

September 28, 2003

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
Butch Cope
KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Committee Members;

I am extremely pleased to place the name of Don Salyers into nomination for membership in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Don was a KHSAA wrestling official for 18 seasons. During that time he officiated every major tournament statewide, including 18 consecutive state wrestling tournaments.

I have known Don since his days as a high school wrestler at Boone County High School. I also worked with him as an official for 10 years and through my work as an official's supervisor after I retired from officiating. I have had ample opportunity to observe his work and his relationships with athletes, coaches, fellow officials, and fans. I assure you that I was most impressed by this remarkable official and gentleman. He is one of the most knowledgeable and professional officials I have known in my 40 years of involvement in wrestling.

I know there will be a number of qualified candidates to be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame. It is my professional opinion that none will be more qualified than Don Salyers. Those of us who have been associated with Don over the years hold his work and his contributions to the sport of wrestling and to the KHSAA in the highest regard. I believe the accompanying documentation and the letters of support for this nomination will demonstrate that Don is the perfect candidate for induction into the Hall of Fame.

I make this recommendation without reservation. I sincerely believe that the time is right for Don Salyers to take his rightful place with this distinguished group of Kentucky sports figures. I urge you, the committee, to honor him with induction into the Hall of Fame. I truly believe that you can not honor a more deserving or worthy candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack D. Cline".

Jack D. Cline
Manager State High School Wrestling Tournament
Member KHSAA Wrestling Advisory Committee
2001 Member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame

Accomplishments of Don Salyers

Primary Officiating Accomplishments at the High School Level

1. He officiated high school wrestling from 1976 to 1994 and worked the state tournament the very first year.
2. He officiated 18 consecutive state tournaments along with districts, regions, etc.
3. He officiated the Coaches Association State Dual Meet Tournament from its inception until his retirement.
4. He was the first president of the Northern Kentucky Wrestling Officials Association and served in that capacity for the first three years of the organization.
5. He served on the National Rules Committee for the National Federation of High Schools for two different terms covering the years from 1981 to 1996.
6. He was a member of that committee that is responsible for cutting out extreme weight reduction from the sport. Examples: plastic suits and hot tubs.
7. During his terms the committee put the growth allowance back into wrestling so that the athletes were more able to grow naturally.
8. He was appointed the KHSAA rules interpreter by Commissioner Louis Stout and served in that capacity for several years.
9. In addition to traveling the state as the KSHAA rules interpreter, Don conducted many free clinics for coaches and wrestlers across the state and also conducted a large clinic for the Coaches Association.

Other Officiating Accomplishments

1. Don also worked at the collegiate level from the second year that he was a licensed official. He worked for the University of Kentucky until they dropped their program.
2. He worked many college tournaments and was voted the top official at the Big Ten Dual Meet Tournament.
3. He worked a dual meet when Michigan defeated Iowa for the first dual meet loss of Iowa Coach Dan Gable in 16 years.
4. He also worked two NCCA National Championships.

Other Factors that I Would Like the Hall of Fame Committee To Consider

1. Don was responsible for recruiting and training several northern Kentucky officials who are working today in the sport of wrestling.
2. He was also a positive role model for these young officials and many young wrestlers.
3. He continues to have a great love for the sport, which is exemplified by his support for the KHSAA and its wrestling and Hall of Fame programs. Each year his company purchases an ad for the score clocks that we currently use at the state tournament. His company has also purchased ads in the state wrestling and state basketball programs in years past. He has personally donated monies to support the nominations of two previous Hall of Fame inductees and will support a third inductee who will become a member of the Hall of Fame next March.

I believe that the members of the selection committee will clearly see the contributions that Don Salyers has made over many years of service as an official and as a supporter of the KHSAA. It is my belief that there can be no better-qualified candidate for the Hall of Fame as an official. I strongly urge the committee to give his candidacy the most serious consideration. One of the major qualifications for membership into this group is an individuals service and support of the KSHAA programs. Another major qualification is that an individual be a positive role model for the youth of Kentucky. As you can see from the materials presented here, Don Salyers is definitely worthy of induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Don Saylers. I've known Don for 30 plus years, first as an opposing wrestler at Boone County High School and later as a wrestling official. It was not until I started coaching wrestling that I realized the contributions Don made to Kentucky wrestling as well as the value of a quality official outside the wrestling arena. Don's contribution to wrestling go beyond the wrestling match or tournament. He recruited and trained many of our top officials working today. He was an excellent role model for officials, coaches, and wrestlers. He handled the most difficult of situations with poise, class, and an exceptional knowledge of the sport. That knowledge and character earned him 18 state tournament assignments, National Federation Rules Committee representative, and NCAA officiating assignments. Don not only set the standard for Kentucky officials he raised the bar. Don is an excellent candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Please consider Don for induction, it would be a great honor for Don, his family and the Kentucky wrestling community.

Sincerely,

Mike Bankemper
Wrestling Coach

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
CO/Butch Cope
KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as my personal and professional recommendation for Mr. Don Salyers for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I have known Don Salyers for over twenty-five years, first when I was a wrestling coach at Flaget High School and later on when I was the wrestling coach at Trinity High School. Don started officiating in 1976 and was the professional official that everybody looked up to. Throughout the years, I have known Don to be a vital and vibrant supporter of Kentucky high school athletics and athletes in general, and in particular wrestling. To put it very simply, Don is a mentor's mentor.

His career as a referee of the state wrestling tournament speak volumes to support his involvement in the positive growth of Kentucky's young people. For many years, I have seen Don work as a referee at the state wrestling tournament. I continue to be proud of his efforts and his unsung accomplishments.

To me, induction into the Hall of Fame is reserved to those who have selflessly supported and have been actively involved in the promotion of high school youth and their participation in the program. It is reserved to those who, year after year, commit to excellence in their own performance and that of the KHSAA. It is reserved to those who commit to their own ongoing personal and professional development and to the training of young men who will follow in their footsteps. It is reserved to those who are willing to serve as a role model in fair play and hard work. It is reserved to those who have dedicated themselves to the growth of the KHSAA during the good times and the lean. To me, it is reserved for those like Don Salyers.

Sincerely,
James R. Frame
Executive Director
Catholic School Athletic Assoc.
Louisville, KY

HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE
BUTCH COPE
KHSAA
2280 LEXINGTON DRIVE
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40505

DEAR BUTCH,

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF DON SALYERS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE DAWAHARES HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME. AS JACK CLINE HAS SO MASTERFULLY OUTLINED MOST OF DON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HIS ACCOMPANING LETTER, IT WOULD BE TOTALLY SUPERFLUOUS FOR ME TO REITERATE THEM HERE.

I WANT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE CAN BE NO FINER CANDIDATE THAN DON. I WORKED WITH HIM IN EVERY STATE TOURNAMENT IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED, ALL EIGHTEEN. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY HIS PEERS AND COACHES ALIKE AS TOTALLY COMPETANT, CONGENIAL, AFFABLE, CONFIDANT AND APPROACHABLE. HIS WORK WAS ALWAYS DONE WITH A DUE DILLIGENCE ADMIRE BY ALL

I ALSO APPRECIATED IT GREATLY WHEN HE SUPPORTED MY CANDIDACY FINANCIALLY WHEN I WAS INDUCTED IN THE CLASS OF 2000. HE HAS BEEN, OVER THE YEARS, AN UNDYING SUPPORTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS IN KENTUCKY, AND IS ABSOLUTELY DESERVING OF THE HONOR OF BEING INCLUDED IN THE HALL OF FAME

SINCERELY,

GARY INGRAHAM
7408 MARIA AVENUE
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40222

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
c/o Butch Cope
KSHAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

.An opportunity of a life time has been missed by those who have not personally worked with or experienced Don's mentoring. As an athlete in high school I experienced Don's teaching and enforcement of good sportsmanship at all times. Not only was he a fair and unbiased official, he also set forth an outstanding example for the youth to follow.

After high school and a brief tour in the military I returned home with an interest to start officiating. Don was very instrumental in getting me started and mentoring me through the years. Don instilled in people that he worked with a can do attitude, and taught you that safety and good sportsmanship were the two most important things.

As a supporter and official of the KHSAA and with eighteen years of officiating back to back state tournaments. I believe there is no one more qualified to be a candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame as an official than Don Salyers..

Sincerely,

Joe H Neely

jjcline

From: <ECW351@aol.com>
To: <jjcline@prodigy.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2003 11:10 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Don Salyers Nomination to KHSAA Hall of Fame

TO:
Nominating committee of the KHSAA Hall of Fame

I am writing this letter in support of Don Salyers being nominated to the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I personally refereed Don as a wrestler in high school and college and officiated with Don from 1976 to 1994. In both of these endeavors, Don gave 100% to the sport of wrestling. I also refereed 17 consecutive state tournaments with Don, which Don was voted the referee of the year the first year the coaches gave this award. Don also served on the rules committee for the national federation of high schools for two different terms from 1981 to 1996. He also served as a rules interpreter appointed by Louis Stout. During this time, he donated endless hours traveling around the state putting on clinics for coaches and wrestlers across the state. Don also worked many college level matches including the University of Kentucky, until they dropped their program. He is also responsible for helping in the development of the growth of a lot of the wrestling programs in northern Kentucky by donating both his time and money. He helped in bringing young officials into the profession of refereeing by providing them with guidance as well as being a role model for them.

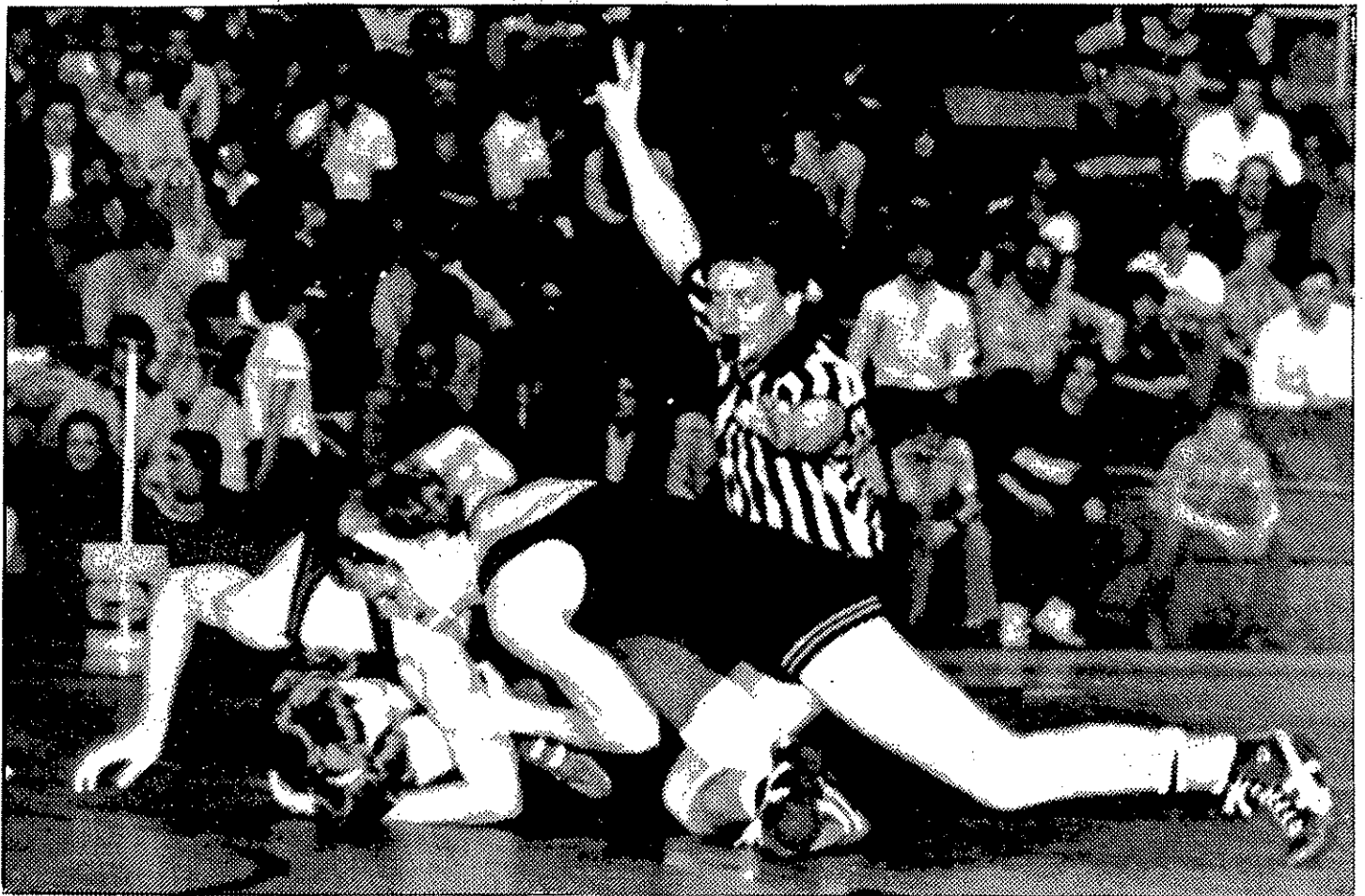
I personally enjoyed Don's officiating as well as his friendship during the time we were refereeing together. I think the brotherhood Don and I developed over the years is priceless.

I think that Don is a most worthy candidate for the nomination to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I would ask that you give this nominee your vote for this honor.

**Thank you for your time and consideration,
~Gene C Washington**

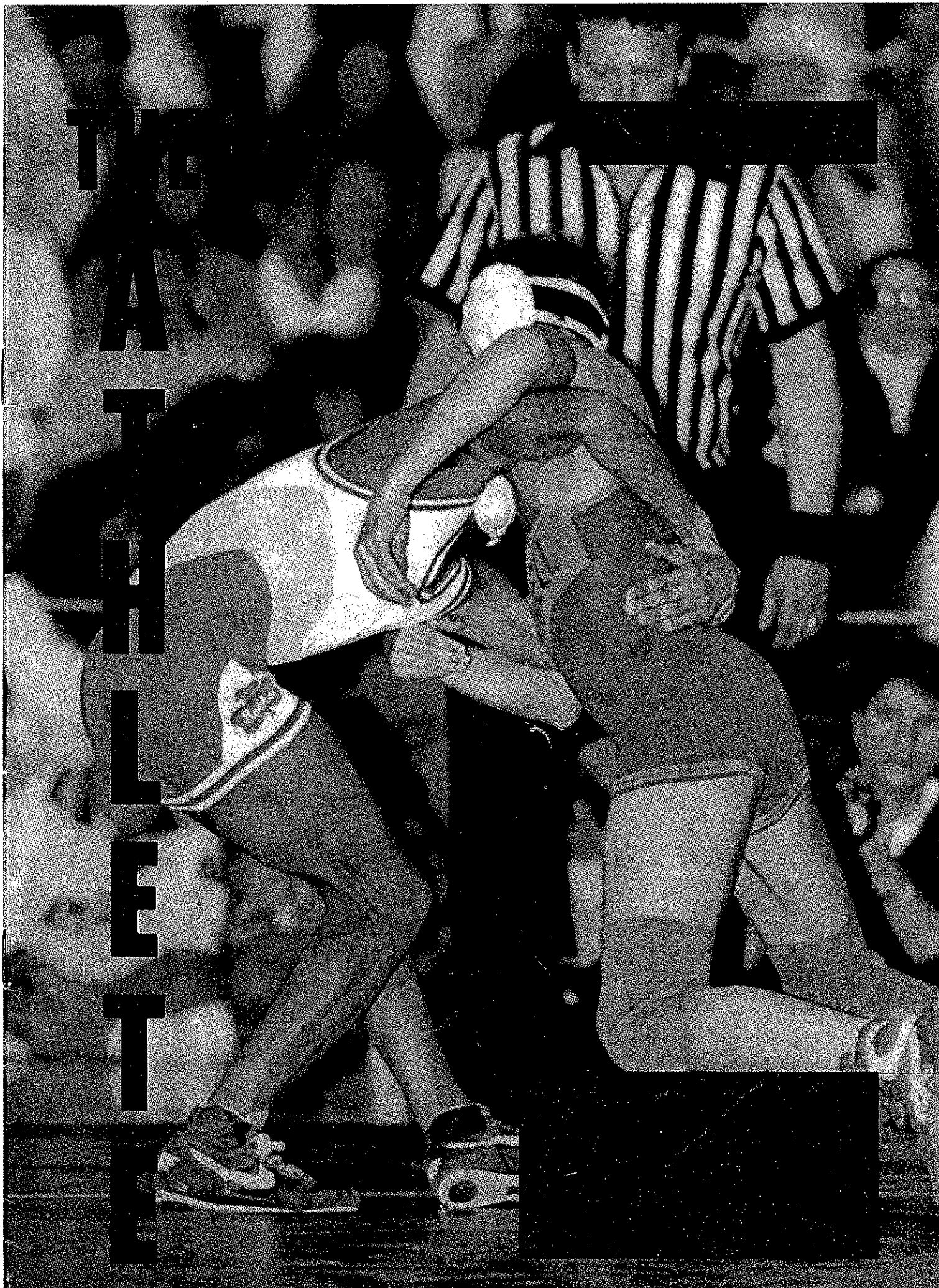
9/15/03

1985 Kentucky State Wrestling Tournament



Official Program

THE A T H L E T E



Devoted official picked to call national tourney

by Joe Genety

When people accuse Don Salyers of being too enthusiastic about his job as a wrestling official, he often has little to say in his own defense.

Salyers can't help being what some people have called "too hyper." He's been involved with wrestling for the better part of his life.

"I love the sport...I'm an addict," said the veteran wrestling official who lives in Florence. "I don't think I'll ever get out of it."

Salyers got into it when he started wrestling as a sixth-grader, following the example of two older brothers. In high school he wrestled for Lexington Lafayette and Boone County. In 1974 for the Rebels, he was fourth in the state in the 145-pound weight class.

That self-proclaimed addiction to the sport is what motivated the 29-year-old brick contractor to become an official so many years ago. It's probably also part of the reason some coaches and some of his colleagues he is overzealous at times.

But it is also a big reason why Salyers is one of the most respected officials in Kentucky and Ohio at the high school and college levels. Salyers will officiate at the Kentucky

state high school tournament for the ninth time this year. He is currently in his eighth year as a college official. But this won't be just another year for him.

With a career like his, it's not surprising that wrestling fans locally have shown a great deal of interest in him over the years. In an interview with "The Recorder" in February of 1982, Salyers said one of his goals was to work the NCAA finals.

Now two years later, he has realized that goal. At the close of the Division II National Championships, coaches will rate the referees and the one receiving the highest ranking will work in the Division I championships.

Salyers doesn't seem overly surprised by the selection. "I've been doing college a long time and I've had a lot of exposure," he said. But he attributes much of the credit for the honor to that irrepressible enthusiasm he has for the sport.

"It's hard to get exposure. It takes time," he said. "I've been around a while. I devote a lot to it. It's a big part of my life."

Because he is so close to the sport, Salyers may be more concerned than some of his colleagues about the state

[cont'd. on page 16]

Official

[Cont'd. from Page 15]

the sport is in Kentucky. Salyers believes wrestling as a sport may currently be at a crucial point in its development—or perhaps its decline.

With the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University having recently dropped their wrestling programs, no college in the state has an intercollegiate program.

"It makes it easier for the high schools to say they don't need the sport of wrestling," said Salyers. He realizes the lack of college programs isn't the only thing high school wrestling has working against it.

Some football coaches do not like the sport because they claim it interferes with their players' weight training programs. But Salyers presents evidence that would indicate that wrestling and football are quite compatible.

He pointed out that when Conner High School won the AAA state football championship in 1983, 11 of the team's starters were members of the wrestling team. He added that many a game during that season was won in the fourth quarter, indicating the Cougars were a well-conditioned team. Salyers figures wrestling may have had something to do with that.

He also points to an example at Centerville (Ohio) High School, a perennial wrestling power in that state. Centerville has won its league in football for 13 straight years. For all 13 of those years, one man, Ken Simmons, has been both head football coach and wrestling coach. Salyers figures it's

hardly a coincidence.

Salyers, the only Kentucky wrestling official who also works in Ohio, admits he does so because of the greater intensity and enthusiasm the sport generates there.

He said he likes to work at matches before packed houses where it's hard for the wrestlers to hear him over the roar of the crowd. Yes, it does happen. Salyers said he has worked in some states—Pennsylvania and New Jersey, for example—where wrestling matches attract larger crowds than basketball games.

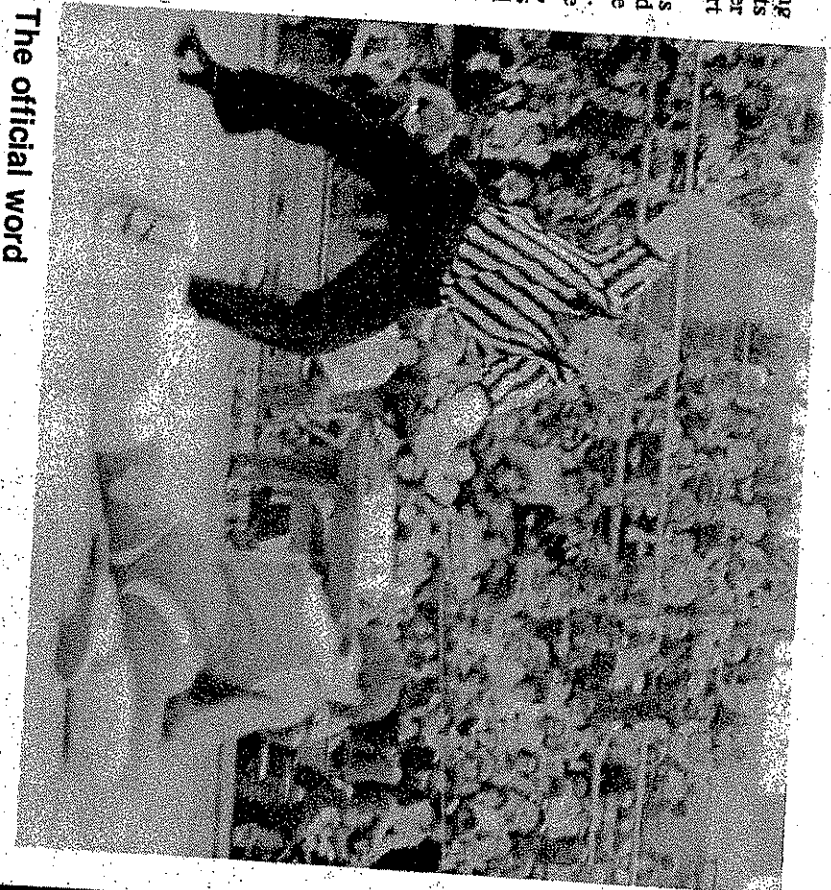
Kentucky is a long way from that, but Salyers believes there is still hope the sport will experience a revival in the state. It will just take time.

"People just don't understand the sport enough," he said. That may be the greatest stumbling block. Wrestling involves a somewhat complicated scoring system in which a competitor's margin of victory over his individual opponent determines the number of team points he scores.

"The second generation has to come back to make it exciting for the fathers," Salyers said. "It's getting to the point where all the coaches wrestled."

And there are other positive signs as well. Colleges are showing greater interest in state champions from Kentucky. But just like the Kentucky high school wrestling programs, when those wrestlers reach the college level, they have to struggle for a year to two.

Salyers figures their challenge may be symbolic of the one Kentucky wrestling faces in general. "If'd be nice to see them do well," he said. "That'll help the sport (in Kentucky), I think, too."



The official word

Northern Kentucky wrestling official Don Salyers indicates a point scored while calling a match in his first state championship tournament.



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Refereeing Olympic Match Is Dream For Boone Co. Resident

By Andrew Tell

Don Salvors someday hopes that he will be able to be part of the Olympic Games.

What sets him apart from your average Olympic hopeful is he doesn't plan to compete, but rather he hopes to make an appearance as a referee officiating an Olympic wrestling match.

"The Olympics is a dream," the young Mr. Salvors said. "It's sort of like a goal but it's like a dream, too."

In only his fourth year as wrestling official, Mr. Salvors has already distinguished himself as one of the better wrestling officials in Northern Kentucky.

He was selected to officiate in the state tournament in his first year as an official and has been back every year. While officiating the state

tournament, the University of Kentucky wrestling coach Fletcher Carr saw him in action and asked him to officiate some of UK's matches, Mr. Salvors said.

This year, Mr. Salvors had officiated three of UK's four home matches, he said.

Besides officiating Northern Kentucky high school and UK matches, Mr. Salvors has been in demand in other parts of the state and even in Ohio. Several Ohio coaches have contacted him to officiate their matches, but he said he has been unable to do it because he was late in filing for an Ohio license he said.

His work with UK has opened other doors at the collegiate level as well. Mr. Salvors said he was once asked to do a college tournament in Michigan, but was unable to go.

Mr. Salvors keeps busy as a referee, averaging three or four matches a week, he said. He often jokes that he is a part-time bricklayer (his profession) and a full-time referee, he said.

He has had as many as seven matches in one week, Mr. Salvors said, and has traveled as far as 150 miles to officiate a match.

And, after the high school and college season is over, he doesn't put away his whistle. Instead, he is off officiating AAU Junior Olympics matches in the summer, he said.

Mr. Salvors said he is trying to officiate as much as he can to become recognized among coaches so that his dream of refereeing an Olympic match might be realized.

He said he would like to go to the 1984 olympics which

are scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, Ca. "I don't know if I'll ever get there," he said, "but it's a dream."

His love for the sport of wrestling goes back to his days as a wrestler for Boone County High School, Mr. Salvors said. "I loved wrestling," he said, adding that is probably why he continues to be involved with it.

While wrestling for the Rebels he reached as far as the semi-finals of the state tournament in the 145-pound weight class. He also wrestled for Eastern Kentucky University.

As a wrestler and an official, Mr. Salvors said he has seen wrestling in Northern Kentucky to improve. "It's improving every year," he said.

"I think Northern Kentucky has a good shot at dominating

the state tournament this year," he added.

"The better the wrestling the easier it is to officiate," Mr. Salvors said. He added that he enjoys officiating the college matches more because they move so much more quickly. "It's a lot harder, but I like college a lot better."

Mr. Salvors said he enjoys officiating Conner-Boone County matches, because they usually draw the most enthusiastic crowds.

"I like a lot of noise," he said. "I get psyched to officiate a match just like I did when I wrestled," he added.

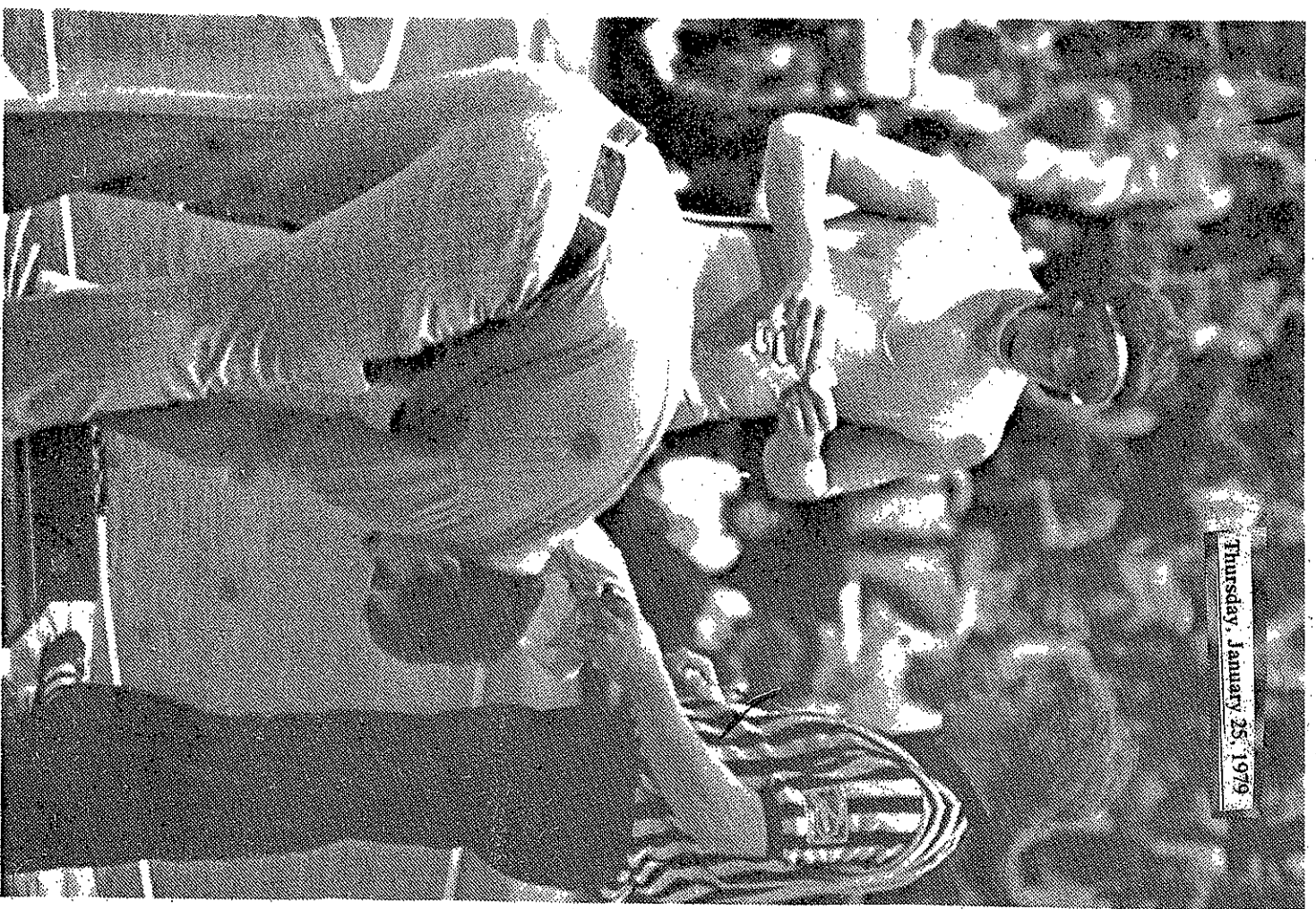
Mr. Salvors and his wife Jennifer have a 14-month old son, Nathan, who he hopes someday will be a wrestler.

If he does, Nathan should at least be well-versed in the rules.

Thursday, January 25, 1979



Thursday, January 25, 1979



Olympic Officiating Honeful

can understand their position. They have a kid on the mat and my judgement is what can make or break him. I have to be right as much as possible."

Many coaches have called Salyer stingy with his point awarding. But he says he would rather call cautious.



DON SALYER

"I feel the best way is to make the calls slower. If I'm a little late with the call, that's better than making one that really isn't there. I make sure the move happens before I call it, then I stay out of trouble."

He plans to continue officiating until his own son gets into wrestling. Or if his son decides not to do it, "I guess I'll be in it for life."

In seven years, Salyer has seen a lot of good high-school wrestlers come and go. But he doesn't think he's ever seen a better one, both on and off the mat, than Conner's Robbie Clarkson, four-time state champ.

"By luck of the draw I had Clarkson's state finals every year. He was undoubtedly the best."

Sometime before he hangs up his zebra stripes, Salyer says he would like to officiate the NCAA finals.

"That's about as high as an official can go. I'd like to be there." Based on past performance, he probably will get there.

this year. And when they get there, they will all see a very familiar face looming over them from above.

While athletes of all ages and sizes compete for the coveted state title this weekend at Atherton High School, Don Salyer will be watching over them.

Salyer will be making his seventh appearance as an official at the state tournament this weekend. He has been at state each year since he started as a wrestling official.

His knowledge of the sport is well-documented as he spent five years grappling himself. For two years he wrestled for Lexington Lafayette, then spent two years with Jeffersontown and finished his career at Boone County. As a senior for the Rebels he placed fourth in the state tournament.

side lines

When I left high school I decided I wanted to stay with wrestling," Salyer said. "I didn't want to teach so I couldn't coach. The next best thing was to become an official."

That decision has been a good one for all concerned. State officials are voted by coaches statewide, so he gets very few complaints on his performance.

A union bricklayer by trade, Salyer finds it easy to work officiating into his schedule.

"I'll usually do about four matches each week through the season, and I'm booked every weekend from Dec. 1 through March to do a tournament. I don't do Christmas tournaments, however, because I like to spend some time with my family," he said.

Becoming a respected official hasn't been easy for him, but the road is nearing its end. He has been a state mat captain for two years and is one of the most respected wrestling officials in the state judging by the near unanimous vote of coaches to have him work the state tournament.

"The hardest thing I've had to do as an official is judge when things occur. A lot of people say control is the hardest thing to judge, but I feel like control is easy."

Sports



STAFF PHOTO BY KARL KUNTZ

CORNERED BY CONNER— Conner's Mike Clarkston has Campbell County's Dale Wilson in quite a predicament during last night's second annual East-West All-Star Wrestling Classic at Boone Coun-

ty High School. Wilson, fortunately, escaped the near pin, but was convincingly clawed by Cougar Clarkston, 12-4. The West swept on to victory, 29-22.



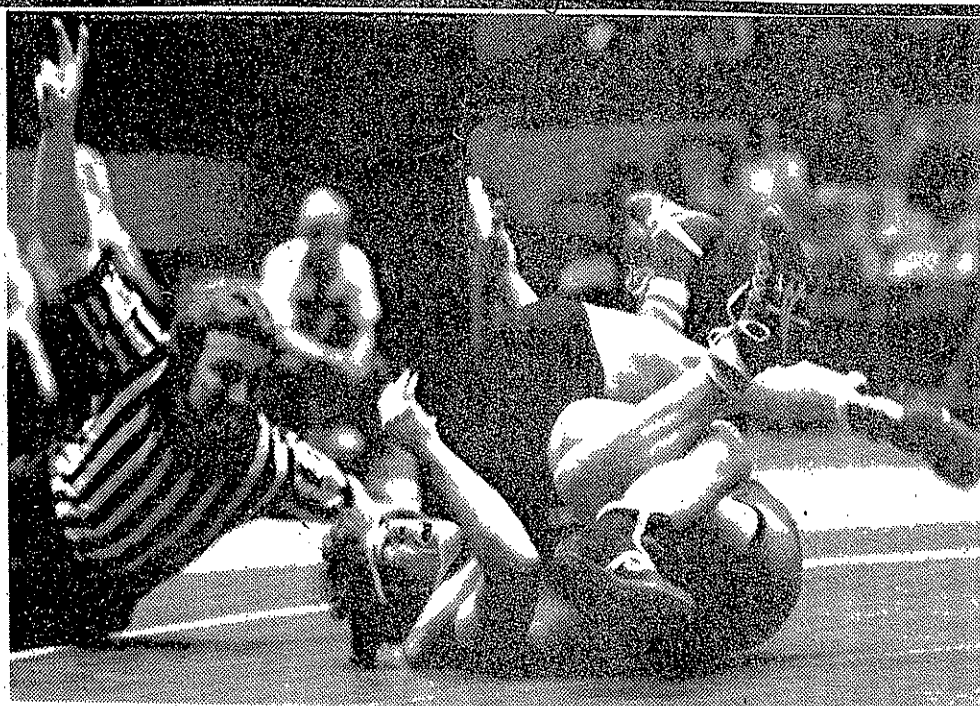
A Close Eye On The Action

Referee Don Salyers has a close view of the action during a match between Keith Krey of Conner (top) and Tracy Steffen of

Campbell County. Krey prevailed to pin his opponent.

Staff photo by Andrew Telli

Don - 1-28-80 "Kentucky Kernal"

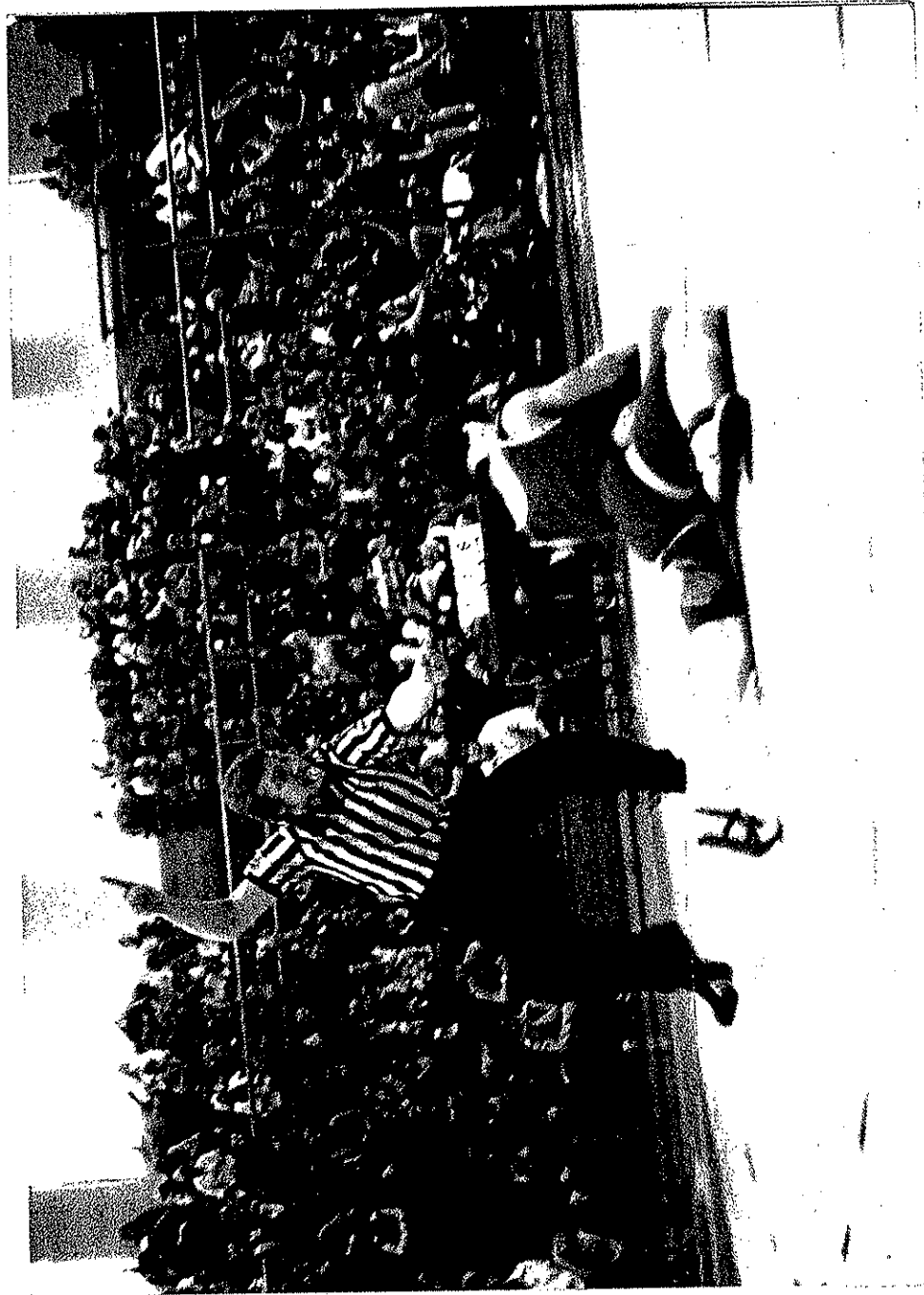


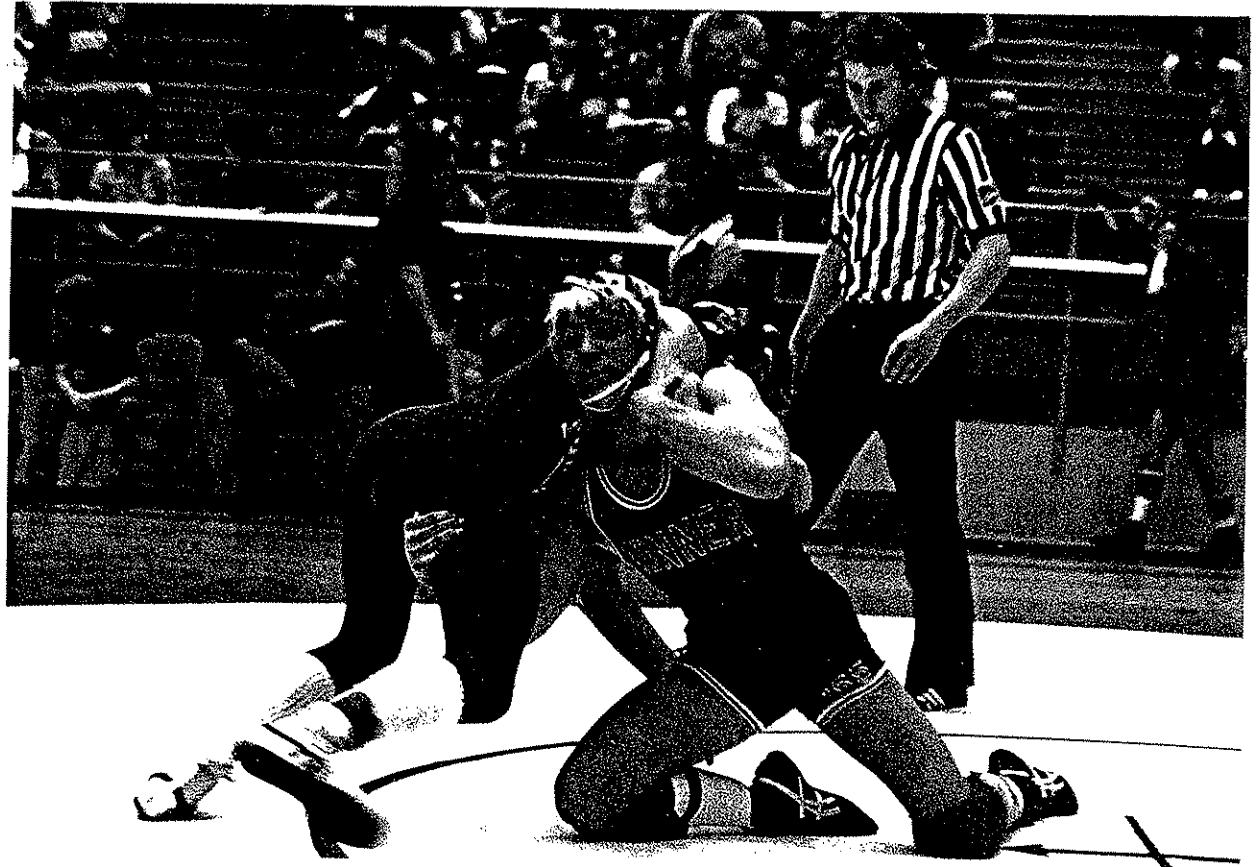
By DAVID COYLE/Kernal Sta

Down and then out

UK's Rick Rindfuss pins Georgia's mark Reeve during wrestling action at Memorial Coliseum yesterday. Reeve suffered a severely sprained

ankle on the takedown and was taken from the floor on a stretcher. The 11th-ranked Mat Ca won the match 33-9







RICHARD PRIDEMORE/The Kentucky Post