

Whistling While They Work

Wrestling Officials May Have One of the Toughest Jobs Going

By Craig Sesker

David Frisch is a consultant for an engineering firm. Tim Shiels owns a fundraising company. Chuck Yagla works in business development. Jim Ramirez is assistant executive director for a community action agency.

They also happen to be among the best college wrestling officials in the country.

You definitely can't make a living as a wrestling official, but the experiences and memories are priceless.

For their work last year at the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships in St. Louis, each of the 20 officials made \$100 per session. Their airfare and hotel was paid for and receive a \$30 daily per diem.

"We are definitely doing this for love,"

Shiels said.

"You better have a passion for doing this," Ramirez said, "or you won't last long."

The officials also have to deal with their share of headaches.

They are continually questioned by coaches whose livelihood revolves around the sport.