

For Immediate Release

WPIAL versus West Virginia All-Stars in the 35th Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic

Pittsburgh, PA – December 18, 2008, – The Dapper Dan Charities will sponsor The 35th Annual Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic, the most prestigious high school all-star wrestling meet in the United States, on **Sunday, March 15, 2009**, in the University of Pittsburgh Fitzgerald Field House.

The preliminary dual meet, showcasing the Western Pennsylvania or WPIAL All-Stars against West Virginia All-Stars begins at 2:00 P.M. The feature match, between the Pennsylvania and USA All-Stars follows at 4:00 P.M.

The West Virginia All-Star Team is returning to the Classic for the second time in 30 years. WV competed in Classic IV in 1978 scoring 12 team points from 4 decisions in the 12 bouts. The Northern panhandle part of the state was represented when the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC), northern West Virginia through Southeastern Ohio, competed in 2002.

Roy Michael, a retired, hall-of-fame coach from North Marion, WV, has attended the Wrestling Classic for the past three decades as a coach and fan, and enjoyed the Wrestling Classic experience when his son Jay Michael competed on the USA All-Star Team in 1991, said *“West Virginia is excited to be invited back to Pittsburgh for the Wrestling Classic. It is a highlight of any kid’s high school career to compete against Pennsylvania’s best. The Wrestling Classic committee makes it a great experience for the kids and the coaches”*.

Larry Shaw, the 2008 USA Wrestling High School Coach of the Year, is no stranger to the Wrestling Classic either. *Shaw, one of the all-star team coaches, has had a stellar coaching career at Oak Glen High School, and coached the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC) team in 2002. “West Virginia has a very strong senior class this year. Our kids will be self motivated to battle the WPIAL All-Stars and represent West Virginia”* said a confident Shaw.

Chuck Satterfield, East Fairmont Wrestling Club Coach, spearheaded the West Virginia representation and will see one of his goals come to fruition. *“I’ve been attending the Wrestling Classic for so long, always bringing kids from our area to see the highest level of high school wrestling. I’ve always encouraging the kids to work hard to be the best they can be and to have a personal goal to wrestle in The Classic.”* said Satterfield.

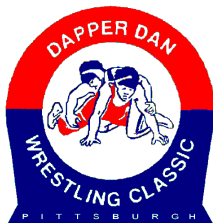
Proceeds from the Wrestling Classic benefit a youth wrestling program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania through the Dapper Dan Youth Sports Leagues.

Tickets can be purchased at Wright Automotive Group on Route 19, Canon McMillan High School, or by calling the Dapper Dan Charities at 412-263-3850. For more information about the Wrestling Classic or to order tickets, visit www.wrestlingclassic.com.

Contacts:

Kraig Nellis
Phone: 412-213-0688
Email: kraignellis@aol.com

Frank Vulcano, Jr.
Phone: 412-896-2345
Email: vulcanojr@hotmail.com



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About Dapper Dan Charities

Our mission is to raise the spirit and fortune of Western Pennsylvania by celebrating athletic tradition and accomplishment, and by supporting athletic opportunities for under-served youth. We pursue this mission by: Creating and maintaining a forum to acknowledge this region's athletic achievements – scholastic, amateur and professional. Sponsoring programs that offer opportunities for athletic participation and personal growth to under-served youth. Funding educational opportunities for students who display high levels of scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship. Developing the necessary resources.