Now that I have retired from high school officiating, I can share with my readers a few unique experiences I have had in reference to stalling.

The Perfect Stall

In the finals of a Christmas tournament a number of years ago, I was never more sure of a wrestler stalling. The wrestlers were in the neutral position when Wrestler A shot a double leg, and Wrestler B countered and spun behind for the takedown.

At this point, Wrestler A decided to stall. In fact, he placed himself in a fetal-like position. Being an official who was more conservative with his stalling calls, I gave Wrestler A some time to readjust and start moving. He never did.

For once, in my 25 years of officiating, I was absolutely sure of a stalling call. With all the confidence of my many years of wrestling experience, I thrust my fisted hand in the air, expecting no complaints from anybody in the gym.

To my chagrin, Wrestler A's coach comes running out on the mat screaming at me. I was about to kick him out of the facility when he angrily informed me that his wrestler was knocked out. And so he was.

Apparently, the only two people that did not know the boy was comatose were yours truly and my assistant (whose name I will withhold to protect his officiating reputation).

Of course, I sheepishly informed the scorekeeper to erase the warning for stalling.

From that match to the end of my officiating career, I cringed whenever I had to raise a clenched hand in the air.

Stalling and the Left-Handed Compliment

During the second round of another competitive tournament, I had another unusual stalling encounter with a wrestler and coach.

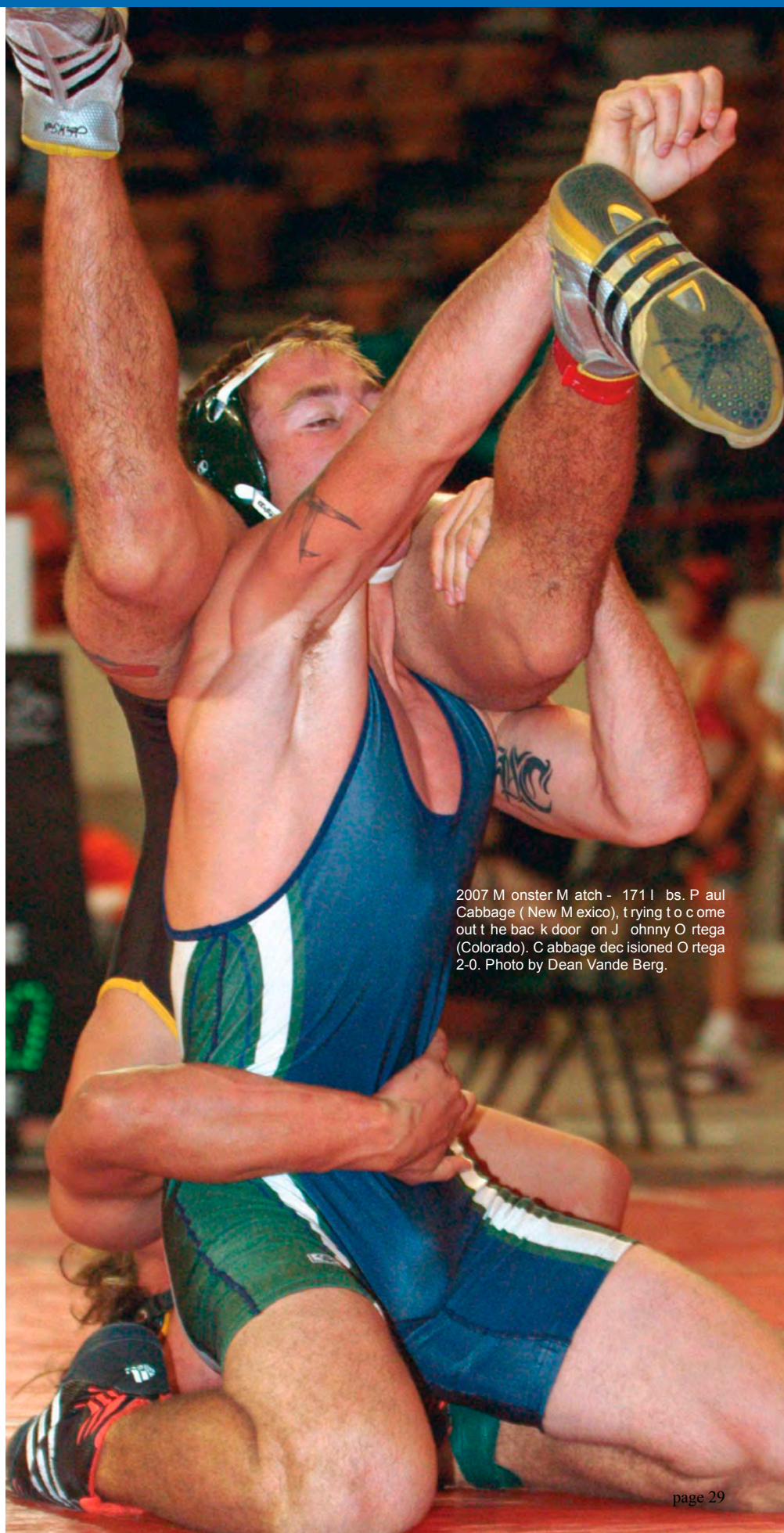
The match for the first two periods was very uneventful with Wrestler A dominating the match. In fact, at the conclusion of the second stanza, Wrestler A was leading 10 to 1.

Then for some reason, Wrestler A decided to rest on his laurels. Yes, he began to stall blatantly. Within a matter of 45 seconds, I warned Wrestler A and penalized him twice for stalling. Anybody who has seen me officiate, knows it is an aberration for me to call stalling so swiftly.

At this point, Wrestler A's coach did the unexpected. With Wrestler A still winning by a score of 10-3, his coach threw in the towel and defaulted the match to Wrestler B. I was shocked, but I was soon to be taken aback even more when I heard what the coach said to his wrestler.

As best as my memory serves me, he shouted to his matman, "If that ref's calls you for stalling, you ain't doin' sh~#! Get off the mat!"

Hmmmm. Was that a compliment?



2007 Monster Match - 171 lbs. Paul Cabbage (New Mexico), trying to come out the back door on Johnny Ortega (Colorado). Cabbage decisioned Ortega 2-0. Photo by Dean Vande Berg.