



2003 Coaches' Wife-of-the-Year Cindy Bailo

Cindy Bailo, nominated by her husband, Kent Bailo, has been a wrestling coaches' wife, a wrestling referees' wife, a tournament managers' wife, and the wife of the United States Girls Wrestling Association founder and director.

Nearing their 21st wedding anniversary, the Bailo's lives have been surrounded by wrestling since the beginning. When Cindy and Kent met, he was the head wrestling coach at Rochester Adams High School in Rochester, Michigan. Her sister, Jenny, was a student in one of Kent's 8th grade history classes and introduced the couple. The rest is history.

Cindy has always been supportive of Kent's efforts in wrestling, whether he was coaching, refereeing, or running and organizing girls tournaments.

Even with her commitment to her husband and wrestling, she found time to complete an associate degree in respiratory therapy from Oakland Community College and functioned for 13 years at Crittenden Hospital in Rochester as a Respiratory Care Technician and Shift Leader of the midnight crew. She is currently a Respiratory Therapist/Office Manager at Century 2 Therapy in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Cindy also completed her Bachelors Degree in Medical Sociology and Health Education from Eastern Michigan University.

Kent's oldest son, Brent, wrestled in kid programs, and often times, when Kent was working, Cindy would take



Brent and other youngsters to tournaments. The couple attended all of Brent's high school matches. She helped run concession stands when Kent was coaching. She helped prepare banquets. At the Bailo household, the phone is always ringing --usually for Kent with wrestling questions. Cindy answered what she could and was pleasant while hearing wrestling stories about someone's kids that she knew nothing about!

A love for the city of Las Vegas grew out of Kent's refereeing assignment at the Las Vegas Cliff Keen Collegiate Invitational. Usually the Bailo's go a few days early to enjoy the city and the

shows. That has been going on for ten years. And Cindy often attends when Kent referees college meets. Michigan versus Michigan State is one of her favorite matches. She nearly adopted one of the Michigan wrestlers a few years ago, and would bake chocolate chip cookies for her favorite, Wolverine All-American Jeff Catrabone.

One of the toughest assignments that Cindy has accepted graciously is to run the concession at the USGWA National Championships. Serving over 600 wrestlers, and another approximately 2,000 coaches, spectators, and parents of wrestlers would be an overwhelming task for many, but she accepts it, employs family, friends, co-workers, and whoever else is willing to help to pull this off, and she gets the job done. She also helps get mailings out to over 10,000 schools and girl wrestlers during the season. She is the designated letter folder. It's an awesome, tedious, and unrewarding task, like always, Cindy finds a way to get things done.

Her sister, Jenny, and nieces Candice and Erica, and mom Milly have all been great support for Cindy. Candice, a senior at Lake Orion High School, is our designated National Anthem singer at USGWA Nationals.

Thank you Cindy Bailo for all you have done for your husband, all that you have done for girls wrestling, thank you for supporting your husband in his wrestling efforts. You are truly a valuable contributor to the finest youth of America. You are a wonderful person. Love Always, Kent