



From Pins to Pen . . . As I See It!

By Wade Schalles

I thought that for this issue I would consider writing a potpourri of snippets on the sport. A little of this and a little of that, tidbits of things viewed from the top down that can be read in short sittings.

So, if one might ask how many technical phases there are to wrestling, the logical answer would be four. Takedowns, escapes, reversals and pins. At least they were the four that I remember our coaches drilling us on. But what seemed to vary from program to program, school to school was the amount of time that each coach would set-aside for instruction of each

phase.

There is little doubt that proficiency on ones feet is obviously the clarion call of all great wrestlers followed closely by their ability to get off the bottom. Reversals on the other hand is just something you did or were taught when the situation or time per-

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mitted. Learning how to roll around on the mat was traditionally something a wrestler was forced to do when his escapes failed him.

Then there's pinning. Most coaches seem to agree it's an important phase of the sport until it's time to allocate time to its instruction. Then it's almost as if putting someone's shoulders on the mat becomes the redheaded stepchild of technique. They say they love him when clearly their actions suggest only a tolerance.

As a competitor, I put people on their backs because of a decision I made that pinning was important to me and then set