

Tom Heniff and I have been researching, organizing, typing and phone calling for the past three or more years regarding the attached documents. Inspired, in part, by the shockingly puny amount of historical wrestling data found in the IHSA office, we decided to undertake the task of upgrading as much information regarding the IHSA Individual State Wrestling Tournament as feasible. It is hoped, that because these are electronic documents, that the IHSA will take the time and make an effort to place them on their website for the wrestling community to peruse.

We would like to acknowledge and thank some of the many individuals who helped us on this historical journey. First and foremost would be Illinois' Wrestling Historian, Ed Ewoldt who unselfishly provided us with boxes of wrestling documents and scores of notebooks that he has accumulated over his many years. Rob Sherrill's two volumes on Illinois wrestling frequently became our "go to" source to validate some of our research. Additionally, Rob assisted us in identifying year-in-school for a goodly number of athletes. And it was Rob who pointed out that some of our wrestlers left school "early" by graduating in January — thus, did not get the opportunity to participate in the State tourney. Pat O'Connell reminded us that, although there was no "official" state tourney in 1944, there was an "unofficial" tourney held by Champaign High School (*the winning school*) on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There were numerous others that added a bit here and a bit there — we thank them all.

These documents are, however, by no means complete or "error free". We have attempted to fill in the many "gaps," but match scores, first names and year-in-school, etc., are difficult to come by. We have tried to note, when applicable, significant changes in the tourney formats, rule modifications and weight-class changes and/or additions. (*As an example: the first couple of tournaments were "open"— show up and wrestle! Qualifying tournaments came later.* )

Should our readers have access to data or knowledge which can fill-in some of the "gaps" in our data, or should anyone observe an error in our records — please feel free to contact us via either of the addresses shown below.

Thank you,

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