



2007 Editor-of-the-Year Award

TOM ELLING Lock Haven, PA

Awrestler, coach, official, tournament director, mat sport historian, author, and publisher, Tom Elling is Pennsylvania's "Man for all Wrestling Seasons."

Because of Tom Elling's dedicated and undaunted promotion of wrestling in the Keystone, he has been selected for an unprecedented third time as *Wrestling USA Magazine's* "2007 State Editor of the Year."

His most recent honor is being inducted into the PA Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame this past April. Tom Elling is also a member of the Clinton County (PA) Hall of Fame, District Six Hall of Fame, and the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame. He was also selected as the 1991 Pennsylvania Wrestling Official of the Year for expert efforts in overseeing the men of the mats.

Let's now examine how Tom Elling has promoted the mat sport over the last four decades. And it's just the tip of the iceberg.

Since 1974, Tom Elling has been a faithful state editor-contributor to *Wrestling USA Magazine*. Tom has also served as tournament director at the PIAA NW Regionals since 1989. Furthermore, he has contributed his organizational savvy in many capacities at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) State Wrestling Championships. Presently, Elling is the director of operations of the event which is now held at Hershey's Giant Arena.

As a PA mat-sport historian, Tom Elling created, designed and published a series of sport cards dubbed "*Legends of Pennsylvania Wrestling*." This series highlights nearly 300 of PA's greats as competitor, coaches, officials, and contributors. Elling also annually publishes the *Pennsylvania Wrestling Handbook*. It



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not only contains myriad of past wrestling facts, but also includes detailed results from the previous year's PA state tournament, returning state place winners, and team ranking. It is must reading for all state wrestling coaches.

You would think that would be enough publishing for Tom Elling, but not so. He also publishes the Pennsylvania Wrestling Website and founded the Pennsylvania Wrestling Newspaper with co-editor Rich Vetock. Though it has since changed hands, Tom Elling still writes informative and inspirational columns in each issue.

As a promoter, Tom Elling serves his hometown, Lock Haven, as a move-by-move wrestling commentator with John Lipez over radio station WBPZ. And needless to say, Elling never turned down an offer to speak at wrestling banquets and various community organizations. What a great ambassador of wrestling both statewide and nationally!

In addition to all the above, Tom

Elling finds time to serve on the executive committee of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame – PA Chapter, the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee, the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association, and was involved in the inaugural Brute Select States' Challenge. When does this man sleep?

Tom Elling was also an outstanding wrestler and ultra-successful high school coach. As a matman, Elling wrestled scholastically for PA Hall of Fame coach Les Turner. In college, he was a two-time NAIA All-American at Lock Haven State College (now Lock Haven University), under legendary wrestler and coach Elliott "Gray" Simons.

As a mat mentor, Tom Elling coached at Lock Haven High School for eight seasons, producing numerous state place winners and 1975 State Champion, John Eichenlaub, who was also selected as a high school All-American by *Wrestling USA Magazine*. But there's more. Not only did Coach Tom Elling have winning season after winning season, he produced the school's only undefeated wrestling team ever.

Tom Elling could not have accomplished any of this without the devoted love and support of his wife Barb. Down through the years, Barb Elling helped in setting up countless tournaments, helped in preparing his books, sports cards, etc., but mainly helped by supporting him and the sport he loves. The Ellings have three children – Roger, Michelle, and Danny – and two grandchildren.

Thank you, Tom Elling, for your lifetime of dedication to the growth and quality of scholastic and college wrestling. *Wrestling USA Magazine* salutes you as the "2007 State Editor of the Year."

