

Wrestling

ALL-TIME EVENT MEDALS

USSR	68	36	28	132
USA	49	43	30	122
FINLAND	26	28	29	83
SWEDEN	28	27	27	82



The Oregonian THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 2008 | SEVENTH OF 17

TODAY'S TV HIGHLIGHTS

+> 2 a.m.: Men's volleyball: China vs. Japan; men's basketball: Argentina vs. TBD, Russia vs. Lithuania;

Greco-Roman wrestling

(live), MSNBC

+> 8 a.m.: Beach volleyball; diving: various finals (taped), Telemundo

+> 10 a.m.: Beach volleyball; swimming; whitewater canoe and kayak finals; rowing (taped), NBC

+> 2 p.m.: Boxing: light welterweight and welterweight (taped), CNBC

+> 6 p.m.: Gymnastics recap; tennis semifinals; equestrian: team dressage (taped), Oxygen

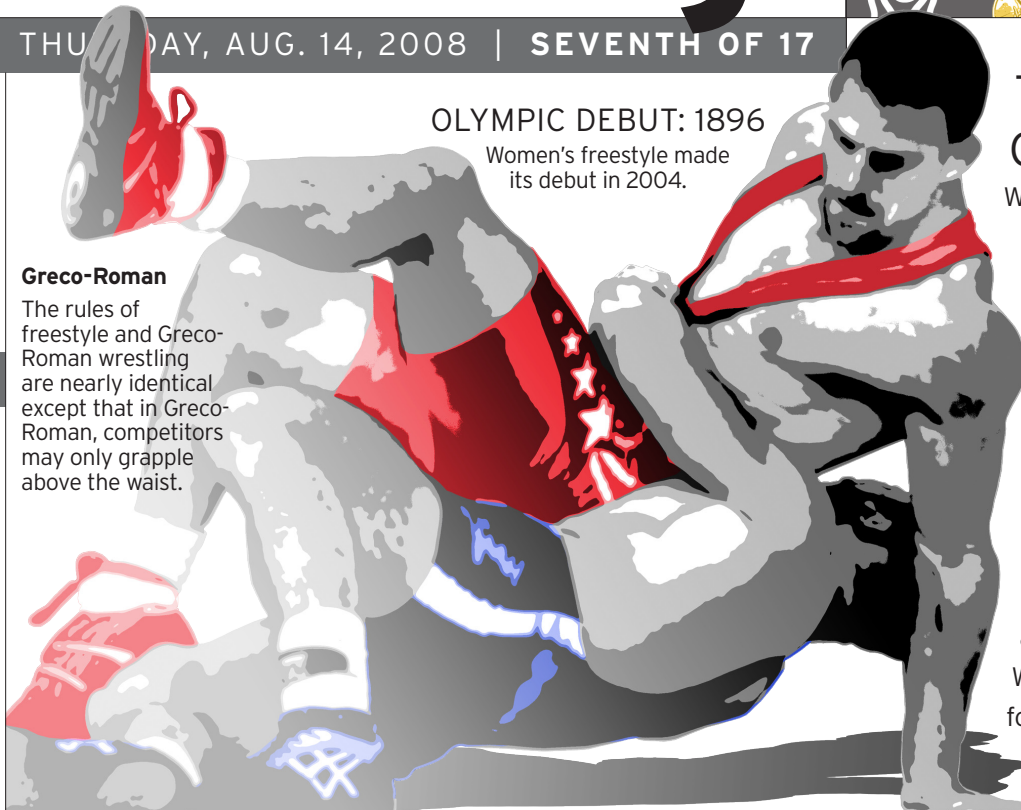
+> 8 p.m.: Gymnastics: women's all-around final; swimming; men's volleyball: USA vs. Bulgaria (live), NBC

+> 9 p.m.: Softball: USA vs. Japan (live), CNBC

+> 11 p.m.: Women's basketball: USA vs. Spain; women's soccer quarterfinal; baseball: USA vs. Cuba; tennis: semifinals; cycling: track racing; archery: men's individual final (live), USA Network

OLYMPIC DEBUT: 1896

Women's freestyle made its debut in 2004.



Greco-Roman

The rules of freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling are nearly identical except that in Greco-Roman, competitors may only grapple above the waist.

THE OBJECT

Wrestling is an ancient combat sport in which participants try to pin opponents by touching their shoulder blades to the mat for a second. There are seven men's weight classes in freestyle and Greco-Roman. Women compete in four freestyle classes.

THE COMPETITION

Matches consist of three rounds, each two minutes long, with 30-second breaks. Wrestlers must win two of the three rounds to take the match.

Athletes are awarded technical points for actions such as holds, takedowns and penalties. Each weight class has a 16-person tournament in two brackets. Wrestlers who lose in the round of 16 and quarterfinals wrestle each other

for a chance to take on the loser of the bracket's semifinals for the bronze medal. While the winners of the two semifinals compete for gold and silver, there are two bronze matches with both winners receiving a medal.

THE GEAR

Athletes wear form-fitting red or blue singlets depending on the color assigned to them. Headgear is not allowed, but light knee-pads may be worn. Coarse stubble is forbidden.

Shoes must be snug and without buckles or metal pieces.

Shoelaces must be taped.

Referees may check wrestlers **perspiration** before a match and request they dry off.

Competitors must also carry a **handkerchief** – usually kept in the jock strap – to towel blood or sweat from their bodies, though today that task is generally performed by a doctor or trainer.

THE MAT

The playing surface is made of 2-inch-thick, high-density foam that absorbs shock and is covered with antislip, antistatic PVC.

Passivity zone

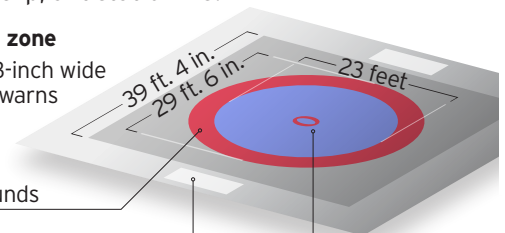
A 3-foot, 3-inch wide red circle warns wrestlers before they step out of bounds

Judge's table

The judge records points awarded by himself and the referee on the mat. The mat chairmen on the opposite desk acts as a tiebreaker. The referee counts competitors scores on each hand, one marked with a red wrist band, the other with blue.

Wrestling circle

Competitors start facing each other behind the 3-foot, 3-inch circle in the middle of the mat



ONE TO WATCH

Japan's **Saori Yoshida**, 2004 female gold medalist at 55 kg

U.S. HOPEFUL

Daniel Cormier finished fourth in the men's 96 kg weight class in Athens