



## 2007 Coach-of-the-Year Award

### SCOT DAVIS Owatonna, MN

**O**watonna High School Head Wrestling Coach, Scot Davis, set the standard this season for high school wrestling coaches with his 800th varsity career coaching victory, giving him the most career wins made by any wrestling coach in US history. Now for 21 years in Owatonna, Scot has built a powerhouse from top to bottom, which has led to ten "Top 25" Nationally Ranked Owatonna Wrestling Teams.

Scot came to Owatonna in the 1986-87 season following successful stops in Belcourt, ND, Bird-Island-Lake Lillian, MN, Hutchinson, MN and the University of Wisconsin-Superior, WI. He is a graduate of Augsburg College, MN (B.A.-'74), where he was an All-American and Team Captain for the Auggies in 1973. He also holds Masters Degrees from the University of Minnesota (M.Ed-'82) and the University of St. Thomas (M.A.-'95). Scot's resume of accomplishments as a coach would stretch from Owatonna, MN to Missoula, MT and back again, but it is everything he does behind the scenes for the youth of Owatonna that is the true hallmark of his career.

In 1987, Scot organized his winter youth wrestling program, now called the OWA Youth Wrestling Program. Under his supervision and direction this program has grown to 265 wrestlers (K-6), and more than 40 female (K-6) wrestling cheerleaders. This successful youth program has seen junior high (Grades 7 & 8) wrestling numbers reach almost 60 wrestlers with high school (Grades 9-12) wrestling numbers that can topple 70+ in a season.

Additionally, Coach Davis has assembled an outstanding Coaching Staff and one of the strongest wrestling boosters clubs in the nation, the Owatonna Wrestling Association. Scot probably takes care of his people, coaches, media, and supporters better than any head coach I've observed in my 45 years of being around the sport of wrestling.

Many members of the coaching staff have earned national awards through Scot's hard work and efforts in nominating these outstanding people for their invaluable contributions. Keith Stark earned *Wrestling USA Magazine's* "Writer of the Year," Dale Benjamin earned *Wrestling USA Magazine's* "Broadcaster of the Year," Larry Hovden earned "National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA)" Regional/National and National "Assistant-Coach-of-the-Year," and his wife Mary Davis *Wrestling USA Magazine's* "Coaches Wife-of-the-Year."

Scot has long been the frontrunner in the promotion and publicity of wrestling in our state. For many years he has written for



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Minnesota's amateur wrestling newspaper, *The Guillotine*, and his "Nutrition Insight" column was one of the first devoted to proper nutrition information for wrestlers. In fact, Scot was selected as The Bob Dellinger Award Winner for "The National Wrestling Writer of the Year" by *Amateur Wrestling News* in 1986. He has served as MWCA President, chairing or serving on over 25 committees, including eight years as MWCA Publicity Director. On the local level, Scot has his own televised program, "The Owatonna Wrestling Show," and makes certain that all wrestling meets are broadcast on live local radio and rebroadcast on local cable television. Additionally, he has an outstanding Wrestling Newsletter and the OWA's annual "Owatonna Wrestling Book" has earned several National Media Awards. Finally, he started the annual "Owatonna Open" that has drawn over 1200 wrestlers yearly in all age groups, including an "old timers" division.

It seems that Coach Davis' creativity is endless when it comes to finding ways to promote Owatonna Wrestling. Merchandise includes numerous items from watches to cereal to trading cards.

While at the University of Wisconsin-Superior Davis was selected as the NAIA District 14 "College Coach of the Year" and one of the "Top College Rookie Coaches in the Nation." Since then he has earned several individual coaching honors including six Section and Conference "Coach of the Year" awards, the National High School Coaches Association "National Coach of the Year"

award in 1998, and the Minnesota State AAA "Coach of the Year" award in 2005. Scot is a member of the Dave Bartelma Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Hall Of Fame and was recently selected as a Charter Member of the Region I Wrestling Hall Of Fame. Some of his other top honors are *Wrestling USA Magazine's* Minnesota State "Man of the Year" in 2004 and Bloomington Kennedy's "Distinguished Alumnus" in 1998.

Having gained so much state and national coaching recognition, Scot was selected to coach the Minnesota All-Star Team Classic versus Wisconsin. He has also been a popular clinician at camps. Additionally, he helped initiate, organize and direct the longstanding Augsburg College Wrestling Camp with Coach Jeff Swenson back in 1988.

Granted, Coach Davis' overall career mark of 804-124-4, eleven state tournament team appearances, two state team championships, and numerous state team placings are impressive, but what Coach Davis is most proud of is his "high school total participation" numbers in Owatonna. Over 30 wrestlers letter each year and during their "2005 Dream Season" over 20 wrestlers earned over 20 individual varsity wins. He directs his wrestling program with the strong belief that what is best for the individual development of his wrestlers is best for the team as a whole. Behind Scot's success, is the fact that he loves to teach kids how to wrestle and he has a tremendous passion and love for the sport. Scot has always promoted the whole program working together like a family to get everyone involved.

Building the success of the Owatonna Wrestling Program is a vocation that Scot loves and works at 365 days a year, however the real testimony to Scot's nomination is that wrestling is his third priority; Scot's first two loves are his faith and family. He is as devoted a Christian and family man as I've run across over the years. Scot or Mary always give the invocation at the Minnesota National Wrestling Hall of Fame banquet.

Scot and his lovely wife, Mary, have been married for 30 years and are quite proud of their family. Their oldest daughter, Alyssa, is a graduate of Wheaton College, IL and is currently finishing a Master of Public Health degree at Emory University, GA. Their son, Colin, is majoring in Business Administration at Winona State University, MN. Their youngest daughter, Ashley, is a Senior at Owatonna High School, Team Captain and pitcher for the OHS Softball Team, and was selected "Snow Queen" this past winter for "Snow Week" at OHS. Submitted by Minnesota State Editor *Wrestling USA Magazine* Spencer Yohe