

Finding Score Mistake Is Too Late For Dick

Did he or didn't he?

Nobody knew for sure that he did until two hours later, and by then it was water over the dam or too much weight over the table.

Though Cortland High junior Dick Meldrim's 1970-71 wrestling record reads 22-1-1, he and baseball's Roger Maris of 1961 Ruthian proportions deserve asterisks.

Dick's footline can take the heading: it shouldn't have happened but it did!

A check of 119-pounder Meldrim's score in his first round state meet overtime loss to Section 6's Ed Keenan of Pioneer showed the March 12 match never should've reached the extra-period and, Meldrim, not Keenan, should've moved into the quarterfinals.

"Some people caught the mistake but I was so wrapped up in Dick's work that I never noticed if the points were being recorded," said CHS wrestling coach Gary Dillingham. The two-day state tourney at the Onondaga County War Memorial had official scorers along with personnel punching up individual scores for the contestants and observers.

As Dillingham recalls, the Meldrim-Keenan duel stood 6-4 Meldrim after the second period, but should have read 7-4. "Keenan got an escape and takedown in the period. Dick got an escape because they were both upright at the end of the period. The official signalled the one-point but it was never recorded."

Meldrim led 12-10, according to score charts, with five-seconds left in regulation when Keenan pulled an escape and picked up one-point riding time for the tie score which was really a 13-12 Meldrim win. Keenan won in overtime, 2-1, then lost in the quarters to the eventual fourth place finisher who was beaten by the 119-runnerup. Brentwood's Dave Larrache won the class.

By the time the scoring error was detected — about two hours after Meldrim had competed "he had already gone out and eaten and was overweight," his coach said.

"It's hard to speculate how far Dick could have gone. I didn't think he wrestled well against Keenan. He might have come back and made a better showing the next day," said Dillingham.