

WINNERS NEVER QUIT!!

Sometime you'll be behind in a match and you'll hear two voices. One, a very loud voice, says you've lost and why bother to fight on. The feel of the expected loss eats at your stomach. You want to just go through the motions and accept the defeat.

But, there is another voice, sometimes very faint. **LEARN** to listen to it! It says that no matter how far behind you are, no matter how little time is left, **YOU CAN STILL WIN!!**

Below are a few instances where the wrestler refused to accept defeat and instead got tough and fought on to stage a come-from-behind victory:

<u>Wrestler</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Losing</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Result</u>
Charlie Perez	1971 County Finals	0-5	8-5	Charlie wins the title and Madison wins its first County Championship.
Neal Conahan	1974 Region Quarterfinals	0-13	F5:22	Neal goes on to place third.
Mike Jacoutot	1975 State Quarterfinals	2-6	7-6	First Madison sophomore to place in the States.
Joe Dougherty	1975 State Finals	3-6	8-6	Madison's First State Champion!
Ken Popek	1976 Dual Meet	5-11	F5:35	Madison's first victory over Cedar Ridge.
Ray Bellaran	1976 Region Quarterfinals	0-2 with 12 sec. left	5-2	Ray goes on to become Region Champion.
Kevin Smith	1976 State First Round	0-4	OT15-8	Kevin defeats his next two opponents and makes it to the State Finals.

February 4, 1976

Madison Wrestlers Topple Cedar Ridge

Someone forgot to tell MTHS's 188-pounder, Ken Popek, he wasn't supposed to win over heavily-favored Pete Rushing. In stunning fashion, Popek overcame an 11-5 lead Rushing had built up, and pinned the Cougar

with just 25 seconds left. It upped the Spartan's lead to 32-18. The final score was 32-24.

Popek's upset pin had the Madison fans going crazy. "I think Ken's victory proved a valuable lesson that

is very true about wrestling," DeMarco exclaimed. "You are never beaten until the final second has clicked away. Ken was getting beat pretty good, but hung in there and turned it around."