

This is an excerpt from an opinion piece in the Portland Insight newspaper regarding wrestling. The article was regarding the closing of the Oregon University wrestling program at the end of the 07-08 season. The author's way of describing wrestling and kids who wrestle is one of the best I have ever read.

Coach Singles

"In many small towns, wrestling season is the only season on the calendar. As wrestling goes, so goes the town. Burns wouldn't be complete without a wrestling parade. Through wrestling, kids from small-town schools gain a certain inner quality they carry the rest of their lives.

With the home gym packed for a duel [meet], friends of wrestlers see firsthand one of their own mix it up on the mat. No helmets or gloves or cleats. They see a guy in shoes and a singlet go head-to-head with someone just like them.

At the end, win or lose, the friends see their buddy walk over and put his warm-ups back on. After a loss they see him standing alone. It's this guy they remember when they have to take a stand.

A wrestler is more akin to regular students, someone they can relate to. He's in the science lab, playing trombone in band, doing the extras. He runs an extra mile, works an extra hour. That he asks so much of himself encourages his friends to do the same."