MatThoughts

Over the last few years I have noticed an aberration in the sports pages of some newspapers: "Professional Wrestling Columns!"

Are these sports editors naïve? I hope not, because to give credibility in the sports section of a newspaper to a form of "showmanship," not an athletic competition, is downright ludicrous!

Maybe I can clear things up.

These "rasslers" of the squared ring are without question fine athletic specimens, a few with the aid of steroids. And one must understand that these "stuntmen" of pro wrestling arena are "actors." All their bouts are scripted, with the winner predetermined.

Please don't misunderstand me; they are very entertaining if a bit lewd at times.

But by no means is pro wrestling a sporting event; it is more like a "soap opera" for men.

Keep in mind, a sporting event is a competition between two individuals (e.g., tennis) or two teams (e.g., basketball) and the outcome of the match/game is not known until the end of the event.

Personally, I would have no problem with finding forensics or band competitions on the sports pages. After all, these "cerebral" athletes practice just as hard and feel the stress of competing just as strongly as any "physically-oriented" athletes.

If you don't believe me, try speaking or playing an instrument in front of a group of your peers and spectators, for scores from judges, without getting nervous. It's the same anxiety that sports athletes feel during a contest.

Point being: They are true competitive events as well. Unlike professional wrestling, where the "so-called" opponents rehearse their moves with each other prior to the show, including who is supposed to win – to keep the "storyline" going.

My suggestion to all self-respecting sports editors, when they receive professional wrestling propaganda over the wire, would be to send it to the editorial department in charge of "entertainment."

Please keep it off the sports pages; it's an insult to us who truly love amateur wrestling – the oldest competitive sport in the history of mankind.

Mini-Mat Quiz

Q: Wrestler A wins by a score of 9-1 in the championship bracket. How many points does he score for his team?

A: Wrestler A would score 3 points for his team – 2 points for advancement and 1 point for a major decision.

Book/DVD Notes: The Wrestling Drill Book edited and authored by Bill Welker, with nearly 15,000 sold nationwide, and/or his DVD: Bill Welker's Pancake Takedown Series, would be a great gift for your favorite wrestler! To purchase an autographed copy of the book, the cost is $25.00. The DVD is also $25.00. Shipping and handling is included for either of both items. A "SPECIAL" price of $40.00 is offered for the purchase of both. For more information you can contact Dr. Bill Welker via e-mail at: mattalkwv@hotmail.com.