



2006 Assistant Coach-of-the-Year Award

Jeff Anderson Kalispell, Montana

Editor's Note: All head coaches know the value of a good assistant. One key thing that a head coach must do is find a complimentary assistant and allow him to "do his thing". A knowledgeable and dedicated assistant coach can make the difference between an average team and a championship team. An assistant can be a friend and a mentor to the head coach as well as the wrestlers. In many cases he is the organizational backbone of the program. -Cal

JEFF ANDERSON is a head coaches' dream. Anderson is a former head coach and successful competitor who dedicates himself to year around support of the sport of wrestling. He is experienced in folkstyle, freestyle, and Greco. He has the ability to relate to wrestlers of all ages and the skills to effectively coach athletes at all levels and in multiple styles. The program fortunate enough to have such an assistant coach is Flathead High School in Kalispell, Montana.

Anderson, who was an undefeated state champion and *Wrestling USA Magazine* All-American for Flathead in 1982, served as head coach at the school from 1993 to 2001. Since stepping into an assistant's role he has helped head coach Jeff Thompson lead the Braves to state 2A titles in 2004 and 2006.

Anderson wrestled for Northwest Wyoming and the University of Montana in college. It is in freestyle and Greco that



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he excelled, however. He won the Regional Olympic Trials in both styles in 1984 and finished first in Greco and second in freestyle in the Junior Pan Am Games.

Head coach Thompson says of Anderson, "He is a hands on coach, working and wrestling with the athletes daily." Kalispell Wrestling Club president Tom Vanek says that Anderson has been a positive influence for hundreds of wrestlers.

Anderson's dedication does not stop with the high school program. He serves as the president of USA Wrestling in Montana and has been the Team Montana head coach for the Junior Nationals numerous times. He has taken three Montana teams overseas, and has

been a USA Wrestling bronze level instructor since 1998.

Parent Daniel Ham says of Jeff, "It is very rare that a coach comes along that has as many great qualities as Coach Anderson. His most outstanding quality is his ability to relate to young wrestlers at their level while at the same time commanding their respect. He makes going to practice each day a worthwhile endeavor; he shares optimism about the world with his team, through his attitude and actions."

Wrestling USA Magazine salutes Jeff Anderson for a job well done!

NOMINATED BY

Jeff Thompson, Daniel Ham and Tom Vanek, Flathead High School

RUNNER- UP

Steve Elizarde and Marques Coleman, Monsignor Edward Pace High School, Opa Locka, FL. Nominated by Head Coach Frank Pelegri and Stuart Mahler

