



The Creative Competition Bracket

By Greg DeMarco

The CCB (Creative Competition Bracket) is a modified, double elimination bracket in which the winners of the first round advance to the right of the bracket and the losers move to the left. When a wrestler loses two matches, he is eliminated from the tournament. The 8-man bracket illustrated in Figure 1 ensures that all wrestlers compete in a minimum of two matches and a maximum of three.

If the tournament is seeded, first place through sixth are determined as in Figure 1. However, the full value of the CCB is realized when you DON'T seed! Seeding is difficult, time-consuming and the source of many arguments. One might protest, "If you don't seed, the two best kids can meet in the first round!" This problem is eliminated, however, if you use the bracket shown in Figure 2 and adjust the awards. In this case there are no second through sixth places! There is only one champion (the undefeated wrestler with a 3-0 record) and three runners-up (all wrestlers who have a 2-1 record). The champion receives a trophy and each of the three runners-up receive the same silver medal. So, if the two best wrestlers meet in the first round, it makes no difference since the loser moves to the left and eventually ends up with a 2-1 record. He is declared a runner-up and receives one of the three silver medals awarded in the bracket. An additional advantage of not seeding is that one doesn't have to wait for the finals to see some great match-ups as they can occur in any round.

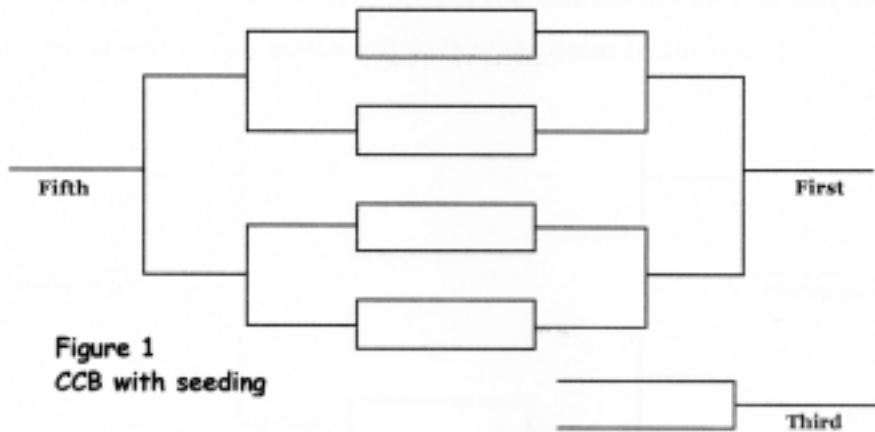


Figure 1
CCB with seeding

A 16-man bracket can also be created using the same approach. In this case, the champion (4-0 record) receives the trophy and the four runners-up (wrestlers who are 3-1) each receive a silver medal. Wrestlers in this bracket compete in a minimum of two bouts and a maximum of four.

Over the past two decades we have used the CCB with no seeding in various tournaments throughout New Jersey. While a bit unfamiliar at first, wrestlers and fans quickly come to appreciate its many advantages. Try it, you'll like it. And keep on wrestling!

Greg DeMarco recently retired after 34 years of teaching, coaching and directing wrestling camps and tournaments in Old Bridge, New Jersey. He subsequently moved to Chocowinity, NC. If you have any questions he can be contacted at egorduh@aol.com.

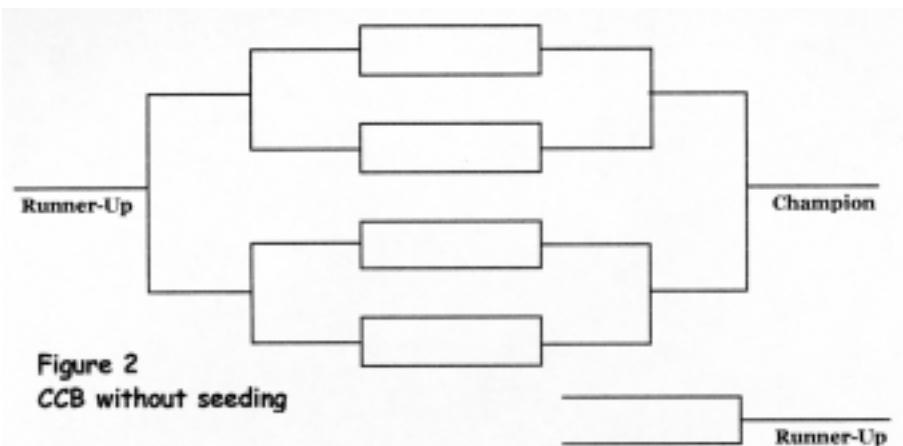


Figure 2
CCB without seeding

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