



## Novel Approaches for the 30-Second Tiebreaker

By Bill Welker, Ed.D.

**T**he sport of wrestling has always had the quandary of determining how to break the "tie" in a match, without compromising fairness to the matmen. First, we developed the "referee's decision." Unfortunately, the approach was too subjective in nature. Permit me to share one personal coaching experience I had in reference to the referee's decision.

My heavyweight and his opponent were tied after the regulation bout. Thus, they had to compete in the overtime which consisted of a new match with three one-minute periods. There was no takedown in the first period, my wrestler escaped quickly in the second stanza, and after about 45 seconds of riding, his adversary escaped in the third period.

I felt confident my wrestler had won the match because of his swift escape, and he rode out his opponent much longer. The referee raised his competition's hand.

Immediately following the match, I professionally confronted the official with a succinct question, "Why?"

The referee informed me that his decision was based on the fact that the other wrestler made more attempts to escape during the third period of overtime.

I retorted, "True, but that was because my boy broke him down more times. And furthermore, he acquired a much quicker escape in the second period of overtime."

The referee, being an honorable man, admitted I had a valid point, but