

9th Annual WUSA Magazine/USGWA

2007 ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING TEAM

By Kent Bailo

This years *Wrestling USA Magazine/USGWA* Girls High School All-American Wrestling Team is dominated by wrestlers from The Golden State, California.

Eighteen of the forty who make up the team reside in and learned their wrestling skills in California. It is a testament to the dedication of the California girls and their coaches, and the California wrestling community in general. Of those eighteen California All-Americans, only Krystalle Alcantara of Vallejo Hogan High School, and Erica Torres of Porterville Granite Hills High School can add "National Champion" to their resume. Jazzy Green of Santa Monica and Teri Milkoff of Los Angeles placed three times at Nationals. Marina Piccolotti of Pacifica, Tina Linhsamout of San Jose, Samantha Phillips of Manteca, and Christina Hernandez of Oceanside all battled their way into the finals as seniors, and Trinity Plessinger of Yucca Valley and Teri Milkoff got to the finals in their junior campaign.

This senior group accounted for SEVEN national titles and Nicole Woody of Odenton, Maryland accounted for three all by herself. Woody has a bright future on the international scene. Others grabbing National Championships of this year's All-American team are Breisja Gallo of Kissimmee, Florida, Osceola, and Michigan's Windy Kay Shann of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Windy won in her junior year, before jumping two weight classes and finishing seventh in her senior year.

After California's eighteen All-Americans, Michigan and Texas had three each, followed by Illinois, Ohio, New York, and Wisconsin with two each, and Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Missouri, and West Virginia with one apiece. This was the year of the Underclassman, as every weight class will have a defending champ or runner-up rated number 1 at the start of next season.

NEW WEIGHT CLASSES NEXT SEASON:

New weight classes were established to redistribute the contestants more evenly in girls wrestling, especially at the National Championships. They are: 98, 103, 108, 112, 116, 120, 124, 128, 133, 139, 146, 155, 170, 250. For the first time, the USGWA has established a maximum weight for the heaviest weight class. 250 lbs. maximum seemed reasonable, since Texas, California, and Hawaii use 235, and Washington used the boys' maximum of 285. The gap between the 13th and 14th weight class is 80 lbs. Boys go from 215 to 285, a 70 lbs. difference. The USGWA maximum was a compromise between HI, TX, and CA, and Washington. It was intended to promote safe and healthy competition, while being inclusive to all females who want to participate in wrestling.

JUST NOTICING

Bigger girls tend to stay in wrestling thru the duration of the season in states that have sanctioned GIRLS VARSITY WRESTLING. Why? I think it is because they do not get pounded on in practice by boys everyday who are much stronger than girls of similar weight. Also, these girls have a very hard time finding success (wins) versus boys even though they may be as technically skilled as their smaller counterparts. Bottom line, if states want to afford opportunities to more girls in wrestling they must SANCTION GIRLS VARSITY WRESTLING IN EACH STATE AND THE STATE SHOULD HOST A GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT like only three states have now. Hats off to TEXAS, HAWAII, and WASHINGTON.

2007 USGWA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The "Largest Girls Wrestling Tournament in the WORLD" lived up to its billing - this year's 707 wrestlers was up from the record

of 647 in 2006. 311 high school girls entered, 183 middle schoolers laced 'em up, 143 elementary wrestlers battled for nationwide supremacy, 42 collegiate women wrestled folkstyle, and 28 women entered the collegiate freestyle division. Again, TOTAL: 707 in 2007!!

Only four seniors, Krystalle Alcantara at 100 lbs. of Vallejo, California; Nicole Woody at 110 lbs. of Odenton, Maryland; Erica Torres at 126 lbs. of Porterville, California; and Breisja Gallo at 134 lbs. of Kissimmee, Florida could stand at the top of the stand and proclaim, "I'm the best in this weight class in all of the USA".

The underclasswomen are hungry! Two freshmen, Sarah Dorsay of South Brunswick, New Jersey captured the crown at 114 lbs., ditto for freshmen Marina Lambert of Chesapeake, Virginia at 165 lbs. Lambert dominated her weight class with a tech.fall, a 9-0 major, a 0:55 pin in the semis, and a solid 4-2 decision in the finals. Sophomores winning titles included Veronica Carlson of Illinois and Kelsea Suchocki of New York, and six juniors taking crowns with one more year to go in their high school careers include Amy Whitbeck (New York), Joey Miller (Oklahoma), Beth Johnson (Kansas), Tatiana Padilla (California), Erin Clodgo (Vermont) and Brittany Delgado (South Carolina).

THE RUNDOWN BY WEIGHT CLASS

100 lbs:

Vallejo CA Senior Krystalle Alcantara, who attends Hogan High School, showed the savvy of a senior coming from an unseeded position in a weight class of 32 entries, where 21 wrestlers asked for seeding. Krystalle pinned #12 seed Stephanie Waters of Joliet, IL in round 1, then stopped upcoming freshman Monica Hovermale of Smithburg, Maryland in a 12-10 overtime thriller. Then she squeaked by Texan Lene

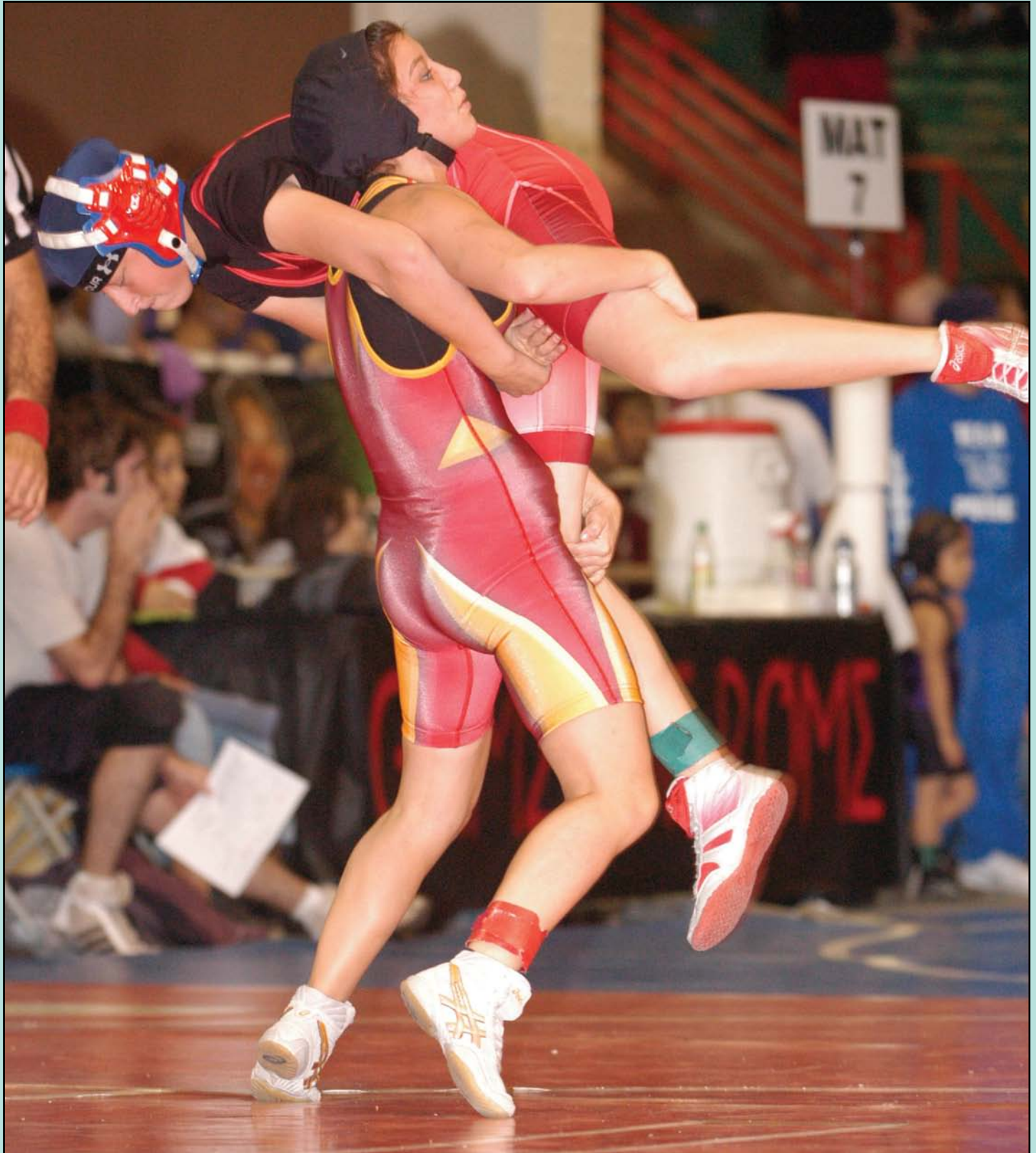
Wood by a 4-3 count, and got by fellow Californian Anai Novoa 4-3, before prevailing over Michigan freshman Kristi Garr in the finals 6-4.

2006 Monster Match Denver Colorado - Women's Division Eight Candace Workman (Utah) takes down Danielle Reaves (New Mexico). Workman won the match with a fall in 1:22. Photo by Dean Vande Berg.

105 lbs:

One of the most talented weight classes ever in a USGWA National Championships Final was loaded with talent. Amy Whitbeck, of Duaneburg, New York took a 3-1 finals decision over Camie Yeik of Bremerton, Washington. Whitbeck is a 2-time New York high school state qualifier, Yeik is a 2-time placer in the Washington

high school boys state championships. Taking third at this weight was Victoria Anthony, only a second year wrestler, but martial arts specialist, who dominated California competition this year. Fourth went to Sarah Anderson of Schuylerville, New York. Sarah qualified for the New York state tournament. Other tough grapplers in this weight included Iowan Tiffany



Sluik, Priscilla Caldera of California, Carla Watase of Hawaii, and Michigan state qualifier C.C. Weber.

110 lbs:

Nicole Woody of Odenton, Maryland, won her third USGWA National Championship in her final year of high school wrestling. Nicole took a tough 3-2 decision over Jessica Teter of Parkersburg, West Virginia. Teter comes back for two more years, after two runner-up places. Michelle Jiminez of California was third, Emily Martin of Texas was fourth, and 2-time Arizona boys high school state championships placer Andrea Hughes was fifth.

114 lbs:

Freshman Sarah Dorsay continued her unbeaten string versus girls in USGWA competition, barely!! Sarah won day one matches 2-1 against Danette O'Hara of Kansas, then 7-6 over Antonia Navejas of Covington, Washington, before opening up in the semis and pinning Kansas Regina Ward, then decking California Tina Linhsamout at the 5:31 mark in the finals. Dorsay get three more shots to join a small, elite group of 4-time USGWA National Champs. That 4-timer group includes Michigan's Alaina Berube, Brandy Rosenbrock, Oregon's Samantha Lang, and Oklahoma's Joey Miller.

118 lbs:

Joey Miller pinned all four of her opponents this year, going past the first period only once. She took 5:36 to pin Californian Jessica Peasley in the semis, then dispatched Hawaii finalist Cianah Hee in 0:59. Miller could win her 5th USGWA Nationals crown, because she won her first while still in eighth grade. Peasley returns next year to give Miller some competition. Much depends on what weight class girls come back at next year, but Miller is always ready for all comers.

122 lbs:

Another toughy, Beth Johnson of Garden City, Kansas, scored a technical fall, 17-2 over Maine's Andrea Eisenhower. Beth's toughest match was an 8-5 decision over Washington's Christina Cox in the semifinals, but Cox tumbled to fifth place. Johnson was 2nd last year at the same weight class.

126 lbs:

Erica Torres of Porterville, California beat

fellow California Christina Hernandez by a 7-4 count in the finals. Torres was third last year.

130 lbs:

Tatiana Padilla of LaVerne, California, can become a 4-time USGWA National Champ next year. She won this year with three pins and a 14-5 major decision of CA freshman Lauren Thompson. Tatiana has dominated girls since appearing on the national scene during her eighth grade year. Speaking of eighth graders, Brienna Delgado of Fountain Inn, South Carolina decided to enter the fray in the high school division and grabbed third place at 130 lbs. Delgado has a great future, and comes from a wrestling family; her sister Brittany just won her second USGWA National Championship in the Over-165 lbs. class.

134 lbs:

Breisja Gallo of Kissimmee, Florida, Osceola became the Sunshine states' first ever girls National wrestling champion. Florida had a finalist about six years ago before the establishment of weight classes, at 173 lbs. Breisja captured the title with a 6-1 decision over Wisconsin's Jenna Ahnen of Sparta.

138 lbs:

Veronica Carlson came up big with an 8-4 four overtime win over tough Angie Miller of Vallejo, California. Carlson, a sophomore, and second year wrestler, placed third last year. Miller and Carlson battled toe to toe for eight minutes until Carlson took Miller to her back from neutral in the fourth overtime. Miller is a product of wrestling factory powerhouse Springtowne Middle School in Vallejo. Freshman Shelby Shirley of Ohio was third in this weight class, New York junior Shorna Brown was fifth, and USGWA first timer Brittney Gadd of Mercer, PA, placed sixth, surprised herself, her coaches, and many observers. Gadd has a great future.

144 lbs:

One of the great stories of the year in girls wrestling was the development of Kelsea Suchocki. Kelsea lives in Summit, New York and attends little Cobleskill-Richmondville High School. Kelsea came into Nationals seeded seventh and proceeded to beat tough Michigander Ashley Hebert 5-0 in round 2, then pinned defending National Champ Windy Shann of Michigan in the quarterfinals, then in the

semifinals she pinned Texas Lindsey Brooks. Brooks is the all-time win leader in Texas high school girls wrestling. Then, in the finals, the sophomore Suchocki, decided California number one seed Marina Piccolotti by an 11-6 count. Brooks came in a solid third, and Hawaiian Monique Dilliner was fourth. Three little towns in upstate New York, Summit, Cobleskill, and Richmondville are celebrating their only National Champ in any sport, ever!!

152 lbs:

Erin Clodgo, a junior from Richmond, Vermont, attending Marquette (MI) High School grabbed top honors at 152 lbs. with a 7-3 decision over Allendale, Michigan's Samantha Gorman. Gorman placed second last year. Third in this weight class was last year's 144 lbs. runner-up, Paige Rife of Fowlerville, MI.

165 lbs:

Freshman Marina Lambert of Chesapeake, Virginia lived up to her top rating and seed by nailing down a solid 4-2 decision over Texas senior Carrie Clark. In the semifinals Lambert pinned Texas state champ senior Adele Kurt in 0:55. Marina could be another four timer as she has three middle school National Championships under her belt. And, her younger sister, Sarah, grabbed a crown in the middle school division.

Over 165 lbs:

Brittany Delgado of Fountain Inn, South Carolina continues to dominate this weight class. She decided the much bigger Sarah Deardorff of Mundelein, Illinois 8-4 in the semis, and then pinned Jessica Deardorff (Sarah's identical twin sister) in the finals. Delgado, just a junior, will be after her third USGWA National Championships next season.

Montana held their first USGWA State Championships Open on April 28, 2007 at Lockwood Middle School near Billings. 41 girls attended and all had a great time. This meet will become an annual event as Montana moves into USGWA territory.

Japan Tour

Robert Charette, of Billings, Montana will lead a tour of female wrestlers to Japan from October 7-15. To take part in the tour, contact Mr. Charette at 406-855-1332 or email at charetter@billings.k12.mt.us or starsnstripes@imt.net. USGWA Director Kent Bailo will take part in this tour. 🇯🇵