark Buford.



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.