



Confessions of a Wrestling Official

By Dr. Bill Welker

I have been officiating wrestling matches since my high school days. My scholastic coach had me referee inter-squad wrestle-offs because I seemed to have a knack for officiating the mat sport.

In 1973, I became a registered official in West Virginia for the first time. During that same year, I was coaching wrestling at

Wheeling Central High School. I gave up officiating when I began coaching the mat sport in 1976 at the newly consolidated Wheeling Park High School.

After an exciting and successful four seasons of coaching at Park (ten years coaching in all), I decided to hang up the wrestling room whistle to devote full-time to refereeing the sport I love. I thought I

would revolutionize officiating in the area.

What I really learned, in some ways, taught me the realities of human nature, while in other situations humbled me.

Allow me to explain.

My forte as a referee is multi-faceted. First off, I have a subtle understanding of who has or doesn't have control in very unusual match predicaments. Secondly, I