



2003 Assistant Coach-of-the-Year

Bill Hightower

Bremen High School
Bremen, Georgia

Editor's Note: All head coaches know the value of a good assistant. One key thing that a head coach must do is find a complimentary assistant and allow him to "do his thing". A knowledgeable and dedicated assistant coach can make the difference between an average team and a championship team. An assistant can be a friend and a mentor to the head coach as well as the wrestlers. In many cases he is the organizational backbone of the program. - Cal

In 1998 Irwin County High School wrestling coach Tony Armas was approached about making a move. Armas was not anxious about leaving Irwin County since his teams had finished first or second in state the previous three years.

The approach, however, came from someone he respected. Tony was asked to interview for the Bremen High School position by an alumnus of the school, Bill Hightower. The two men had origi-



nally met when they wrestled each other in the Georgia state tournament. Hightower won the state title that year.

Out of respect Coach Armas inter-

viewed for the job. Armas was concerned because there were no wrestling facilities. Hightower, who operates an ambulance service and family funeral home in Bremen, convinced him to not worry about that. Bill also agreed to serve as assistant coach if Tony took the job.

Hightower was good to his word. In less than six months he raised over \$200,000. The result was a 125' by 75' wrestling complex which houses three full size mats, a fitness and weight area, locker rooms, showers and an office.

That same summer Hightower raised the money necessary to send ten wrestlers to the Iowa Hawkeye Wrestling Camp. Each year since that time Bill has raised \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year to send wrestlers to camps, travel to out of state tournaments, and purchase equipment. Bill's hard work and dedication to the Bremen program has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of wrestlers. He is a former state champion, a hometown hero who is respected by the wrestlers and community alike.

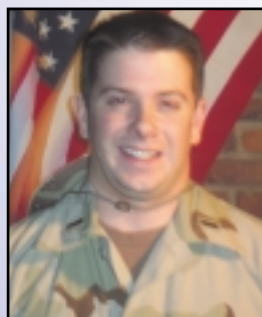
Bremen Head Coach, Tony Armas, who nominated Hightower, says, "Bill has proven to be not only an effective coach and a valuable assistant, but also a true friend. There is not one who can compare to the contribution Bill has made to the wrestling community".



Runner-up
Bill Moore

Monmouth Academy
Monmouth, ME

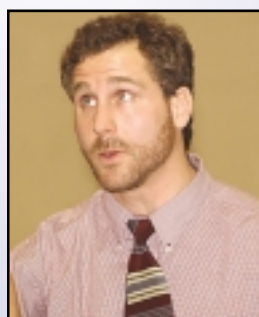
Nominated by
Head Coach
Charles Fyler



Honorable Mention
Morgan O'Brien, 2Lt.

U.S. Air Force
Chaminade-Julienne
Catholic HS
Dayton, Ohio

Nominated by
Jill Roszkowsk



Honorable Mention
Solomon Fleckman

Blair Academy
Blairtown, New Jersey

Nominated by
Jeff Buxton