



2005 Official of the Year Award

Rick Hare

Maryland

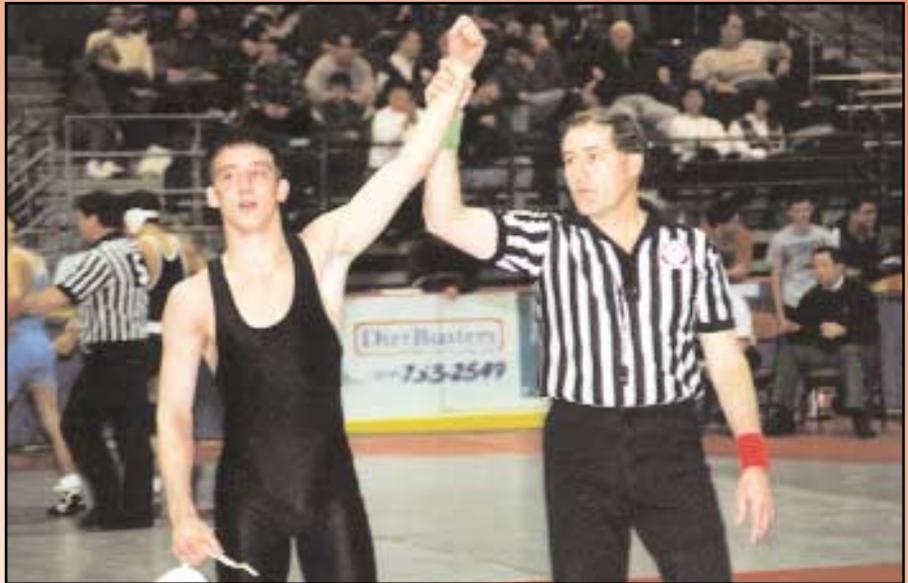
Rick Hare has the distinction of having officiated a combination of 50 state wrestling championships in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. In fact, Hare officiated three state wrestling championships in one year.

Highly respected by officials in the tri-state area, Rick Hare was recognized as the state official of the year in 1991 by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission and the Maryland state wrestling official of the year in 1998. Hare has often been referred to as the "smoothest referee on the mats," due to his mechanics and ever-calm disposition during the heat of competition.

Rick Hare began his officiating career as a charter member and past president of the Washington County Wrestling Officials Association in Hagerstown, Maryland. He now serves as their interpreter and liaison to numerous state athletic associations. Hare is also a 20-year member of the Winchester Wrestling Officials Association of Virginia.

Rick Hare has been a member of the Carlisle (PA) Wrestling Officials Association and has refereed at numerous Pennsylvania tournaments. He had the honor of overseeing many wrestling competitions at Mercersburg (PA) Academy, a highly successful private school in the eastern United States.

Over the years, Rick Hare has been commissioned to officiate at the prestigious nationally-ranked Ironman Wrestling Tournament for Walsh Jesuit High School in Cleveland, Ohio. This tournament features many of the top-rated high school wrestling programs in the USA. He has also officiated a number



of Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Championships, which is one of the largest conference wrestling tournaments in the country.

Other officiating venues include officiating the Division II NCAA Wrestling Regional Championships and many Maryland State Dual Meet Tournaments.

An educator by profession, Rick Hare has coached wrestling, baseball, and football over the last 33 years. Hare was also the head baseball coach at Hagerstown Junior College.

Holding a master's degree, Rick Hare is presently a teacher at the secondary school level in the Washington County School District (Hagerstown, Maryland). His wife, Patricia, is an elementary teacher in the same school system.

The Hares have two children. Patrick is a senior at James Madison (VA) University and Trisha is a junior at

Williamsport (MD) High School.

"Mr. Rick Hare is an outstanding official, worthy of national recognition. His mechanics on the mats are nonpareil. As for the respect of fellow officials, everyone listens when Rick has an idea that will improve the ranks of wrestling referees. Besides his expert abilities on the mats, Rick has an uncanny understanding of how to organize officials in teams. He has assisted me on numerous occasions at our state tournament, making the official-rotation process much smoother. There is no man more dedicated or more deserving to be called 'The Referee's Referee.'"

Wrestling USA Magazine salutes Rick Hare, the 2005 Wrestling Official of the Year, for his officiating expertise and dedication to the mat sport for over three decades.