

Editor's Comments

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Editor's Comments

TOGETHER FOR OLYMPIC WRESTLING!

The entire wrestling world has rallied to show the strength, values and impact of our sport. In this issue we demonstrate the far-reaching nature of wrestling with authors representing five continents. Yes, outstanding contributions from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America! In addition to this scholarship, I want to call your attention to the regard that wrestlers are held within the National Olympic Committees. An athlete's selection as the flag bearer for the parade of nations during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games is a profound distinction and honor. As I watched the ceremonies of the London Games of 2012, I was struck by the number of wrestlers there were being mentioned and later discovered that there were eight.

London Olympic Games 2012

Cameroon – Anabel Laure Ali (women's freestyle 72 kg)

Cuba – Mijian Lopez Nunez (Greco-Roman 120 kg)

Guam – Maria McQueen Dunn (women's wrestling 63 kg)

Guinea-Bissau – Augusto Midana (men's freestyle 74 kg)

India – Sushil Kumar (men's freestyle 66 kg)

Japan – Saori Yoshida (women's freestyle 55 kg)

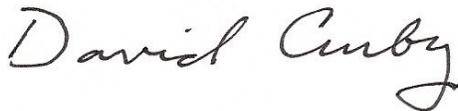
Kazakhstan – Nurmakhan Tinaliyev (Greco-Roman 120 kg)

Nigeria – Sinivie Boltic (men's freestyle 96 kg)

Now, we find ourselves in the midst of a fight for the survival of our sport within the Olympics. How incongruous, that such a decision is even being considered, when it is evident the esteem and respect that wrestlers command amongst their peers. As part of the Jacob Curby Cup 2013, an international memorial competition in Greco-Roman wrestling, I developed a display of these heroes. The display has been expanded to include Alexander Medved (1972) USSR 3X Olympic Champion-1964, 1968, 1972 (he also carried the flag for Belarus in 2004), Nikolay Balboshin (1980) of the USSR, Bruce Baumgartner (1996) of the USA, Alexander Karelin (1996) of Russia and Mehmet Ozal (2008) of Turkey.

I have searched for others, but it has been difficult to assemble a complete list. I have more names for whom I do not have their pictures carrying the flags of their country – Robert Steckle of Canada (1956); Abolfazl Anvari (1968), Abdollah Movahed (1972), Moslem Eskandar-Filabi (1976), Alireza Soleimani (1992) and Amir Reza Khadem (2000) of Iran; Vasile Andre (1980 & 1988) of Romania, Tibor Komáromi (1992) of Hungary; Hamit Kaplan (1956), Gürbüz Lü (1968), Gıyasettin Yılmaz (1972), and Hamza Yerlikaya (2000) of Turkey; Andrei Wronski (2000) of Poland; Sergey Lishtvan of Belarus (2000); Karam Gaber (2008) of Egypt; Jozef Lohyňa (1996) of Slovakia; Ramaz Nozadze (2008) of Georgia; Raatbek Sanatbayev (2000) of Kyrgyzstan; Shozo Sasahara (1956) and Kyoko Hamaguchi (2004) of Japan; Badmaanyambuugiin Bat-Erdene (2000) and Dolgorsürengiin Sumiyaabazar (1996) of Mongolia and Haykaz Galstyan (2000) of Armenia. Any help in completing this project is welcomed!

Sincerely yours in the advancement of Wrestling,



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