

WRESTLING USA
MAGAZINE

2008 Coach-of-the-Year Award

LARRY SHAW Oak Glen, West Virginia

Editor's Note: The selection of the High School Coach-of-the-Year is always a difficult task. The hundreds of nominations we have received over the years have all been for outstanding coaches, some of them nominated because of a long and successful career. The Coach-of-the-Year Award, however, is not based only on longevity. It is the honoring of a coach for a significant accomplishment during the season just completed, often against considerable odds or in spite of significant hardship. Obviously, excellence over time is also a consideration.

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There are certain statistics that inarguably place wrestling coaches into the category of "elite". Number of state team championships, number of individual state champions, and Coach-of-the-Year awards are among those statistics.

Our 2008 High School Coach-of-the-Year certainly meets those criteria in addition to many others. West Virginia's LARRY SHAW of Oak Glen High School led his Golden Bears to their 12th consecutive team title this season, a record for all sports in West Virginia. During his 29 year career he has coached 50 individual state champions and 162 all-state wrestlers. He has been named the West Virginia A-AA Coach-of-the-Year six times and Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year eleven times.

Shaw's legacy, however, goes far

beyond his own program and team state championships. He has had a huge impact on the growth of wrestling in West Virginia.

In order to promote the sport he has provided his services as a wrestling clinician for the past thirty years, including working last fall with Bobby Douglas at a clinic in Wheeling.

He was instrumental in coordinating The Wrestling Drill Book and helped organize the photo sequence shots for each drill.

He assisted in producing an instructional video for wrestling officials for the NFHS Officiating Wrestling On-Line Methods Course. He is a sought after speaker for wrestling and all-sports functions, always promoting the sport of wrestling.

According to Bill Welker, who nomi-

nated him, "Larry Shaw is a 'giver' not a taker when it comes to the athletes and the sport he loves "

Shaw is a media specialist for Oak Glen, and is highly respected by students, parents, and his colleagues. He has helped numerous students over the past three decades. His influence and contributions have extended far beyond the mat to hundreds, and probably thousands, of people and all aspects of the sport of wrestling.

Wrestling USA Magazine salutes Larry Shaw for consistent excellence and significant contributions to the sport of wrestling.

Nominated by:
Bill Welker
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