



## 2007 Assistant-Coach-of-the-Year Award

### **BOB EARLE** **Lisbon Falls, ME**

**E**ditor'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

Every program needs an individual who is willing to work behind the scenes and extend a helping hand that provides a positive outcome. For over a decade the wrestlers at Lisbon High School, in Lisbon Falls, Maine, have been fortunate to have such a person in assistant coach **BOB EARLE**. Earle works tirelessly in the background. He doesn't look for recognition because the greatest satisfaction received is helping the Greyhound wrestlers achieve success.

Bob's coaching career began as the assistant at Sugg Middle School in 1994. He was always positive in reinforcing the teachings being stressed to the wrestlers. At that time Earle worked in a program started in 1992 by head coach Mark Stevens, who as a student had actually played flag football on an Earle coached team. Stevens described Bob as a very patient coach, respected highly by the wrestlers.



*Bob Earle  
Lisbon Falls, ME*


Because the high school program at that time was floundering, Earle took the initiative to set up an appointment with then Athletic Director Jeff Benson. He encouraged Benson to hire Stevens for the high school job. The timing was critical since the school was considering the elimination of the program, which only had four wrestlers at the time.

"Bob Earle has assisted me since I was hired in 1997," says Stevens. "We started out the first two years teaching kids how to have a good handshake and exhibit good sportsmanship, something Lisbon was not known for. Most people had doubts about our sustainability and ability. We began producing quality wrestlers and increasing the quantity of kids committed to the program."

Since that point in Greyhound history,

Stevens and Earle have changed the course of the Lisbon program. The Greyhounds quickly became competitive. Since 1997 the Greyhounds have won five regional crowns and four state championships. Stevens and Earle have coached 31 state champions in eight years.

Several coaching awards over that span of time have been considered a team effort among Earle and Stevens. Earle has played a critical role in the reconstruction of a program that was on the verge of elimination. His work ethic, patience and dedication made a huge impact on the sport in Lisbon.

*Wrestling USA Magazine* salutes Bob Earle for a job well done!!! 

Nominated by:  
Mark Stevens  
Head Wrestling Coach  
Lisbon High School  
and  
Bob McPhee  
Maine Editor, *Wrestling USA Magazine*