



*Tere Ireys*  
Cottonwood, Arizona

## 2001 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

**H**ow do you get an anti-wrestling mother interested in the grueling sport of wrestling? Give her a camera and tell her to take pictures of her son for the newspaper. Well, this mother just happened to be a professional photographer!

For the last four years, Tere Ireys, owner of Benjemax Studios, has taken over 5000 wrestling photos of wrestlers all over the state of Arizona. She is not only the lone female photographer at wrestling matches and tournaments, but one of the few who gets mat side passes at the Flowing Wells Tournament in Tucson (the oldest and largest high school tournament in Arizona) and the 1A-5A High School State Tournament at the Phoenix Coliseum.

Her list of 5000 photos include:

- 4 years as an independent wrestling photographer for the "Verde Independent" and "Journal Extra" newspapers for the Verde Valley.
- 4 years of Mingus wrestling scrapbooks; over 2000 photos
- 4 years of 1A-5A individual state champions photos for *Wrestling USA Magazine*.
- 4 years of the "Dave Work



Memorial" Mingus Mountain Tournament.

- 3 years of Senior All-Star team pictures for the "Inside Trip" Arizona wrestling newsletter.

- 3 years of the Arizona Junior National Freestyle and Greco-Roman team.

- 2 years of Cottonwood Junior High tournament, scrapbooks and newspaper articles.

- 2 years Verde Valley Lil' Kids Tournament.

She is a member of the Mingus Mountain Wrestling Booster Clubs; a club which supports all levels of wrestling in the Cottonwood area. She developed two very unique fund raisers:

- "Photo booth"- this booth displays action shots of all wrestlers during a two day high school wrestling tournament at the "Dave Work Memorial" Mingus Mt. Tournament. She donates the profit to the club.

- "Discount family portraits"- she offers her family portrait sittings for a discount rate and then donates half the profit to the club.

These two fundraisers have raised over \$3000. This money has paid for the new wall mats in the Mingus H.S. wrestling room!

Tere has given her professional time and expertise to promote not only Mingus wrestlers but wrestlers throughout the state of Arizona. We are very fortunate to have such an energetic and giving person supporting wrestling in Arizona. The sport of wrestling is much better off now that we've won Tere Ireys over to our side!

*Submitted by Tom Wokasch*