

# 2005 USGWA National



## Numbers Continue to Rise

By Kent Bailo

**T**he total numbers of entries in the 2005 USGWA National Championships was 622. Every division continues to grow except the collegiate folkstyle. High School Division had an increase of 38 wrestlers; from 283 in 2004 to 321 in 2005. The Middle School Division jumped up 32 wrestlers this year; from 105 in 2004 to 137 in 2005. And the new middle school weight classes had pretty even distribution of wrestlers. Elementary school division increased by 25 entries, from 97 in 2004 to 122 in 2005. All elementary wrestlers got five matches at Nationals. This tournament continues to be **THE WORLD'S LARGEST GIRLS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT**. The collegiate folkstyle event drew 42 entries, down from 48 last year (last year the collegiate freestyle event had 68 wrestlers). Not bad considering the

College Coaches Women's Wrestling Championships in 2005 had only 32 entries.

### **MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLERS**

Deanna Rix won her third consecutive USGWA National Championship, to go along with her third place finish in her freshman year, she's a 4-time All-American in USGWA competition. Rix was Most Outstanding Wrestler in the heavier weights, winning the 134 lbs. weight class with a 7-2 decision over Leilani Akiyama of Bellevue, Washington. Akiyama was the defending champ at 118 lbs. Joey Miller was MOW in the lighter weights, taking the 105 lbs. title over Whitney Conder of Puyallup, Washington by a 9-3 score. In the middle school age division the MOW's were Sarah Dorsay of New Jersey, winning

her second crown in the middle school division, and the second year with all pins. MOW in the heavy weights was Illinois strong girl Veronica Carlson, also all pins. In the elementary division the MOW awards went to Missouri's Montana Drum and Reni Gallan of Arizona.

### **TIME FOR STATES TO START CONSIDERING STARTING ALL GIRLS PROGRAMS LIKE HAWAII AND TEXAS**

Seventeen, that's right, 17, girls qualified for boys high school state tournaments around the country in 2005. Six of those girls placed. Most prominent was Deanna Rix, 2nd in Maine at 130 lbs. She finished the season at 24-2. Her two losses came to the state champion in overtime, and she