



2004 State Man-of-the-Year Award



Gene Taylor Weaver, Alabama

Teacher/Coach - Gene Taylor has been coaching wrestling for 23 years. His teams have amassed an impressive 470 wins against only 25 losses. Since 1992, his team has won an impressive 9 state championships, 3 runner-ups, and 1st and 3rd place finish. Other accomplishments include: Alabama's 1996 "State Man of the Year" for *Wrestling USA Magazine* and District Coach of the Year. Coach Taylor has coached Alabama's only 6x and 5x state wrestling champions. Gene Taylor is quite an accomplished coach and we thank you for your contributions.



Julian Tackett Lexington, Kentucky

Associate Commissioner KHS AA - Julian Tackett is the Associate Commissioner for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and in charge of wrestling for the state of Kentucky. Before Julian took over the reigns of wrestling for the state, wrestling received very little attention but since he has taken over, the sport has grown and the state tournament, which used to be an after thought in the state has now grown into a showcase for the sport of wrestling in Kentucky.



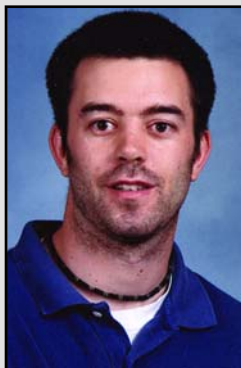
Bob Smith Milliken, Colorado

Retired Coach - Bob retired after 30 years of coaching in Colorado and Kansas. Chairman of the NWCA, Colorado High School Coaches Association, and on National Wrestling Hall of Fame Board-Colorado. He runs camps and clinics for high schools, colleges, and a speaker at banquets. He still holds several coaching and team records while at Wray High School, and also coached at Fort Hays State.



Guy Mistretta Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Teacher/Coach - Guy is a positive force for wrestling in Louisiana. As the head coach of Redemptorist High School, he has led the Wolves to 6 state titles and 3 runner-up positions in 13 seasons. The 3x state champ has also served two terms as president of the Louisiana Wrestling Coaches Association and is an active member and promoter of USA Wrestling.



David Barker North Carolina

David is the editor of NCMAT's Super 32, which ranks the top high school wrestlers in North Carolina. In addition, he directs several tournaments, including the Super 32 Challenge. He is also a certified official and has helped coach Morehead High School to six state championships in the last seven years.



Harry Smith Canton, Maine

Carpenter/Contractor - Harry, who won a state championship for Mexico H.S. in 1969, began taking his son to Pee Wee tournaments and realized that only one event posted results, and there was not a place to find what tournaments were offered. Upon searching the web, only the MAWA existed, but nothing was mentioned about youth or JH programs. Smith took things further by launching his own web site in 2000, www.mainewrestling.com. It lists tournament results and has readers correct anything that isn't right. Kids love to see their name on the internet.



Vic Leonard Wilmington, Delaware

Teacher/Coach - Vic is the former director of the Beast of the East Tournament. Founder and was nominated at the Delaware Sportswriter and Broadcasters Banquet. Vic was the recipient of the Herm Reitzes Award, which is given to those who put a lot of service into their sports. Vic was given this award for his involvement and dedicated work for the Beast of the East.



Bill Wassel Walpole, Massachusetts

Retired Principal - This award is in recognition of Bill Wassel's career in the field of education and administration in Massachusetts. His guidance and hard work on behalf of the sport of wrestling has allowed our sport to flourish and prosper during that time. On behalf of all of the young men and women of our State, whose live he touched and made better, thank you very much.



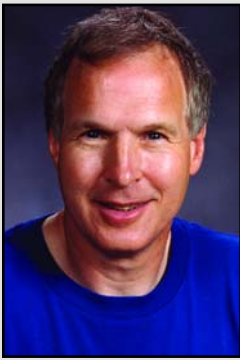
Pete Fritts Peachtree City, Georgia

Fritts is currently the State Representative for NHSCA, Team Georgia Director for the NHSCA and was the tournament director for class A, AA, AAA Team State Duals. He is a retired teacher and coach from Woodward Academy where he had a coaching record of 140-19-2 from 1981-1990. Even though he does not coach anymore, he is still an active part in Georgia wrestling. What makes him stay so involved, his son Pete Fritts Jr. says "He loves being around the kids and helping them get better on and off the mat."



Bruce Burwitz Fenton, Michigan

Bruce has created a Michigan Wrestling Association web-site, (www.mwaonline.org), for faster communication and services. The web-site offers non-members wrestling news from around the state, but more importantly it provides members the ability to have an input on many of the decisions that are made concerning the sport of wrestling. There is an interactive Rankings process, on-line voting, a wrestling forum, and a direct link to the Executive Board.



Scott Davis Owatonna, Minnesota

Teacher/Coach - Scott is closing in on his 650th career coaching victory, putting him 3rd on the all-time list in Minnesota. He is a long-time contributor to the sport state and nation-wide will be the host for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Chapter Banquet. He earned the National High School Hall of Fame Wrestling Coach of the Year honors in 1998.



Steven E. Ward W. Roxbury, Mass

A man of quiet but firm composure, Coach Steve Ward instills in his athletes the knowledge of how to win without over-confidence. Wrestlers like Paul Massey '78 believe that Ward "draws out the best in each of us." In Coach Ward's own words, "I don't coach to win the tournament or even individual matches, because I enjoy the students and who they are as people." From 1976 - 2004, Coach Ward has compiled a 300-47-4 meet record in the Independent School League with 9 season and 12 tournament championships. In 1980, Steve served as the first NEISWA president.



Jeff Thompson Kalispell, Montana

Teacher/Coach - Jeff Thompson has a special gift. Naturally, he has the track record of success one would want to see in a Wrestling Man of the Year: a state championship team, distinction as a prep and collegiate wrestler, and contributions to youth programs. But, his true gift is his ability to teach young men the work ethic and discipline that will make them champions not just on the mat but in life too. Coach Thompson represents the highest ideals of sportsmanship, coaching, teaching, and reflects the best that the sport of wrestling has to offer.



Roy Pittman Portland, Oregon

Retired Club Wrestling Coach - Roy has been called by many the "Father of Wrestling" in Oregon. He began as a high school wrestler and is now a "Gold" level certified coach. Roy has had a great impact in Oregon and across the country. He is a person of high morals and values and has had a tremendous influence as a coach and human being. Thank you Roy for your tirelessness and unselfishness to help create better citizens in our community, and for helping the rise of the sport of wrestling in Oregon.



Gary Melby Sidney, Montana

Teacher/Coach - Gary coached his Sidney Eagles to a second straight Montana A state championship with 8 State Finalists. Gary works hard in the off-season helping with Cadet and Junior National teams and has really developed a great program at Sidney. Gary is a class act with honesty and integrity in his program. Gary Melby is well deserving of Man of the Year in Wrestling in Montana.



Walt Fisk Pennsylvania

Teacher/Coach - Walt has played an integral part in Pennsylvania for the past 30 years in both Folkstyle and Freestyle wrestling. From junior high school Freestyle National Champion Wrestler to National High School Coach of the Year, he has played a key role in Pennsylvania wrestling. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches' Association and the National Wrestling Coaches' Association. He has served as President of District IV and PWCA, where he is currently a member of the Executive Committee, and the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches' Convention.



Mark Bauer Nebraska

Teacher/Coach - "Since taking over the UNK wrestling program 5 years ago, Coach Bauer has solidified the Lopers' status as a perennial national power, as evidenced by their national runner-up finish and NWCA/Cliff Keen National Dual Championship in 2003, four top-8 finishes at the NCAA Division I National Championships, four Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and West Region Team Championships, and successfully fought to keep wrestling firmly entrenched at this central Nebraska institution."



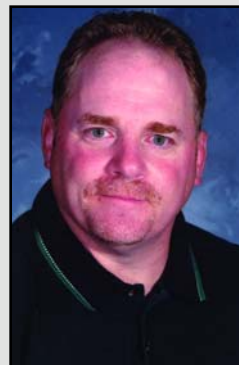
Larry Klaassen Wyoming

Larry has served as the Executive Director of the Wyoming HS Activities Assoc. for 11 years. During that time he has been a great supporter of both Wrestling officials and coaches throughout the state. Over this time he has kept Wyoming up with all current NFHS rules changes and moved Wyoming HS Athletics forward with technology by adding a statewide athletic scoreboard and Cybercasts of the state events. Last year, Wyoming implemented a new 2 wrestler per weight class rule, allowing two wrestlers from each school to attend the regional and advance to the state tournament largely due to his support.



Gene Barber Absecon, New Jersey

Coach - Gene's team has been #1 in New Jersey, 3 times; 3 years undefeated in and out of New Jersey, and with multiple state champions.



John Gramuglia Wadsworth, Ohio

Teacher/Coach - John has been Head Wrestling Coach at Wadsworth High School for 20 years. His teams have compiled an excellent 189-48-1 overall win-loss record. Under his tutelage, the Grizzlies have captured 9 sectional titles, 1 district title, and placed in the top 10 the last 10 out of 11 years at the Ohio High School State Wrestling Championships. This season, John led his team to a 4th place finish at the State Tournament, marking their 4th top 5 state finish in the last 5 years. Additionally, the Grizzlies were an impressive runner-up at the prestigious 2004 Ohio Division I Wrestling State Meet Tournament Championships. A former Ohio Division I Coach of the Year honoree, John was inducted into the Medina Hall of Fame in 2003.



Kit Harris Baldwin, Kansas

Teacher/Coach - Kit returned to his alma mater, Baldwin HS in 1999 and built it into a 4A power house in Kansas. He has produced two state champions, and was the KWCA 4A Coach of the Year in 2002. In 2004 he led the team to the Frontier League Dual Title. He has served as Co-Cadet Director for USA Wrestling-Kansas, Kansas Nat. Cadet coach and Duals coach, Southern Plains Coach, KWCA President (former), and current Vice President, and is active in officiating.



Steven Logsdon Cleveland, Tennessee

Steve has been the head coach at Bradley Central High School for the last 13 years. His overall record is 272-22, with 13 team state championships, 4 team state runners-up, 22 individual state champions, and 5 high school All-Americans. Steve has wrestlers currently starting at Oklahoma State, Rusty Blackmon, 197 lbs., and Matt Keller, 133 lbs., at the University of Nebraska.

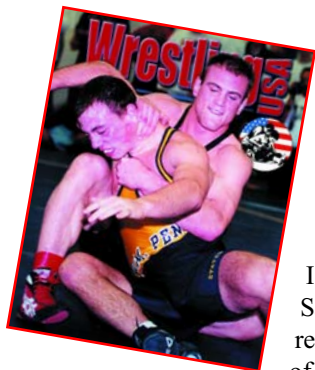


Sam McWoodson Miami, Florida

Coach Sam McWoodson has given his entire coaching career to the youth of Florida. He coached North Miami Junior and Senior High School wrestling programs for the last 30 years. He is a great person and is respected by all. He produced Billy Moss and many other outstanding wrestlers. Florida wrestling thanks him for all of his contributions.

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Iowa State's Cael Sanderson, added another record to his long list of accomplishments on

November 10, 2001 at the Harold Nichols Open. He won his 123rd match in a row to break Carlton Haselrig's NCAA record 122 match win streak. Cael completed his collegiate career on March 23, 2002 with a 159-0 record, four NCAA titles and four Outstanding Wrestler Awards.

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