

Editor-In-Chief

LANNY BRYANT

Order of Merit

National Wrestling Hall of Fame

Managing Editor

CODY BRYANT

Assistant Editor

ANN BRYANT

National Editor

DAN FICKEL

Contributing Editor

CAL JOHNSON

Design & Art Director

JACKIE BRYANT

Administrative Assistants

LANANN BRYANT

CHERIDAN BRYANT

SHANNON (BRYANT) WOLFE

JACKIE NEWMAN

Circulation Director

EVELYN BRYANT

Contributing Writer

BILL WELKER

Advertising/Promotion

LANNY BRYANT

National Office

109 Apple House Lane

Missoula, MT 59802

406-549-4448 FAX 406-549-4879

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.

Send National Record Proposals: Cal Johnson, 1632 W. Wilson Unit C, Spokane, WA 99201. 509-464-3117. E-Mail: calkathy@comcast.net

Send All-American Nominations or Correspondence on High School and College Wrestling: Dan Fickel, 10757 Woodrun Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136, 440-878-1150 (phone and fax). E-Mail: dfickel@msn.com

Change of Address: Six weeks are required to change your mailing address. Forwarding postage is paid by you and lost copies cannot be replaced. To ensure delivery, send us your old and new address at least six weeks before moving. Include your new zip code.

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: codi

Editorial

By Brady Slater, Guest Editor

It's a Thing of Beauty, Folks

Here's to the takedown artist -- that wrestler who gives up points in order to get them. Like a Swiss Army knife, the takedown artist unfolds a move on an out-classed opponent, only to let loose the prey. Playfully, the takedown artist continues until he's got the foe right where he wants him, demoralized and 15 points down.

Here's to the demoralized wrestler -- that beaten down sparring partner with a will that won't quit. He absorbs punishment like a pin cushion, gritting his teeth through all of the torqued joints, fat lips and bruised ego. Through it all, he picks up a move here, picks an ankle there, and, before you know it, he's a takedown artist.

Here's to the wrestling coach -- that hard-shelled, but soft-hearted man who actually imparts the motto he puts on the back of the team's T-shirt. Like the teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, his work spans the learning curve. From moment to moment, he's training champions, nurturing novices and convincing would-be quitters that there's a wrestler in there somewhere. "We'll find him together," he says.

Here's to the championship heavyweight -- that big-and-tall man's shopper with a mean streak. Like a big cat, he invariably paws at his opponent at first, before locking arms in a lumbering dance. Thunder claps and bleachers shudder when he slams his opponent to the mat. Quicker on his feet than anybody ever expects, the championship heavyweight is the bear of wrestling: he's fun to watch, easy to like, and scary as all get out to encounter.

Here's to the jump rope -- that essential wrestling tool. The jump rope rests like a snake, coiled and always poised for action. Cheaper than an exercise bike and just as useful, the jump rope offers wrestlers a chance to quicken the feet and warm up as if it were child's play. A simple machine if there ever was one.

Here's to the wrestling moms and wrestling dads -- that built in support system and nerve center, all in one. Hardly a political demographic, wrestling parents, like Dead Heads, are liberal travelers, and, like the Christian Right, are big believers in family. They pack the carrots, chill the ice, record the matches, shout their support, hug win or lose, and can often be overheard saying, "listen to coach." Across socioeconomic boundaries, wrestling parents bond together behind their team -- "State championship or bust!" soaped into the windshields of everything from Escalades to Escorts.

Here's to state -- that 12-mat, thousand-match buzzsaw of an event. Like Survivor, only without the whining, the state tournament cuts down its participants as a way to build up a select few. Champions emerge and from champions come the great ones, those title holders who dominate in such a fashion that their names are conjured every time another wrestler comes along and finishes a tournament without being taken down. Without state, we'd never agree on "the best I ever saw..."

Here's to wrestling -- that finest milieu of sport. There, on a bullseye mat, the simple test of one-on-one can illustrate life's complexities. Like a kaleidoscope, wrestling presents something different, some new human drama at every turn. Hard work, failure, perseverance, modesty, joy, struggle, brilliance ... It's all there and brought to you by a couple of boys doing something all boys do at one time or another in their own living room.

What a great sport. 🏪

Cover Photo

South Dakota - Mike Lappégard, Watertown High, lifts Frank Reiter, Washington High, in an attempt to score a takedown during the 112 pound semi-final match at the 30th Annual Floyd Farrand Wrestling Tournament held in Sioux Falls, SD. Lappégard went on to win by fall. Photo by Mike Smith.

**NATIONAL ACTION WRESTLING PHOTO CONTEST**

Send your best action wrestling photos. The best photos will be recognized each issue. The outstanding color photo will be featured on the cover, poster or T-shirt. Cover photos to be submitted as 5x7 print.