

NWCA Full Board Meeting  
August 16, 2007  
Lake Tahoe, NV

Attendees: Pat Tocci, Mike Moyer, Tammy Tedesco, Jason Bryant, Pat Pecora, Les Combs, Ron Peterson, Bob Colgate, Pat Santoro, Dan Zottarelli, Jack Childs, Ron Mirikitani, Shawn Kelley, Jay Weiss, John Cook, Jim Beichner, Jay Hammond, Jack Spates, Joe McFarland, Drew Black, Darrell Randall, Brad Traviolia, Jim Makovsky, Dan Hinkel, Dave Pacheco, Paul White and Brian Anderson

Ron Mirikitani and Mike Moyer open the board meeting with opening statements at 1:12. Mike and Ron thank everyone for attending the board meeting and the convention.

**Approval of BOD Minutes**

Ron asks the board to review the 2006 BOD minutes for BOD approval.

Drew Black: Motion to approve minutes

Pat Pecora: Seconded

Motion Passed to approve 2006 BOD minutes unanimously.

**NWCA Strategic Plan**

Mike Moyer gives an overview of his strategic plan that was outlined in the board manual. The goal of the strategic plan is to sell the educational value of wrestling to educators.

Mike reviews the USDA program of Eat Smart, Play Hard. Wrestling along with Rodeo were the two main sports featured in this campaign. Mike reviewed some leadership initiatives they were doing in Iowa using wrestling as a centerpiece centered on the wrestling weight management.

Darrell Randall spoke about how the OPC/NWCA relationship has helped wrestling. Without the OPC, we would not have options like the USDA initiative.

Mike Moyer pointed how the critics were saying once this program went into effect it would be killing wrestling. Between the mid 70's and 1999, we lost 120,000 high school wrestlers. Participation in 1997 was at an all time low. Since 1998, participation has increased by about 20,000. Might be no cause and effect relationship, but its ironic there was a nose-dive until the new weight management rules started going into effect.

Jim Beichner pointed out that he believes there is a direct correlation. Kids quit because they cut weight. Unchecked, coaches will cut arm & leg because that's what we did. This is a correlation, this is. It's not ironic. Coach can't just randomly decide which weight he goes.

One of the issues as a board that was pointed out by Darrell Randall was that you if you don't support the weight rules. How can you sell it?

Pat Pecora asks what are the positive things and how can we sell it?

Mike gives some speaking points on the positives of the weight management program including the participation numbers and the NCAA regain studies that showed the effectiveness of the weight management program.

Mike also spoke about how having the OPC has allowed us to collect assessment data on 220,000 student-athletes. This assessment data will allow us to make decisions on weight classes using empirical data versus just guesses. We have also had a number of states now using the OPC to enter result data.

An alarming statistic we found was that approximately 25% of all matches were forfeits. As people begin to want to change or eliminate weight classes to solve the forfeit issue, we should be looking at where the forfeits occur and how can we recruit more kids into the sport. Once the weight classes are eliminated, it will be very unlikely we will be getting them back.

Mike reviewed the grant we received from the PA Department of Health. The grant was for 250,000 with the purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness of the OPC in the non-athletic population. The idea is demonstrate how effective the OPC is then take into the All-Sport and PE markets as a chance to help offset our dependency on \$200,000 of annual donations.

The idea is with an evidenced based program we are hopeful that a large number of high school state associations will license the OPC to combat childhood obesity in the general student populations.

Mike also reviews a major part of our strategic plan is to find the funding to hire a coaching development director to develop online and in-person coaching education programs designed to increase participation, increase retention and develop elite wrestlers. We have already received some seed money to bring Neil Turner on board to help with this project. We will however, have to continue to find the funding for this position in future years.

## **BOD**

Ron asks the board to take a moment to review the BOD and scholastic contact list.

## **Committee Guides**

Ron asks everyone to review the committee guides to see what committees each board member is on. Ron also makes a mention that it is important that everyone participates in their committees.

## **Coaching Development**

As outlined in discussion on the strategic plan, Mike introduces Neil Turner who will be overseeing our coaching development program. Neil was a long time successful coach on the high school and collegiate levels. He is currently running a very successful club called Mat-Town out of Lock Haven, PA.

Neil's responsibility will be to determine what the best practices are on our sport. He will be creating online modules that will be aimed at doing the following:

- A: How to recruit more student-athletes into wrestling
- B: How to retain more wrestlers once they are on your team
- C. Safety and First Aid
- D. Technical / Tactical

Neil mentioned that his theory is that the high school coach is the CEO of the program of participation. We will educate the high school coaches and then they will work with the programs underneath them.

Mike Moyer reviewed the need to develop programs that will help college coaches build their small business CEO skills. The problem we often face as a sport is that the coaches who need it the most are the ones who don't go near it. We need to push for something coaches want to do, not something that's been mandated.

Everyone is in agreement that this is a good idea and something that we need to work towards.

## **NWCA Staff**

Mike introduces the NWCA staff again.

## **Committee Reports**

### *All-Academic Team*

Pat Tocci gives an updated on the Division I All-Academic team. Pat reviews the criteria used for the DI team. The current criterion is set for non-All-Americans as 3.2 GPA and a NCAA Qualifier or Wrestler won 60% of their matches. For NCAA All-Americans it is a 3.0 GPA.

Pat asks if everyone is comfortable staying with the current criteria and they are.

Pat then presents a plan that would include true-freshman after completing one full year at the institution. The NWCA would do a second true freshman team in the late spring to honor any true freshman who met the standards above. Jay Weiss reiterates that he thinks this would be a good idea. A vote is not needed to move forward with this initiative.

### *Ranking Committee*

No issues and only needed to be reviewed

### *Newsletter Committee.*

Pat Tocci explained that Tammy Tedesco has been put in charge of getting the newsletter out on a monthly basis. Pat mentions to the board if they have items they would like included into the newsletter to please let us know.

Pat also mentioned that he will be working with Neil Turner to start a coaching education newsletter that will be going out monthly.

### *Legislative, Marketing and Coaching Committees*

No further follow needed for these committees.

Ron asks if there are any further questions with the committee reports and with no further questions, Ron moves into the affiliated member reports.

### **Affiliated Member Reports**

Bob Colgate, NFHS reports that wrestling has not changed at the high school level. The majority of states have come on board with the weight management. The states and the NFHS were generally pleased with how things went in the first year as a mandated rule. He mentioned that the wrestling community does not like change. The wrestling community likes to battle the NFHS on everything. Bob made a point of stressing that the once the first year was under their belts, it would get much easier in subsequent years.

Bob mentions that the NFHS is looking at developing an injury surveillance system.

Bob passed out injury report from Dr. Dawn Comstock at Ohio State University. The multi-page handout gave some insight into the injury rate for high school wrestlers.

The new NFHS statistics have not been released for the past year.

He did report that more and more wrestling coaches are not teacher-coaches. They do not have the coaching experience; they do not have the background. They have the wrestling background, but not the coaching background.

Bob thanks the NWCA for providing statistical data on the results components. Bob reiterates the earlier point of the forfeits but also that 45 percent of HS matches were falls.

He also reiterated the next big issue to hit high school wrestling is the weight classes.

### **NWMA Report**

In addition to the report in the manual, Jay Hammond reports on the new database projects he is building. He now has the high schools for over 4,000 NCAA All-Americans. He also will have a database with all the NWCA rankings. In addition, he is scanning all the previous NCAA guides.

### **Scholastic Report**

John Cook reports on the changes to the scholastic state reps which included replacing eight state reps. We are becoming stricter with the guidelines and want more people that will work hard. Contracts will be signed in agreement to serve as a state rep.

John also pointed that we recently got a new state rep that was not in the manual and we are still working on someone for Illinois.

It was reported that attendance at the NCAA Championship meeting was real strong. We seem to be getting a solid group of reps.

Dan Zottarelli gives an overview of the state scholastic award winners. He reported that we had a strong year for candidates and the state reps did a good job in getting the nominations in. This was the best year we had for having state reps get their award winners in.

Dan gives a report on the national winners which included:  
Wrestler of the Year: Cody Gardner – Christiansburg VA  
Coach of the Year: Dave Crowell – Nazareth High School, PA  
Assistant Coach of the Year: Harry Larson – Hermiston HS, OR

### **Title IX Report**

Mike Moyer provided an update to the BOD on our title efforts. He reviewed the clarification by the OCR to use interest survey instead of relying on proportionality. That has really been reflected on the Division II and Division III level are more viable to use Prong Three vs. Prong One. Mike mentioned that the OCR is vigorously defending the use of the surveys.

Mike also reported on the need for us to promote the fact that women's wrestling currently has twice as many participants as women rowers yet there is 141 collegiate women rowing teams.

The biggest hurdle we have is roster is relatively small roster size of women's wrestling versus rowing. More inclined to add women's rowing with a roster of 60 vs. Roster of 13. Most often women's sport is dropped women's gymnastics and this can be due to the roster size.

Mike talked about the creation of the EIA (Equity in Athletics). We have helped create this to continue to engage in litigation efforts at James Madison and Slippery Rock. The EIA is represented with groups from wrestling, track and swimming. There is chapters in PA, Virginia and Ohio/Michigan.

Mike gave an update on the issue at Eastern Illinois where the program has been dropped due to the APR. The APR is currently only affecting Division I. Mike reported that they have met with the president and are trying to develop a game plan to get the program reinstated. We are cautiously optimistic that we might be able to save the program.

Mike also gave a quick update on the University of Oregon situation. We are being active with trying to save the program. We are working with Ron Finley. Have awarded our All-Star Meet to Oregon and have been trying to facilitate a meeting with Phil Knight. In addition, we have a donor who is trying to arrange a fund raising event in Oregon.

### **Retired Coaches Report**

Dan Hinkel gives a report on the retired coaches. He says that he needs help to identify coaches that he can work with and create a network.

One of the ideas is to create an area on the e-newsletter that is geared towards the retired coach.

Mike Moyer believes that retired coaches can help us out. The retired coaches could help by volunteering at events or be mentors to our next group of coaches. Mike asks the question: What is it that the retired coaches could do for us that could be the hook to get them into our organization.

The action item from the board meeting to help grow the retired coaches would be to have a social at the NCAA tournament. At the social we could identify the coaches who should become a part of the NWCA. An idea would be to have a conference call to establish 10 retired coaches to come to a social at the NCAA's.

Les Combs and Joe McFarland also made mention that it would be good to work through the NWHOF state chapter programs to help establish this division of the NWCA.

### **Women's wrestling**

Mike Moyer gave an update on the women's wrestling and explained Barb Brummett had to resign from the board due to personal reasons.

Mike reported that he has been talking to Patricia Miranda and Levi Weikel to serve on the board in a paid position. We have assembled a women's advisory committee comprised of: Arno Neiman, Wayne Rennisen, Stan Zeamer, Sandy Stevens and John Harmon.

The idea is to identify Four Goals:

- Establish a national folkstyle age-group women's competition.
- Grow the number of high school wrestling teams for women and college.
- Help develop programs to help men that coach women's wrestlers.
- Grow the women's final four

To bring Patricia and Levi on board would cost approximately a 110K for three years.

Drew Black expressed concerned about embracing women's wrestling using Men's Lacrosse as an example. He says that men's Lacrosse is one of the fast growing sports on the high school level but the men have nowhere to go and the Women keep having teams added. He said he could see a scenario where he is still the wrestling coach, but the school is dropping men's wrestling and adding women's wrestling.

Shawn Kelley believes that it could help. It helps our facilities, we need scales, we need mats, you 35 men need a mat. It's we need a mat. Both teams can use it; it's not an effective based supply. Rationale will match up because both teams will need it.

Joe McFarland had mentioned that you can see both sides of it. People attacking us and saying we're against women, and we're not.

Childs: Who are they going to compete against? You're going to need a conference.

The one issue Mike Moyer mentioned that we must address is the boy vs. girl issue. We need to be careful that this does not become a sexual harassment issue.

Pat Pecora spoke about men's coaches realizing that this will be coming, so we need to be ready for it. I don't agree with girls wrestling boys. It's not healthy for either sex to be doing it. We can have more of an outcome. Let's do it in the right way. Embrace it to some degree and guide it to the way you want it to be.

Jack Childs suggested having women's coaching program to help female coaches.

The consensus of the group is that women's wrestling is a good thing and we need to embrace it. We need to continue to work towards trying to find the funding for this position.

## **Divisional Reports**

### **Division II Report**

The BOD reviewed the Division II report that was posted in the manual.

Jim Makovsky gave a report on the state of Division II wrestling. Jim reported that this past year so a lot of great dual meets with attendance over 1500. The Division II finals were televised live on CSTV.

Jim mentioned that Division II coaches were looking at having a Hodge and Schalles award for Division II. It was pointed out that all wrestlers regardless of division are eligible for those awards.

Jim expressed that the coaches have concerns about having their national championship at a Division II Sports festival. The event would include men's and women's indoor track, and swimming.

Jim and Pat Pecora both mentioned that Division II wrestling is going well. There is a good group of young, sharp coaches. The quality of wrestling is getting better and better.

### **Division III Report**

The BOD reviewed the Division III report that was posted in the manual.

Roger Crebs reported that one of the big things in Division III was that the MAC has folded wrestling. Schools in there have been divided out into conferences. In Division III, trying to institute academic standards, you can take the prop but he can't compete.

Roger also reported that one of the main issues facing Division III wrestling is a possible break out to a Division III and Division IV within division III. The Division IV schools would be based more on academic standards.

### **NAIA Report**

The BOD reviewed the NAIA report in the manual.

Shawn Kelley gave more follow up on the NAIA report. Shawn reported that NAIA Championships were affected by a major snow storm that shut the town of Sioux City down. They had five officials not show up due to the weather.

The NAIA is looking at possibly going to a three day tournament since the division is expanding. They would eventually like to follow a division I model with 300+ wrestlers. They are also looking at re-aligning the regions as it is currently not feasible to do the regions in its current format.

The NAIA national tournament is up for bid. Sioux City is not going to re-bid. The city ran out of volunteers.

Shawn also reported that Baker University will be joining the NAIA next year. The goal is to have 50 schools by 2012. NAIA membership is happy with how things are going.

A positive with NAIA schools is that it is tuition driven.

## **NJCAA**

After reviewing the NJCAA report in the manual, Ron added to the report. Ron mentioned that the NJCAA has added two Iowa teams. He also made mention that the CCC schools are looking at trying to compete in the NJCAA tournament. They are trying to make this happen but need the ok from the COA.

## **CCC**

Dave Pacheco expanded on the CCC competing in the NJCAA tournament. The CCC held their state tournament on December 8-9 which finished their season. The only way to compete in the NJCAA tournament is if the COA allowed out of season competition. He mentioned that they are looking at legislation to make this happen. He said that every sport gets 45 days of out of season competition.

A hope would be to send a team to the National Duals as well as the NJCAA tournament. Some administrations are currently saying to go ahead and do it and so it is in limbo on which schools might do it. Some schools can go and others cannot. They would like to get everyone on the same page before moving forward with the concept.

## **WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**

Pat Tocci gives a review of the NWCA weight management system. We currently have 35 state associations using the OPC system which encompasses 215,000 assessments. We are gathering the assessment data on these wrestlers and providing it to the NFHS. The hot topics are weight classes and are we accommodating the available pool. One of the interesting things we have noticed is that the weight management stats are a bit different for wrestlers in the northeast versus the southwest.

For the 2008 year, we will have three new states with North Carolina, Hawaii and Washington.

Pat reviewed the new administrative functionality that the states had this past year. It was extremely well received.

Pat reported that the NWCA is providing data on the collegiate level to provide to the NCAA Competitive Safeguards Committee.

Pat also reviewed some of the changes to the college OPC for the upcoming year including the new weigh-in form and how coaches verify assessment data.

One of the long range goals we are working towards is having our system being able to be integrated with tournament software programs.

Bob Colgate talked about the NWCA data collection and how it will help them make decisions. Bob reported that he will not let the rules committee move forward until we look at the data from the NWCA. Until we know what we're going to do, we're not going

to move on it. We're going to get input back from the states. We're going to make sure everyone's had a say in it, unlike what we did in the early 90's. (Weight classes changed without any input from the states and no empirical data).

Mike Moyer reiterated an earlier point that there are 100,000 fewer HS wrestlers today than there were 30 years ago. Since the weight management, we've gained 20K over the last 10 years since the weight management and we know it's not hurting participation. Numbers are coming back and it's a good thing. Growing support from HS coaches to fix the forfeit problem.

Jim Makovsky thought it would be important to know the reason for the forfeit. It would be good if we could start tracking the reason.

Bob Colgate added that wrestling has the most deviation of rules of any sport in the NFHS. Bob also mentioned about the fact that Minnesota was looking at changing the weight classes which was unannounced to all of us. They decided to table it to December to look at it. The one question that was asked was what they are basing this decision off to change the weight classes.

Pat asked if there was any other questions and with none concluded the weight management report.

#### **BOARD APPROVAL ITEMS**

Ron then had the board review and vote on items that required board approval.

#### **By-law review**

Darrell Randall reviewed a change we wanted to make in the by-laws that would change by law 4.2.7 to the wording of NWCA Staff Liaison from NWCA Director of Operations. Jack Child makes a motion to change by law 4.2.7.

Roger Crebs: 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

The motion to change by law 4.2.7 is approved unanimously

#### **Les Combs**

Mike Moyer reports that we need to renew Les Combs to the Scholastic BOD.

Ron Peterson makes a motion to renew Les Combs term on the scholastic BOD

Dan Zottarelli: 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

The motion to renew Les Combs is approved unanimously

### **Code of Ethics**

Mike thanks Ron Mirikitani and his wife Jan for coming up with the NWCA Code of Ethics.

The BOD is asked to review the code of ethics.

Drew Black makes a motion to accept the Code of Ethics for the NWCA as written.  
Shawn Kelley: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion to accept NWCA Code of Ethics passes unanimously.

### **Membership Report**

Pat Tocci gives a membership report. Pat reports that we had set a new membership record this past year with over 8000 members. Membership has really grown due to the weight management system. We are now showing on the membership report splitting out the high school members from the weight management members.

On the college level we had 10 non-members in the NCAA divisions.

We have seen some decline in membership in the retired coaches and fan/parent membership. We have made a big push with NCAA tickets and hotels to help grow that membership base.

### **Finance Report**

Pat Tocci reports that Bob DeHaven was unable to make it to the convention but he has reviewed the financial statements and the budget for the 2007-08 year.

Pat handed out the completed 2006 audited statements for everyone to review. Pat gives everyone some time to review and then asks if any questions which there is not any.

Pat then reviews the current financial statements. The NWCA looks like it will have a profit for the fiscal year. Pat reviewed the grant that we had received in the current fiscal year and how we allocated current resources to the grant.

Pat then reviewed the current budget proposal to the BOD. The budget that is being presented projects a 29,000 loss for the year. Pat mentions that this is a conservative budget and we are confident we will do better than the budget. We have in the past presented a budget that had a loss and we were able to have come in at least a breakeven point.

Mike speaks about some of the options that we have including taking the OPC to all-sports groups. We have had a lot of interest in other sports groups using the OPC. This includes boxers and rowers.

Mike talked about the need for the NWCA to become self reliant on programming versus donations.

Pat asks the group if they have any further questions which there is none.

Joe McFarland makes a motion to approve the 2007-08 budget.

Jack Childs: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion to approve the 2007-08 budget is approved unanimously.

## **AWARDS**

Ron Mirikitani asks the board to review the awards recipients for BOD approval.

### **Bob Bubb Coaching Excellence Awards**

Ron reminds the Board that the award is based on the school with the highest team GPA from previous year and hadn't won the award in the previous five years.

The award nominees are:

Division I – Kerry McCoy – Stanford

Division II – David James – UCO

Division III – Robert DelRosa – Case Western

NJCAA – Clark Bentley – Muskegon CC

Missing CCC information. Vince Silva, SAC

Darrell was asked if the award recipients could be accepted all at once or individually.

Darrell mentioned that we can accept all.

Drew Black makes a motion to accept the above mentioned names as Bob Bubb Coaching Excellence award winners.

Dan Zottarelli – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion to accept McCoy, James, Del Rosa, Bentley and Silva as 2008 Bob Bubb award winners is approved unanimously.

### **Dan Gable America Needs Wrestling Award**

Ron asks the Board to review the nominees for the Dan Gable Award winners. The nominees for the award are:

- Greg Hatcher – Arkansas Businessman
- John Licata - EIA
- Steve Silver – National Wrestling Supporter

Dan Zottarelli makes a motion to approve the above three mentioned names as Dan Gable award winners

Joe McFarland: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion to accept Hatcher, Licata and Silver as Dan Gable award winners is passed unanimously.

### **NWCA Lifetime Service Award Nominations**

Ron asks the BOD to review the nominees for the Lifetime Service Award for BOD approval.

Jim Makovsky makes a motion to nominate Rummy Macias as a lifetime member. Pat lets the BOD know that Rummy is already a lifetime member. Motion is removed.

The lifetime nominees are:

- Dan Hinkel – Kutztown
- Tony Iasiello – Bethlehem Catholic
- Tom Jarman – Manchester College
- John Sacchi – Rutgers

Brian Anderson makes a motion to accept the four above mentioned names as Lifetime Service Award Winners

Jim Makovsky: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion to accept Hinkel, Iasiello, Jarman and Sacchi as Lifetime Service Award Winners is approved unanimously.

### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Ron asks the BOD to review the nominees for the Meritorious Service Award Winners. The nominees for the Meritorious award winners:

- John Simmons
- Mark Mestermacher
- Paul Gilbert – Resilite

Ron Peterson makes a motion to accept the above three mentioned names as Meritorious Award Winners.

Shawn Kelley: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Jack Childs ask to make an addendum to add “Debbie Gilbert” to the nomination of Paul Gilbert to Paul and Debbie Gilbert

Motion to accept Simmons, Mestermacher and Gilbert as Meritorious Awards is approved unanimously.

### **COACHES OF THE YEAR**

Ron asks the BOD to review the coaches of the year for high school and college that are listed in the manual. Neither needs BOD approval.

## **Events**

Ron asks the BOD to review the event reports from the past year.

### *All-Star Classic*

Mike reports that the executive committee had awarded the 2007 All-Star Classic to the University of Oregon. The hope by having Oregon host the event would help in the fight to get the program reinstated on campus. We hope that a high profile event will show that wrestling can thrive on campus.

The BOD feels this is a good idea and we all need to support this event.

Mike reports that we do not have a location yet for the 2008 All-Star Classic. Places that are interested in hosting the event include: Albany, Atlanta, Ames, and Eugene.

The full BOD gives the executive committee the discretion to secure the 2008 All-Star location.

Darrell Randall suggested an idea to spice up and promote the All-Star would be to have a fan vote. Darrell also felt this would make it tougher for a wrestler to decline the invitation.

The BOD as a whole felt that this could be a good idea. Joe McFarland suggested that we chose the top five

Pat mentioned there could be NCAA issues tied to the feasibility to do this. Pat is given an action item to look into the feasibility of doing a fan vote for the All-Star Classic.

### *National Duals*

Mike Moyer reviews the proposal sent from J Robinson that suggested moving the National Duals to after the regular season and also making it a recognized NCAA dual meet championship

Mike reviews the financial challenges facing the NWCA if the event becomes a NCAA sanctioned event. We would lose sponsorship dollars and guaranteed revenue.

Mike reported on how he surveyed state associations to see how their spectator base compared for the dual meet championship to their individual championship and also if they held the event prior or after their individual championship.

In all cases, the individual tournament outdrew the dual meet championship by quite a bit. Also, all states agreed that it was better to have the dual event prior to the individual championships. States that held it after found attendance was very poor.

Mike felt that in his research that the best format was to stay with the current format that we have. He did say that we might need to tweak the format to add some pageantry to the event.

The BOD agrees with Mike's assessment above. They did think it would be a good idea for wrestling to have a sanctioned NCAA event however, we would hope to have it done in a way that would still benefit the NWCA.

Ron expresses some concern that if the NCAA made this a sanctioned event, what would happen to the NJCAA, NAIA, Clubs and Women. Mike mentioned that we probably would not be able to have it in the same venue but we could possibly have it at an adjacent location or possibly even between the sessions.

#### *NCAA Tournament*

Pat makes a recommendation of Henry Cedjudo and Ben Askren as clinicians for the 2008 NCAA Tournament. Pat gives some background on both individuals.

Jim Beichner asks that before we officially invite them that we check with USA Wrestling to see how Cedjudo would be as a clinician and check with Brian Smith to see about Ben Askren. Jim points out that while they might be great wrestlers, that does not always translate to great clinicians.

The BOD agrees with Jim and Pat will follow up with Brian Smith and USA Wrestling to see if they how they are. If they are fine, then we will invite them to be the clinicians.

#### *Scholastic Showcase*

John Cook gives a recap of the scholastic showcase.

#### *Convention*

Mike Moyer reviews the attendance for the current convention. We have around 100 college coaches. Mike says we need to continue to work on getting the majority of the coaches to come. This has been a struggle every year to get more coaches to attend the convention.

Mike asks Tammy Tedesco to review the proposals in the manual for the 2008 Convention. The group agrees that August is a good time of year but we might want to go one week earlier.

Shawn Kelley suggests we should look at having the convention during Fargo. The smaller schools are at Fargo along with the bigger schools. We could work it in and around the tournament.

Group feels this could be a good idea but there is challenges to having the event around another event. People do not always make it to the sessions. We will look into this option for the future.

Due to this being an Olympic year, the BOD feels that we should look at partnering with the Olympic Trials. The challenges we will face is that it means two conventions in the same fiscal year and it is very close to camp season. One positive is that it will be before the NCAA legislative cycle.

We would host the convention on a one day convention on the front end of the convention. The convention would be a Thursday and the board meeting on Wednesday.

The BOD agrees this is a good idea and so the 2008 Convention will be held in Las Vegas on June 12.

Tammy will work on securing a hotel and ticket package.

### **QUALIFIER ALLOCATION**

Ron Mirikitani has Brad Traviola: Big Ten, NCAA Wrestling Committee Chair, to lead discussion on the NCAA Qualifier Allocation Changes.

Brad reviews the NCAA mandate that wrestling must remove using historical data in determining the NCAA qualifiers. Brad said this was something we knew would be coming but now the NCAA has set a timeline that this must be in place for the 2008-09 season. The mandate said that the wrestling committee has the 2007-08 season to use as a test year. We know that the champion would receive an automatic AQ and then the rest of the spots would need to be decided upon.

The wrestling committee's taking a very proactive approach and don't want to be a group of six people sitting behind closed doors. In any system where there's an authority and a decision making process. We want to be out there and talking.

The committee sees this as an opportunity to help grow the sport, broaden the appeal and attract the casual fan.

How do we grow the sport? Broaden the appeal and attract the casual fan.

Wrestling committee acknowledged that historical data was not ideal. Upcoming year, we'll go from 5 to 3 as a goodwill gesture to show we were serious. Develop new tools to help fill that championship field.

Brad mentioned that the new Qualifier Allocation will be similar to ever other NCAA Championship. The committee will have a group of tools at their disposal work with.

Tools that would be used include such things as coach's rank, RPI and strength of schedule.

Brad mentioned that RPI gets a bad rap but it is only one Arrow in the quiver. It is not the end all and it's just one tool the committee can use.

Brad spoke about using this as a way to increase the number of dates of competition. More schools would have to wrestle each other so we could look at adding four more competition dates. Following the completion of the dual meet season you could then have a NCAA sponsored National Dual Meet Championship in January.

The concern amongst the group was that many schools could not afford four more dates.

Jim Beichner thinks that the extra dates would be bad for the majority of wrestling. Adding four dates could increase the cost to 10-20K to the budget. He explained you would need to find creative ways, exemption, Fri-Sat. that's one date. That can be affordable. You are already on the road.

Brad Traviola: The goal is to get four more competitions, but find affordable ways to get around it.

Jim Beichner explained the concern with the new qualifier system is that you will have more of the haves and the have notes will have less. People are concerned that voting in will not be fair. He felt we should look at regionalization as an option.

With regionalization you are competing for a spot, you're not being voted in. Reasons we weren't going to look? Lack of time. If there was no mandate, we'd be arguing about this for a year. We can get this done for a year. If we don't study and debate it, we need to have other options. Polled the majority, we want to compete and earn our spot to the NCAA championships.

Keep it simple, I want to compete, if I don't earn it, I don't belong to be there.

Jack Childs expressed concerned that the system could put programs into jeopardy. Too much into this and politicalizing, side-bars with schools that are starting to politic for this reason and that reason. All of a sudden, the committee came up with 3-year data, and then all of a sudden, why couldn't we stay with that for 5 years and see where we're at. I had four guys, three-seconds and a WC. Would those four guys have been voted in? Not from Drexel University.

Jack Spates mentioned that any other system, the have notes are going to get less. Regional, you're going to get less. We have the wrong people driving. It's easier to qualify now than ever before. 20 years ago, you had this many programs and the same number of qualifiers. You don't lose programs because you don't send people to nationals. They don't support it, or they can't support it. If we go to voting, we'll get more in the Big 12, and that's going to go to the same in regionally as well.

Brad Traviolia spoke the goal to increase qualifiers from 330 to 360. Best wrestlers to the championship and geographical representation. You have to do both. If you're capped, you can't do both. Ensure there is broader representation; there are good reasons that you can have both.

The concern among board members was the financing of the increased number of qualifiers. Brad felt that could be overcome.

Brad reiterated the earlier point that only 30 percent of the people that are on the NCAA Committee sponsor wrestling. If the wrestling community is divided, you can cut that (percentage) in half. We have to get everyone in the community involved ... we've got 30 percent.

There is not unanimous support for regionals. It's going to be a 5-4 vote instead of a 9-0 vote.

Roger Crebs spoke about how this could come to affect Division III. He felt the Iowa Conference would fight this tooth and nail if went away from historical data.

Jim Beichner agreed with Brad that with whatever we decide we all must work together.

Pat Pecora spoke on his experience with the regional tournament from a division II perspective. Regionalization has been fantastic. It was great for D2, and it took a lot of the politics away. Listening to more of the Division I, I don't know if this RPI thing is the case. I think what Jim's saying is on the money; it helps these guys down the road in recruiting. The Buffalo's and the Maryland's can go hey, we get as many qualifiers if you come to our school. In the short term, they might get less because you're not going to have those powerful teams. I look at Division I standpoint right now, getting to the Division I tournament isn't the problem, placing is monumental ... placing is hard to get there.

Mike tried to wrap up the qualifier discussion by reminding the committee that we typically advance 85% of teams get a qualifier. Track is around 55%. The goal is how to maintain regional representation, how do you get the best wrestlers to the NCAA championships. Having lost 440 college programs in the last 30 years, we've lost an entire generation of spectators. We need the younger fan getting into it. Making sure whatever we do, we maintain regional representation. Where's that line?

If it's an RPI, find that balance and work towards it. If it's regionalization, how can that be done?

The goal in the end is that we must all work together and be on the same page.

### **FLO Wrestling and Results**

Pat Tocci hands out a proposal from Martin Floreani from Flo Wrestling in regards to having access to the NWCA result database. Pat also reviews with the BOD the scathing 'blogs' that he has put on his website that was filled with very misinformed and full of inaccurate information. Pat also reviewed some issues in regards to Martin filming and posting videos from the national duals without permission.

Pat handed out a proposal for Flo that was helped created with the NCAA media and Director of Stats that would ensure the access the NWCA would provide to media outlets was in line with other sports groups.

The proposal would give media outlets the results in an email format that would be sent from the OPC after the results are entered into the OPC. The BOD agrees this is a good idea and we should move forward in sending them the proposal.

### **Other**

Pat Tocci reminds everyone about the convention and registration for the convention.

Ron Mirikitani closes the board meeting at 7:21pm PST.

**The minutes from the August 16, 2007 NWCA Full Board Meeting have been reviewed and approved by the NWCA Board of Directors.**

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NWCA Secretary

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Date