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Wrestling USA (ISSN) 0199-6258

Wrestling USA, Inc. is published 12 times yearly as follows: twice a month in October, March and May; once a month in September, November, December, January, February and April.

Editorial Office: 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802, 1-406-549-4448. All contributions are welcome. Please enclose postage with manuscripts, illustrations and photographs submitted if they are to be returned. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials. All rights, in letters and photos sent to *Wrestling USA*, will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes. They are subject to *Wrestling USA's* unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. Printed in USA; entire contents © 2004 *Wrestling USA*; reprinting in whole or in part is forbidden except by written permission of publisher.

Subscriptions: One year (12 issues) \$31 in United States and Possessions. Bundle rate for 10-subscriptions, \$24. All other countries \$41 in US currency or international money order. Send to Subscription Department, *Wrestling USA*, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802.

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Advertising: Rates available upon request. Contact Lanny Bryant at the National Office. 406-549-4448.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Wrestling USA, Inc.*, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802. Periodicals postage paid at Missoula, MT 59802 and at additional offices.

PRINTED IN THE USA

E Mail: wrestling@montana.com
Web Site: <http://www.wrestlingusa.com>
Username: wusa Password: shelby

Editorial

By John Fuller, Guest Editor

McMann and Miranda Have Done More Than Medal

Finally, something good in the world is actually bigger than the Olympics. This bigger doesn't involve million-dollar endorsement deals, Nike shoes or spoiled athletes.

This bigger involves the advancement of life, and in this case – women.

On a Monday night in Athens, Greece, two women wrestlers, both from the U.S., lost a gold medal. Sara McMann didn't win a silver and Patricia Miranda did not win a bronze. They both lost gold.

But in the entire scheme of things, that does not matter. Neither woman knows it yet, but their medals were so much more than medals, even if the color was not yellow (to quote Terry Brands).

Young girls across the world watched four women win gold medals on Sunday night. These medals weren't in track. They weren't in gymnastics or even swimming. They were in wrestling.

Yes, that is wrestling.

The physical, emotional battle that has existed even since Biblical days. McMann and Miranda, along with the 48 other women that competed in their first Olympic Games are now pioneers.

As the two U.S. women answered questions during press conferences, they had trouble conveying their feelings about their respective matches to the hoards of media in attendance.

However, when asked about the advancement of women's wrestling, most every woman in the press conference, U.S. or foreign, jumped at the chance to speak. In most cases, tears were still being dried from their cheeks.

"I'm very excited for my sport and the demonstration that women's wrestling has put on. The Olympic Games is going to do leaps and bounds for the sport itself. I think adding us to the Games was just step one to legitimizing us as a sport," Miranda said in her press conference.

McMann expressed many of the same sentiments.

All over the world, young girls watched as women battled for gold. They didn't wrestle like men. They didn't wrestle like women. They wrestled like warriors. Undoubtedly, many Olympic gold medalists were made last September.

But it wasn't just the young girls that watched those matches. It was their fathers, and mothers, and brothers. An attitude is changing.

Maybe it has something to do with the Greek air. Maybe it has to do with the Olympic spirit.

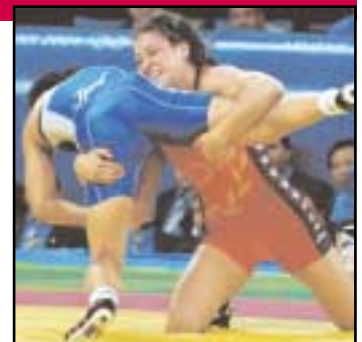
Or maybe it is more simple than that. Maybe it has something to do with the hard work and effort that many of these women have put in. Maybe, as McMann eluded to, it has something to do with the women like Tricia Saunders, who battled so that these women in Athens could do what they are doing – fighting for Olympic gold medals.

Believers were born, and champions were made. And it didn't matter if the U.S. women went home with no gold medals. They won't understand that now, but when they have their own children, it will all make sense.

Whitney Houston was right. The children are our future. And it is that belief that makes the Olympics seem small in stature compared to what happened last September.

Cover Photo

Athens, Greece - Sara McMann won a silver medal at 138.75 pounds, dropping a heart-breaking 3-2 decision to two-time World champion Kaori Icho of Japan in the gold-medal finals. Photo by Andre Reddington - *Amateur Wrestling News*.



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