



2000 COACH OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN GAYDOSH

VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, ALABAMA

Sometimes the most outstanding coaching performance is found in an undefeated season during which the coach had the best athletes and the great fortune to suffer no team injuries. Other times the best coaching is exemplified by the coach who takes his team into top notch competition, encounters numerous unfortunate obstacles, and leads that team to an unexpected championship. This year's Coach of the Year is an example of the latter.

Stephen Gaydosh arrived at Vestavia Hills High School eighteen years ago. Prior to the start of his coaching career he had wrestled at Amityville High School in New York, under the legendary Lou Howard, and was a four-time conference champion at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He then served under Gray Simons as an assistant coach at the University of Tennessee.

During Gaydosh's tenure at Vestavia Hills his teams have won the Class 6A State Championship eight times and finished as runners-up three times. He has produced 42 state champions, 24 state runners-up, and two All-Americans at the High School National Championships. His career coach-

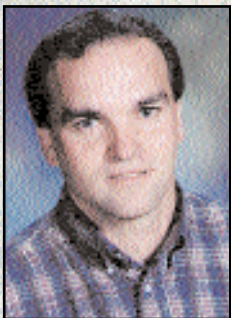
ing record is 315-55.

In 1999 Vestavia Hills finished 25-0 and won the 6A State Title. They were ranked second in the southeast and 24th nationally at the end of the season.

2000 didn't go as well. With as many as seven starters out of the lineup with injuries and against tough national competition, Gaydosh's charges finished 19-7. Although the losses were to the likes of Blair Academy, Easton and Nazareth (PA) and other nationally known teams, few thought the team could repeat its finish of the previous year.

Gaydosh's Vestavia Hills Rebels proved the experts wrong by rising to the challenge and winning their third consecutive state title. The best coaches have their teams ready when it counts. And for that effort WUSA congratulates Stephen Gaydosh as the 2000 Wrestling Coach of the Year.

Nominated by Daryle Qualls, Head Wrestling Coach, Athens High School.



Runner-up:
GARY CANTER
LaRue County High School
Hodgenville, Kentucky
Nominated by Eddie Padden,
WUSA State Editor



Honorable Mention:
KEITH MASSEY
Lewis Central High School
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Nominated by Kevin Parker,
WUSA State Editor