



2003 Co-Coaches-of-the-Year

Victor Balmececa

South Dade High School
Homestead, Florida

Before 1993 Homestead, Florida, was best known nationally as the small rural town outside of Miami that was devastated by Hurricane Andrew. Then, in 1996, Assistant Coach **VICTOR BALMECECA** was named *Wrestling USA Magazine* Assistant Coach-of-the-Year for leading the Buccaneers to the state title to culminate a season during which Head Coach Mike McCoy battled terminal stomach cancer.

No longer do those events define the wrestling program in Homestead. South Dade High School is now recognized nationally as a wrestling powerhouse, thanks to the work of Coach Balmececa. South Dade, which has never won a state title in any other sport, has captured seven of the last nine 3A State Championships, including



the 2003 title. Under Balmececa's leadership the Buccaneers have produced 23 state individual champions.

And just like Rohrer, Balmececa has left in his wake the enhanced lives of the young men who wrestle for him. One, former wrestler Daniel Anguiano, says of Victor, "Most of us come from poor migrant families, sons of field or factory workers who would never have dreamed of receiving a college education. However, Coach B made us dream big and gave us the tools and capabilities to make our dreams reality. His most precious accomplishment is his ability to change young people's lives." Case in point...all five seniors on the 2003 South Dade squad are on their way to college.

Victor was nominated by Daniel Anguiano, Jr. and Stuart Mahler.



Runner-up

Dennis Walch

Westbrook, ME, HS
2nd State 2002 & 2003
346 Dual Wins

Nominated by
Bob McPhee