

IHSAA made the right move with wrestling

Written by Bob Brooks

Wednesday, 27 April 2011 15:58 - Last Updated Wednesday, 27 April 2011 23:20



It was anticlimactic. What was the "it"? The state dual team wrestling tournament.

Having it a week after the traditional state tournament, even though it was here in Cedar Rapids, simply didn't do it for the team sport concept of a state championship.

After all, the big show in Des Moines was already over and the state duals at the U.S. Cellular Center just became an adjunct to the season.

Consequently the Iowa High School Athletic Association, after the national association made some changes in the weight classes, decided to put the duals at the front of the parade in Des Moines. That means on the Wednesday of state tournament week, the dual championships will be decided before the individual champions are crowned in the Thursday through Saturday event.

Better for the wrestlers, lousy for Cedar Rapids. But if you looked at it with a balanced view, you can see the reasoning behind the association's change. Plus, Cedar Rapids will have to go back to square one when the new convention complex is completed and now will have to start promoting the future to try and bring other sporting events to the area when it is ready for occupancy.

That is the challenge of the moment. While losing the event is disappointing, let's remember there is always opportunity. And the time is now to start working on the future.

PART II: I always get a little nostalgic when Drake Relays time arrives, because I have covered more than 50 of them. It was the great event that attracted the likes of Jesse Owens as a spectator in later years, and what a terrific interview he always was.

This is the week I remember when Drake had a cinder track and two of the greatest sprinters in the 100-yard dash, Dave Sime of Duke and Bobby Morrow of Texas, dueled it out in a photo finish in heavy rain and fog at Drake. An eerie setting for two of the world's great sprinters always remains a picture in my mind.

It was always a great weekend at Drake and we wish them another great Relays event this weekend.

PART III: The fans had been wanting Fran McCaffery to get a big man and he got him. So while the country is immersed in the Royal wedding, Iowa basketball fans will be overjoyed with a Brit by the name of Gabe Olaseni, a 6-foot-10 young man who has chosen McCaffery's Hawks.

Olaseni went from London to Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire, Kan., and produced 10 points, 8.3 rebounds and 4.2 blocked shots. It gives McCaffery, in my view, a squad with the

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new recruits that will put the Hawks in a position to win them all at home.

And from there, the building continues.