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Editorial

Wrestling Last Frontier . . . The Inner Cities

By Al Bevilacqua, Guest Editor

Amateur wrestling was established 5000 B.C. The history of the sport has been well documented throughout history and its folklore expressed so vividly by wrestling historian Mike Chapman. The last remaining frontier of wrestling exists in the urban and inner cities of this great country.

There have been several attempts to reach out to the inner cities in the past when two legendary men of the United States Wrestling Federation, Chris Poff and Bud Linholm of Pennsylvania, had the vision and the will during the early 1970's.

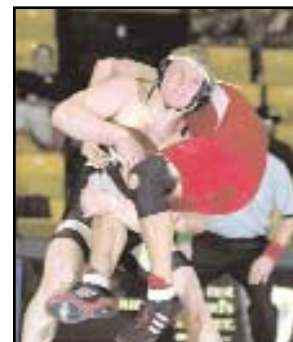
They attempted to breach the gap of introducing schoolboy wrestling to the urban cities. Many Board Members shared their vision but the resources of the fledgling organization financially could underwrite the initiative properly supporting and promoting such a major project.

Several attempts during this period of time were being made in Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to begin schoolboy wrestling. These two men attempted to penetrate the huge market of millions of people that encompasses nearly sixty per cent of today's population single-handedly. With the exception of a few public and private schools in New York and Chicago with organized high school programs, many cities today do not have any school wrestling programs.

The lack of wrestling in the largest urban centers of the country has hurt the visibility of the sport, especially in the area of sponsorships and mass media communications.

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Army's Luke Calvert lifts Montclair State's John Vogel during their 184 pound match on January 14, 2005, at West Point, NY. Calvert won the match. Photo by Jon Malinowski.



NATIONAL ACTION WRESTLING PHOTO CONTEST

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