



2002 WRESTLING MANAGERS-OF-THE-YEAR

Nicole Koehntop and Nick Sherod Kleespie

Morris Area and Hancock High Schools, Minnesota

Editor's Note: This award has evolved over the years. In the past WUSA Magazine has honored wrestling managers in addition to what was commonly called "mat maids", a group of young ladies who helped score and run duals and tournaments. Although "mat maids" still exist in some schools, most of the nominations we receive are for individuals who take care of a variety of duties, from statistics, uniform care, and publicity to managing tournaments and dual meets. In many cases they know wrestling well enough to act as assistant coaches. Their leaving after four years can be as big a loss to the program as is the graduation of a top wrestler. - Cal Johnson

For the first time in the history of this award, Wrestling USA Magazine is honoring a "team" of managers for their contribution to their program. The Morris Area-Hancock wrestling program, a co-op program between Morris Area and Hancock High Schools in Minnesota, has a pair of managers that aptly fit the criteria for indispensable.



Nichole Koehntop



Nick Sherod Kleespie

NICOLE KOEHTOP and **NICK SHEROD KLEESPIE** perform all of the normal manager duties like organizing the wrestling room, caring for all of the equipment, keeping stats and records, scoring matches, video taping matches, and numerous other duties. But what sets these two apart from other managers is all the little things they do to make Coach Brad Gibson's job easier. "They are like having two extra assistant coaches, and do everything but drive the school bus," says Gibson.

Nick sings the national anthem at all matches and has EMT training that

allows him to act as student athletic trainer. He even filled in for six matches this season when the team's 135 pounder was injured. Although he did not win a match, he put himself into the position in order to help his team. Nick is a National Honor Society member, has acted in the school play the past four years, and is a member of the state drama and vocal teams.

Nicole arranges the music for the team's entry at the beginning of each meet. Her two brothers wrestle, and her interest and experience have led to a year-round devotion to the sport. Out of season she helps with the state freestyle and Greco teams.

Their hard work and daily commitment, along with a positive attitude, makes them the best wrestling manager duo that I've observed in forty years of wrestling," commented Minnesota Wrestling USA Magazine editor Spencer Yohe, who nominated the pair for Manager-of-the-Year honors.

RUNNER-UP

Danielle Edwards
Flowing Wells HS
Tucson, AZ

Nominated by
Coach Pat Weber



HONORABLE MENTION

Andria Goings
Dublin Coffman HS
Dublin, OH

Nominated by
Coach Bob Stoll

