



Oceania Council of Associated Wrestling Styles (OCAWS)



2009 OSFO / ONOC ANNUAL REPORT

The following report summarizes activities in wrestling that took place in 2009.

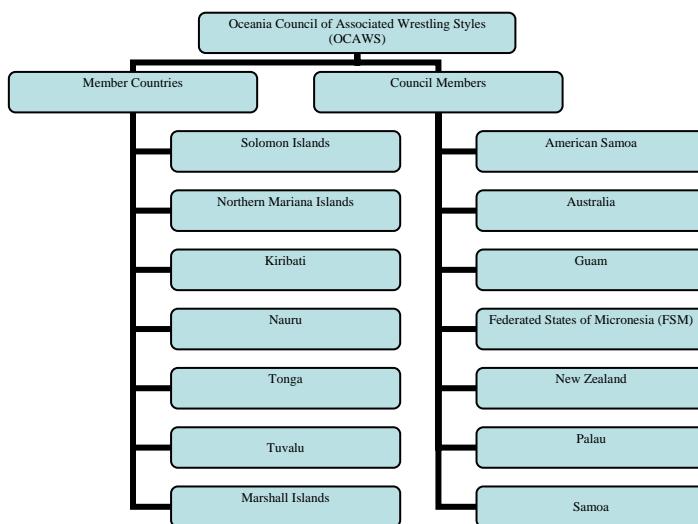
1. OCAWS

The Oceania Council of Associated Wrestling Styles, formerly known as Oceania Committee of Associated Wrestling Styles, recently changed its name as of January 01, 2009, further to FILA Bureau's decision.

2. Membership

In 2009, OCAWS President communicated with a number of pacific countries seeking membership to OCAWS and FILA. Tuvalu was admitted as a provisional member to FILA in 2009. We now have currently fourteen (14) member countries. OCAWS President visited Vanuatu and met with members of their NOC and expressed interest in developing wrestling in Vanuatu. Although their NOC expressed interest it was obvious that it would probably take some time before they could find interested persons to organize and develop the sport. Tarkong also met a number of people as well while in Vanuatu who might be able to develop wrestling. OCAWS hopes to assist Vanuatu in any way possible. Tarkong also stayed in touch with Kiribati and Tuvalu to help jump start their wrestling program.

Organizational Chart & Structure:



3. 2009 Oceania Championships (Apia, Samoa)

The 2009 Oceania Wrestling Championships was held at the Multi Sports Complex Gymnasium (Tuanaimato) in Apia, Samoa on February 27-29, 2009. The Oceania Championships was well organized and the Samoa Organizing Committee should be commended for a job well done.



In attendance this year were teams from American Samoa, Australia, FSM, Palau, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, and the host country of Samoa. The Honorable Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, welcomed all the athletes and participants before the start of the competitions. The Prime Minister in his speech demonstrated his commitment and promotion of the sport.

On February 27, 2009, the Greco-Roman competitions were the first to begin with the male cadets, juniors and seniors competing on the first day. As the wrestlers competed the crowd cheered Team Samoa and enjoyed the matches. The crowd enjoyed watching many of the young and first time wrestlers competing in the cadet and junior division. It was the first time to see the Solomon Islands Wrestlers compete in the Oceania after being inactive over the years.



On February 28, 2009, the Freestyle wrestling competitions for both male and female wrestlers continued with the crowd having fun and cheering support to their home team Samoa. The young cadet and junior wrestlers competed again and this time, the female wrestlers captured the crowds attention since this was the first time ever where Samoa had female wrestlers competing as well as Palau.



Unlike the past Oceania Championships, much focus for this year's competition was on the inclusion of the cadets and juniors and of course the female wrestlers. Samoa had 6 female wrestlers who came out to compete and wrestle hard, while New Zealand had 1 female wrestler, Australia had 2 and Palau with 1 female wrestler as well. Among the female wrestlers that competed were Kyle Bremner of Australia and Olympian who won 1st place in the 51kg weight division. Emma Charles of Australia placed 1st in the 72kg weight division to win the best female wrestler award. Elgin Elwais received the best male athlete award during the competitions.



The Beach Wrestling event was also held for both male and female wrestlers that competed in the light and heavy weight division. This was probably the most popular event that took place over the past 2 days as the crowd cheered on the athletes. Winning 1st place in the light weight division champion was Elgin Elwais(Palau); 1st place winner in the Heavy Weight division was Florian Skilang Temengil(Palau); and 1st place winner in the Female Division was Mary Opeloge(Samoa). The overall match between the light vs. Heavy led to Elwais of Palau and Temengil of Palau to compete for the Overall 1st place winner and the Cash Prize of \$100 U.S. Dollars.



The 2010 Oceania Championships was awarded to Samoa since Guam withdrew their original bid to host in 2010. The 2010 Oceania Championships will be held from April 8-10, 2010 in Apia, Samoa and this will also be the 2010 Youth Olympic Qualifications for those athletes eligible to compete in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore next year. Congratulations to Samoa once again as they stand firm to their commitment in developing and promoting wrestling in the pacific region.

4. The OCAWS General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly Meeting was held at the Multi Sports Complex Gymnasium (Tuanaimato) in Apia, Samoa on February 25, 2009 @ 10:00am. President John Tarkong Jr. read his report covering all aspects of activities by the Oceania Council in the 2008 year. Treasurer Brian Stannett read his report and presented a statement of bank account activities to the meeting. It was recommended that fees payable by nations to the Oceania Council for year 2009 are retained at \$100.00 US Dollars, and that these be paid prior to the start of competition. This recommendation was adopted by members. OCAWS received funding assistance from FILA in the amount of U.S. \$10,000 Dollars and the committee was urged to give this item priority and put in places a plan to assist nations over the next year. It was pointed out that developing nations do need assistance to form a structure and development plan to get wrestling started.

FILA Bureau Meeting

Tarkong provided an overview of the FILA Bureau Meeting he attended in Rome, Italy on January 31, 2009. Topics of discussions included the adoption of the Code of Ethics, Behavior of the Bureau members and the functioning of the FILA Bureau; nomination of the different members of the FILA departments; examination of the candidates to the continental councils; information on the 2010 Youth Olympic Games; 2010 Youth Olympics Games; 2010-2011 calendar; modification of the price of stay during the championships; discussed future plans, modification of the rules, ranking system of the best wrestlers of the year, judiciary cases and other issues.

Tarkong briefed the meeting on reports he received from ONOC and OSFO over the past year. Copies of the report were provided to everyone. Tarkong mentioned that Tuvalu Wrestling Federation might become the next member of Oceania and FILA family. A question from Samoa on the Beijing Olympic Qualification process and criteria set by

FILA. Tarkong explained the selection process and the protests that followed ended up in Arbitrary Court. Members agreed that Oceania should have the Oceania Championships as a qualifier to qualify athletes for the Olympic Games and not to have to attend the World Championships as part of FILA requirement, and that a letter be sent seeking approval to FILA asking that Oceania be given placements in all weight categories and styles (Greco, Freestyle, Freestyle Females) for the 2012 Olympic Games London and the Olympic Youth Games 2010 Singapore. At the moment Oceania has 5 spots for freestyle only for the Youth Games. We would also like to include GR over all weight classes. Immediately following the Oceania Championships, FILA agreed to include Greco Roman.

Oceania Championships - Oceania 2010 and 2011.

Samoa made a bid to host the 2010 Oceania Championships in the event Guam could not host. Guam confirmed by email to Tarkong that they would not be able to host and Samoa was eventually awarded the 2010 Oceania Championships. Nations are asked to put forward their proposals urgently to host the 2011 championships, secretary to memo all nations with this request, which will be confirmed by the committee.

John Tarkong Jr. raised the question of daily fee costs (\$130,00CHF) for accommodation and food that this could be an option in the 2010-year, and then teams would do their own arrangements.

Modification of Rules

Mr. Kim's explanation and overview of rule changes and information will be discussed at the technical clinic for officials.

2010 Micronesian Games

Palau will host the 2010 Micronesia Games, venue and date to be confirmed.

Member Nations Reports.

Those present from New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, and Palau read their reports while both Solomon Islands and Samoa reports were verbal.

Name Change.

Australia reported the acceptance of name change to now be known as "WRESTLING AUSTRALIA."

Oceania Continental changed to Council

Discussion referring to the FILA correspondence changing the wording from COMMITTEE to COUNCIL on all letter heads, reports, accounts and bank details. Moved John Tarkong Jr. / John Saul – Carried.

Elections for 7 members to Oceania Council.

John Tarkong Jr. explained the election process set out by FILA. An election was held with 7 new council members being elected. The members are John Tarkong Jr. (President); John Saul (VP); Brian Stannett (Treasurer); Clark Graham (Secretary); Jerry

Wallwork (Council Member); Ethan Lake (Council Member); and Maria Dunn (Council Member).

FILA Technical Assistance – Subvention, Mat, Coaching Assistance

FILA provided \$10,000 subvention to assist with activities in during 2009 and another \$10,000 was provided to OCAWS for activities in 2010. OCAWS is grateful to FILA for such assistance. In addition, FILA agreed to allow members during the upcoming 2010 Oceania Championships a choice to either pay the 130 CHF or to find cheaper accommodations/meals. FILA agreed to including the Greco Roman as part of the qualification for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. OCAWS would like to thank FILA for such assistance. FILA also agreed to provide wrestling mats and coaching assistance to Kiribati, Solomons, American Samoa and Tuvalu. Palau and Solomons received assistance from FILA and their NOC's for a Coach (Palau) and Wrestling Sports Development Officer for Solomon Islands.

5. Referees Clinic

The referees clinic was held on February 25, 2009 prior to the start of the Oceania Championships with referees from Australia, Palau, American Samoa, Solomon Island, New Zealand, Samoa and Korea attending the clinic. The session was conducted by FILA Instructor Mr. Kim, Ik Jong.



6. OSFO / ONOC Meeting (Queenstown, NZ)

Tarkong attended the 2009 Olympic Sports Federation of Oceania (OSFO) General Assembly and Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) meeting held in Queenstown, New Zealand from March 30, 2009 till April 01, 2009.

Attending the ONOC meeting was the IOC President Jacques Rogge.



Steve Smith, OSFO Chairman, reflected on the past five years and the growth and development OSFO as an organisation and the accomplishments in the areas of membership growth and communication. He explained some of the reasons for establishing OSFO five years ago. One of the main reasons was to provide Oceania Sports with a collective and consolidated platform to voice their opinions and have input into the direction of sports development in the Oceania region. Steve believes ONOC and OSFO need to work more closely with the Pacific Games Council with enhancing the Games through sports participation. There were discussions by the OSFO regarding the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific Games and the use of the IF eligibility rules being accepted by the PG Council. There were a number of presentations and reports provided to the participants to include the Olympic Solidarity Funding Program 2009 – 2012, ONOC Development Programs, ASC Regional Initiatives, OSEP Training Programs, Youth Games in Singapore and the bid for the next 2012 Olympic Games.



Along with other sports, Tarkong attended the workshop that was held for OSFO and NOC participants. Tarkong set up a display table for wrestling in order to promote and educate our sport to some of the NOC members. Wrestling videos were shown to the participants and other information. Once again, this was a very good way to interact and get to know many of the NOC members and provide as much information on our sport to them. My participation would not be possible without the assistance from FILA. The workshops and meetings were truly beneficial and I hope that many of the programs and funding will be available to our members.



7. 2009 World Championships, Denmark

The Senior World Championships was held in Herning, Denmark. Only Australia and New Zealand were able to send wrestlers to compete in the Championships. Unfortunately, none of the other countries were able to attend or send wrestlers.

Representing Australia was Kyla Bremner who competed in the 51kg freestyle weight class. Kyla wrestled Alexandra Engelhardt of Germany but lost the match during the 1st period of the match. Kyla eventually ranked 25 out of 27 wrestlers.

Stephen Mathew Hill represented New Zealand in the Freestyle 84kg weight class. Hill wrestled Javier Ramos and did very well against Ramos scoring 4 points to 1 thus winning the second period but it was Ramos who came out on top after winning both 1st and 3rd periods of the match.. Hill ranked 20 out of 37 wrestlers.

8. Country Reports

American Samoa Wrestling Association

Executive Members:

President: Ethan Lake

V. President: Mapu Jamais

Secretary: Irene Kane

Treasurer: Valentine Gracia



The American Samoa Wrestling Association (ASWA) has had a very eventfully year in 2009. Faced with challenges the association has become stronger and has built up the program during the past year.



In February 2009 the association took a team of nine young wrestlers to Apia, Samoa for the Oceania Championships. The association took four cadets (14-16yrs) and five juniors (17-19yrs) to compete. We brought back a total of 22 medals (6 x

Gold, 9 x silver, 7 x Bronze). We were commended by the organizers for our wrestlers and their talent.

Finally after many years without a standard wrestling mat, ASWA received a mat donation from wrestling's world body organization, FILA. This wrestling mat was received in July 2009 after a lot of help from a lot of people to ensure we got this mat. ASWA's tournament sized mat is now housed at the Kanan Fou Gym. We owe a huge debt to FILA for donating the mat. It will surely be the foundation of the future of wrestling here in American Samoa.



The new wrestling mat has signified the growth that the association has experienced with the association now having two wrestling clubs competing locally.

In September 2009 the association hosted our annual National Championships. Normally held in April, the tournament was postponed several times. Since many of the associations went to the Pacific Mini Games and wrestling once again was not included, we decided to host our championships during this time at Kanana Fou High School.

With the tragedy of September 29th, wrestling took a break from training but is now on track once again. Currently, the association is training for the 2010 Oceania Championships to be held again in Apia, Samoa in April. The Oceania Championships are also qualifiers for the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

ASWA is currently working together with the American Samoa Department of Education to try and establish a wrestling season into the school's athletic program for the next school year 2010-2011.

ASWA looks forward to the New Year and working closer with ASNOC

Ethan Lake
ASWA, President
Cell: (684) 733-9099
Email: ethan_lake@yahoo.com

Wrestling Australia

I thank you all for this opportunity to present my 4th Presidents Report. This year has been a successful one on a number of fronts. With the new name of Wrestling Australia Inc for the federation we were determined to show that we are ready for the Future.



The year commenced in a big way with the 2008 Beijing Olympics, this is Wrestling's opportunity to take centre stage amongst the world's elite in sport. During the year,

Richard Weiss was appointed by the Board to the position of High Performance Manager, this role would be one of the most difficult in Australian sport, with huge expectations from the community to promote athletes to achieve success in the international arena, with a mere shoestring budget. Richard has developed a High Performance Programme that has won the respect of our external stakeholders, he has documented selection criteria and established a training database to help monitor athletes preparation and performance. Richard has devoted many hours of hard work to the sport we all love and doing all this as a volunteer with no remuneration. I thank Richard for his efforts and commitment.

Australia sent 2 senior female athletes and 4 male cadet athletes to the 2009 Oceania in Samoa and dominated the competition in their categories, returning with 10 Gold medals and 2 silver - an excellent result from our 6 athletes. Congratulations go to the Team Coach Don Brown who guided the team throughout the tournament. The FILA Oceania Council Congress held during the event also confirmed appointment of the Wrestling Australia President Mr John Saul as Vice President Oceania for a further 4 years.

The 2008 Australia Cup and 2008 National Championships were of high importance as they became the events for athletes to be recognized for the High Performance Programme.

The High Performance athletes have undertaken an extensive programme of international competitions this year with some success.

Australian athletes returned with 3 Bronze Medals in the Ibrahim Mustafa Tournament in Luxor Egypt, and the Cadets and Juniors returned with one silver and two bronze from the Raphael Martinetti Cup in Martigny Switzerland. The senior athletes also competed with success in Canada Cup



A team of four Junior Wrestlers were also selected from the Australia Cup and National Championships to compete at the Junior World Championships in Turkey in August, and performed creditably all scoring points in their matches.

The Senior Wrestlers finished the year on a high note with 4 Bronze medals at the Commonwealth Championships in Jalandar India in the test event for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The Australian Sports Commission, The Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Commonwealth Games Association, have continued to provide their financial support. The support of these organizations is critical to the growth and development of Wrestling, and is indicative of the hard work of the Executive Committee and the High Performance Committee.

The WAI relationship with FILA is also strong, and FILA has appointed Larry Papadopoulos to the FILA Grappling Technical Committee.

Keeping the federation moving forward has only been possible through the Executive Committee and its hard work throughout the year, that has included monthly teleconferences, several face to face meetings and almost daily phone and email contact, and I thank them for their tireless effort which continues to be provided by each of them at no cost to WAI. We owe our gratitude for this constant hard work by the Secretary Jack Thiessens and Treasurer Martin Schumacher, Vice President Larry Papadopoulos and Director Rhea Duff..

Our secretary Jack Thiessens has decided to retire from the executive after his term of 2 years, and was replaced by Rhea Duff from Western Australia.

I thank the Australian Wrestling Community for their support during the year, the coaches and administrators who volunteer many hours of their time to continue our sport, and most of all the athletes who are working hard to improve their abilities and grow the recognition of the sport.

Thank you

John Saul
President.

Guam Amateur Wrestling Federation (GAWF)

Overview

While the popularity of wrestling at the schoolboy and high school level continued to increase during 2009, the ability for the federation to participate in international competition was limited to activities hosted on Guam that attracted some international competitors. Other travel was not undertaken due to several mitigating factors, primarily financial.



Events Hosted

The GAWF hosted its annual Best in the West tournament in February that drew competitors from Guam and Japan. A team of college age wrestlers attended from Kokushikan University in Japan and provided great competition for Guam's developing athletes. Prior to the tournament a free developmental clinic was hosted by Melchor Manibusan at Spike 22 gym in Tumon and was overseen by both the GAWF and members of the Japan Wrestling Federation. Masters World Silver Medalist at 96kg Mr. Yugawa also entered the tournament and was the Outstanding Wrestler.

There were many excellent matches and the event got both television and newspaper coverage.

School Age Development

For the third year in a row, a new school entered a team in the IIAAG high school wrestling league, bringing the total number of teams to nine. Also, for the first year ever, women wrestled in a division completely separate from the men. This created many more opportunities for women's development and the numbers increased dramatically. While the skill level as a whole still needs to grow, it was very encouraging to see the number of participants grow. The final tournament to decide individual league champions lasted an entire day, ran on two mats and saw almost 200 matches. It was by far the biggest high school level tournament held to date on Guam. While this all bodes well for the future of the sport on Guam, there are several items which must be addressed to truly allow these developments to translate into sustained growth for the island.

Challenges

While the number of young participants in the sport has increased, the economic troubles felt globally last year caused considerable difficulty in terms of maintaining, much less growing, the considerable financial resources needed to travel athletes to international competitions. While there are signs of this situation improving, this was by far the largest challenge faced by the federation in 2009.



New Zealand Olympic Wrestling Union Inc

The 2009 wrestling season commenced in early March with schools championships in and around the Auckland area. Age groups contested were novice and intermediate concluding with the Auckland Schools Championships held at the Dilworth School gymnasium, 15 schools entered all the above competitions, this was an increase over previous years numbers.



In late April the New Zealand Schools Championships were held in the Bay of Plenty town of Katikati, 28 schools from North and South Islands entered on the day, from the results of these championships a squad was named to represent New Zealand at the Downunder International Games Wrestling Competition in Brisbane Australia , teams from USA, Australia and New Zealand made up the groups to contest in Beach Wrestling, Individual competition and Dual Team tournament.



Result and placing of teams:

Individual . N.Z 4 Gold – 2 Silver – 5 Bronze.

Dual Meet. N.Z placed 3rd first time in the 12 year history of the Downunder Competition.

N.Z wrestler voted the best male wrestler at tournament.

All this from 14 athletes.

National Training Camp 10-13th April 2009.

This camp was arranged through the N.ZOC Association's Solidarity movement, held in the south island attended by expert coach Mr. Greg Strobel – Olympic Coach USA, a total of 19 athletes and coaches attended the course, agenda included Drug Free Sport NZ over view and discussion, wrestling technique, fitness preparation, rules and nutrition. All who attended this clinic gained valuable information from all subjects both on and off the mat. We thank the NZ Olympic Association for this opportunity.

Oceania Championships Samoa .

NZ attended these championships with one of the largest teams to compete at the Oceania Championships in recent years. Contesting Cadet, Junior and Senior, also having three paimasters attend along with one official referee.



Grappling.

For the first time at the 2009 WNZ National Championships, grappling style competition was held over the two competition days in both male and female categories. It is quite apparent that the development of this style will in the future boost the numbers competing and could warrant a stand alone championship.

Commonwealth Championships India 17-20th December 2009.

From the outset this was going to be a very tough competition for our athletes to gain the placing of 6th in the weight to be considered for nomination to the NZO Association selection process for Commonwealth Games 2010. Each country was allowed to enter 2 athletes per weight in both Greco- Roman and Freestyle. There were 11 countries in attendance.

Canada – Australia – India – Pakistan – Scotland – South Africa – Cameroon – England - New Zealand – Singapore – Ireland .

New Zealand finished with the following.

Greco –Roman One athlete 3rd place. And one athlete 6th place.

Freestyle Male Four athlete 5th place.

Freestyle Female One athlete 5th place.

As a build up to these championships athletes had pre competition training in Canada and Japan.

General.

Official and referees we are very fortunate to have such dedicated people who give of their time to our sport , and we are looking at ways to strengthen our numbers in both areas. Development of our club numbers has been increasing over this past year with the influx of athletes from other nations coming to New Zealand and taking up residence, this

will in the long term benefit all. We look forward to a very busy season of good wrestling on both the local and International program .

Kind Regards.

Brian Stannett.
NZOWU Inc.

Kiribati Wrestling Federation

Timau Tiira and Bweree Eritaia are the executive members of the Kiribati Wrestling Federation. There has been much correspondence over the past year with OCAWS President Tarkong to seek ways of assistance and development of wrestling in Kirbaiti. As a result, Kiribati had its two weeks training with Akiashi from Japan in November and just received a mat.

Timau Tira

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

USA Coach Jacob Clark in the FSM

The highlight of 2009 was the training from July 28 – December 17, 2009 conducted by USA wrestling Coach Jacob Clark. Coach Clark visited all four of the FSM States: first Yap, then Pohnpei, Kosrae and finally Chuuk. Clark conducted training for cadets and juniors as well as adults. Having an experienced coach with high-level competition experience made it one of the most productive wrestling programs ever conducted.

Wrestling Mats

Two wrestling mats have been ordered for the FSM. One mat is being paid for by the FSM as part of a grant and bound for Kosrae State, while the second mat paid for by FILA will go to Yap State. The FSM wishes to thank FILA for its continue financial assistance, without which we would not have the mats necessary for safe and proper training.

Yap (Wa'ab) State, FSM

In June 2009, Yap wrestler Riley Hasugulmal was picked as the Youth Olympic participant; Training began with Riley and a few other interested individuals on basic skill development; Youth Summit- Wa'ab Wrestling Association (WWA) did an hour wrestling demonstration to promote wrestling and create increased public awareness of the sport.



In July 2009, Training continued with general preparation, especially before Jacob Clark arrived.

From August 2009- September 2009, Skill Development sessions with Jacob Clark- Basic technique; Island Chat interview on local island radio station with Jacob Clark and Larry Uwelur, President, FSM Wrestling Federation, to create public awareness of wrestling and wrestling activities; and wrestling competition at the end of Jacob's visit.

In October 2009, training continued with more athletes; Canoe Festival - One of the highlights of the canoe festival was a Wrestling Demonstration held on the closing day. As a result of this demonstration, two additional wrestling club were formed.



From November - December 2009, Preparation for the selection of potential Micronesian Game state team continues; two days competition in both styles; and first selection criteria for our Micro Game state team. Potential athletes identified.

The Wa'ab Wrestling Association's public awareness program has been very effective in attracting more athletes.

Chuuk State, FSM

From July – August 2009, Village Wrestling Program: This program introduced basic wrestling techniques to kids and youth. The highlight of this program was a multi-village competition, held in Penia Village, Weno Island. The competition took place outdoors over several days. A training mat was used and beach wrestling rules were followed. There was great interest on the part of the spectators.



From August – November 2009, conditioning program and basic wrestling techniques.

November 10 – December 17, 2009, USA Coach Jacob Clark conducted training for children and adults, both male and female. Several days of training were held in the field to create interest in wrestling. Elementary school children were introduced to wrestling, which created increased awareness and interest in the sport.

Training/Practices-two sessions were held five days a week for adults and one session for kids.



On December 12, 2009, the Chuuk Wrestling Tournament saw a full day of wrestling. There were exhibition matches for children 4-8 years of age, and complete competitions for 10/Under, 11 and 12 year olds. Four girls were present. Medals were awarded. The children's competition was followed by junior and open wrestling.

December 23, 2009

A meeting was held with the Interscholastic Sports Council (ISC) to see if high schools were interested in having wrestling as part of the ISC sports program.

Respectfully,
Clark Graham
graham@fila-wrestling.com

Belau Wrestling Federation (BWF) - Palau

Looking back in 2009 really makes me feel grateful for all the accomplishments that took place considering the number of obstacles and challenges that we faced. I think our wrestling program really made progress over the past year especially in a number of areas.



Practices were held at the Palau National Gym everyday Monday thru Friday with running / cross training workouts on Saturdays. We had a lot of new and young wrestlers over the past year that came out of our school programs. We had about 10-12 wrestlers in our program. We also had wrestlers from the FSM and 1 from Nauru training with our team.



Coaching – During the beginning of the year, we were fortunate to continue receiving coaching assistance from Mr. Young Ho, Ko of Korea. During the early part of the year, we had practices twice a day that included running and cross training workouts in the morning and mat training in the afternoons. Coach Ko comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge that really benefited our program.

Coach Ko assisted our wrestling team by preparing the athletes for the upcoming Oceania Championships. Although we were unable to host a Coaching Clinic in 2009, Coach Ko spent much of his time coaching our athletes and working with John Tarkong Jr. to assist him in coaching and developing Palau's overall programs.

School Program – As in the past, we were able to include wrestling as part of the schools PE Program. A lesson plan was provided to the PE Teachers and Coach Ko commenced practice twice a week at Mindszenty High School. There were

approximately 10 students in the class. Although we were not able to conduct practices at Palau High School and Emmaus this year, our plan is to continue to work with their PE Teachers and include our program in all the schools in 2010.

Belau Games

The 2009 Belau Games was held from July 17-29, 2009. The Belau Games included Greco Roman on Day 01 (July 17th), Freestyle on Day 02 (July 18th) and Beach Wrestling on Day 03 (July 19th). For the first time ever wrestling included the Schoolboys, Cadets, Junior, and Senior Division for the male wrestlers. Unfortunately, there were not enough entries for women.



The Belau Wrestling Federation (BWF) followed FILA rules and regulations and the tournament was controlled and officiated by BWF. On July 16, 2009, a coaching and referees clinic was held at 9:00am – 12:00pm. A technical meeting with coaches and team leaders were held with the list of final entries being submitted to the organizing committee.

Among the states that competed this year were Koror, Peleliu, Ngaraard, Ngermlengui, Sonsorol, Ngchesar, Ngardmau and Ngarchelong State. There were a lot of exciting matches during the 3 days of competitions. BWF would like to thank all the teams, athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, families and many of the fans for their support and contributions during the success of these games.



ISL Beach Wrestling – The ISL Beach Wrestling competition was held on December 18, 2009 at Long Island. In the light weight Division, Bow Umedib from PHS won 1st place by defeating Samner Johnny also of PHS in the light weight division.



In the heavy weight division, Radley Umang from Mindszenty won 1st place after defeating Harson Mechol from PHS. Harson fought well but it was Radley who took Harson to the ground with a tackle. Radley was one of the 2009 Oceania's Gold Medalist.



In the final match, we had the Overall Winners which is the #1 Ranked Light Weight Division Winner Bow Umedib versus the #1 Ranked Heavy Weight Winner Radley Umang. The Overall Winner was Radley Umang who won with a double leg tackle after taking Bow to the ground. Radley became the overall champion and won a free ice cream.

2009 Oceania Championships

Palau's wrestling team competed in the Oceania Championships held in Apia, Samoa. The team consisted of six athletes that included the following:

1. Elgin Elwais
2. Franson Gibbons
3. Jarvis Blesam Tarkong
4. Samantha Rechelluul
5. Radley Umang
6. Florian Skilang Temengil
7. John Tarkong Jr. (Team Leader)



Elgin Elwais and Florian Skilang Temengil led the team by winning Gold Medals in Freestyle, Greco-Roman and also 1st place in the light and 1st place heavy weight categories.

Palau's team also featured our very first female wrestler, Samantha Rechelluul, competing in the Championships and also our youngest cadet, Blesam Tarkong, who competed in the Cadet and Junior Division. Both wrestlers won gold medals at the Championships.

While en route to Samoa we were able to spend 2 days training with the wrestling team from American Samoa. I want to thank PNOC, FILA and our main sponsor WCTC and other sponsors for their donation in helping our team to attend the Oceania Championships this year. It really meant a lot to our athletes who represented Palau with pride.



Referee - During the Oceania Championships, John Tarkong Jr. took part in the international referees course and was re-certified as an International Referee. Having an international referee is a real benefit to our wrestling program especially with new rules and local competitions taking place year round. We hope to have more referee's / officials in the future.



Elite Athletes – Elgin Elwais / Florian Temengil

Elgin Elwais received the Samsung Oceania Athlete Development Program Scholarship from the Oceania Foundation. The scholarship allowed Elgin to receive some funding assistance with his training at Lassen College, USA and compete in the Oceania Championships.



Through the assistance of Palau's National Olympic Committee, Elgin Elwais was able to transfer from Lassen College, California, USA where he was enrolled in College and wrestling over the past year to Northern Michigan University (NMU) where the U.S. Olympic Education Training Center (USOETC) is located.

Elgin Elwais arrived at the USOETC on September 13, 2009 and began his training with the U.S. Greco Roman Team. Although Elgin was not able to be accepted into NMU because he lacked a High School Diploma, he was allowed to remain and train with the U.S. Greco Roman Team while taking GED courses in order to be enrolled at NMU in the future. Since his arrival, Elgin has been focusing all his efforts on his training and spending much time working on his technique and sparring with about 5 to 6 other wrestlers within his weight class and sometimes heavier wrestlers. At the same time, Elgin has been taking GED courses. As of November 25, 2009, Greco Roman Head Coach Dennis Hall reported to BWF that Elgin is working hard in practice and his development is progressing. Elgin has been able to train with some of the top USA Olympic wrestlers to include 2008 Olympian Spenser Mango who also wrestles at the 55-66kg weight class.

Another Olympian, Florian Skilang Temengil, is also wrestling at Newman University in Kansas, USA and has been training with other teams around the country.

Visiting Coach - Palau's Wrestling Team would like to thank Mr. Hyung Lae In, Greco Roman High School Coach from Kocheok High School in Korea and his beautiful wife Nalae Lee who is also a former Olympian who represented South Korea in the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece for spending their time during their Honeymoon to train and assist Palau's Wrestling Team. The couple arrived in November and Mr. Lae taught techniques and drills to our athletes. Mr. Lae mentioned that he hopes Palau's team can train hard so that one day they can become professionals in the future.



2009 Sports Banquet

In 2009, we had the PNOC Sports Banquet where we recognized our Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers and Sponsors. Elgin Elwais was recognized as our Male Athlete of the Year; Samantha Rechelluul-Female Athlete; Coach-Young Ho, Ko; Volunteer-John Tarkong Jr. and our Corporate Sponsors-WCTC; Sponsors-PIDC; and HANPA.



I would like to thank PNOC, FILA, and ONOC for their strong support over the past year. I would also like to recognize our coach, sponsors, volunteers and, most of all, our athletes and their families for their strong support, contribution and dedication to our program.

Submitted by

John Tarkong Jr.
Secretary General, BWF

Nauru

Although Nauru has been inactive and has never competed in any wrestling tournaments, Nauru has 1 wrestler currently training in Palau. The athlete's name is Junior Brechtefeld and he has been training in Palau since mid 2009. Junior hopes to excel in wrestling both as an athlete and coach. With the permission from Nauru's NOC, Junior is registered to compete in the upcoming 2010 Micronesian Games. Junior hopes that he can also compete in the 2010 Oceania Championships as part of his preparations.



Samoa

Samoa hosted the 2009 Oceania Championships. The championships were organized with the support from the national government. Samoa had a number of female and cadets that competed in the Championships thus winning numerous medals. Samoa bid for the 2010 Oceania Championships and won the bid to host it again.



Solomon Islands

In 2009, Mr. Katea Ueresi continued his work as the Sport Development Officer for wrestling in the Solomon Islands.

Katea was able to train and prepare wrestlers for the 2009 Oceania Championships held in Apia, Samoa. 3 wrestlers competed in the Championships and won gold medals at the games.



As the SDO, Katea worked out of their NOC office and was able to conduct daily trainings. A 2 week solidarity training and competition camp was held in 2009. A total of 78 wrestlers took part from 3 different islands and attracted a very big crowd on the 2 days of competitions. The age range was from 9 up to 21.

As an SDO, Katea plans to prepare wrestlers to the regional and international games, establishing of wrestling clubs in the provinces. organizing of schools development programs, liaise with OCAWS & FILA regarding the wrestling progress and updates, organizing of national championships, and organizing of training camps.

Katea Ueresi
Sports Development Officer



Tuvalu Wrestling Federation (TWF)

On February 27, 2009, Mr. Nakibae Kitiseni, President of TWF, requested membership into FILA with the endorsement from Tuvalu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (TASNOC). FILA approved their request as provisional members.

Congratulations to Tuvalu as our newest member to FILA and OCAWS. Listed below are the new members of TWF.



Nakibae Kitiseni, President
Ampex M. Tehulu, Vice President
Kaua Solomona, Treasurer:
Nemaia Paulo, Secretary

Teake reported that Tuvalu Wrestling received a coach for 1 week and is expected to receive a wrestling mat from FILA. There is a need to have a coach for longer period to train athlete and local coach.

Teake Esene

8. Conclusion

These are the activities taken during 2009. I would like to thank FILA, ONOC, OSFO, NOC's, and most of all, our members for their continued support.

John Tarkong Jr.
President, OCAWS