



Daniel Below sacrifices points by locking his arms behind Austin Rainbolt's neck, in an illegal full nelson (Photos by Emily Lloyd).

# Wrestling for Dummies: How to identify different points at wrestling meets

By Emily Lloyd

Fans filtered in to watch wrestling mania, but did they know what was going on? Who was winning?

When watching a match it is important to understand how points are being earned. There are many ways wrestlers earn points during a match, but these points are for each individual, and later convert into team points to see which team is the victor.

Watching the refs is important, says Coach **Matt Schoettle**. He also points out the colored ankle bands representing each school's wrestler. Each ref has a correlating wristband that shows the scorekeepers how many points to award wrestlers during a match.

At the beginning of every tournament the color of each school is announced; that is vital to understand what is happening in a match. In most duals Perry is red, but in tournaments the colors change constantly.

The main things to watch are the refs' hand signals, the opponents back and who is controlling the match.

Watching for points may be difficult, but senior **Daniel Below** says "the more you come, the easier it is to understand."

The confusion surrounding this sport is easy to combat after going to a few meets and understanding the place of each wrestler within the match, he added.

During the match, points are earned when the opponents back is less than 90 degrees to the ground. This earns two points for every two-to-four seconds down and three points for five or more seconds down. The ref keeps track and counts this, making it one of the easier movements to recognize.

Other ways to earn points include maneuvering from the back to the feet which is called an escape and is rewarded with one point. A reverse is when the

wrestler goes from being under an opponent to moving on top of them. A reverse is rewarded with two points.

A take down, also known as a pin, is awarded two points and ends the match. Points can also be deducted when an opponent performs an illegal move which awards the other wrestler two points.

Each match is put into a category depending on how many points a wrestler has scored over their opponent, 1-7 over is called a decision, 8-14 is a major, 15 or more points over an opponent is called a tech fault and also ends the match.

Team points are calculated at the end with a pin receiving six points, a decision receives three, a major receives four and a tech fault receives five.

Each wrestler is in a weight class which is scored separate from each team using a wrestler's personal points within their matches.



Senior Austin Rainbolt demonstrates an incomplete hold because senior Daniel Below's back is over perpendicular to the mat. No points.



Senior Austin Rainbolt cradles senior Daniel Below, awarding Rainbolt two back points as he takes control of his opponent.



Senior Daniel Below attempts to escape by freeing his back from senior Austin Rainbolt, who tries in a frenzy to return Below to the mat.



Junior Semaj Danley II scores a two point shot, helping the team earn an overtime victory against the Whiteland Warriors (Photo by Fabian Contreras Rodriguez).

# Home Tonight Talented freshmen help lead varsity

By Fabian Contreras Rodriguez

With only two seniors guiding the underclassmen players through the season, coach Brent Keck described the team's expectations for the season and the future of the young players.

Keck said that he's still working on "some pieces for the puzzle" to build the team.

Players need more practice, and one of the coach's priorities is "to form a very good defensive team." Overall Keck called the team: "very young with a strong amount of athleticism, and guys who shoot really well."

With the job of coaching a team, there are a lot of responsibilities to shape up the team right before the game begins. "There is no magic speech previous to a game," Keck said.

What's most important is to have plenty of hard practice beforehand. The coach said he is not bothered when his players are nervous before a game. That's often because they care so much

about playing well.

Keck's philosophy includes wanting to teach his players to form a solid work ethic and be committed to themselves and to the team.

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**- Brent Keck**

Two freshmen, Reggie McDonald and Jayden Taylor, are "the most talent-

ed kids we got," Keck said, adding that they are "varsity ready." Junior Semaj Danley II is another top player.

And the team's seniors, Adam Taylor and Gabe Patterson, have the experience and maturity to model for the new players. Keck called Taylor a hard worker, who had a great preseason and helped the chemistry of the team in the locker room. Patterson provides consistency, dedication and is a leader on the court, Keck said. He helps young players understand the game and improve speed and shooting.

Keck describes this new group as "enjoyable to watch play and grow as a team."

The team's record is 1-3. With hopes of adding another win, the team will host the Bloomington North Cougars tonight at 7:30. With a complicated schedule, the team will face Center Grove on Dec. 19; against Greenwood on Jan. 17, and the rivalry game against Southport on Feb. 1.



