



2006 Official-of-the-Year Award

Thomas Freeman Moore

Edmond, Oklahoma

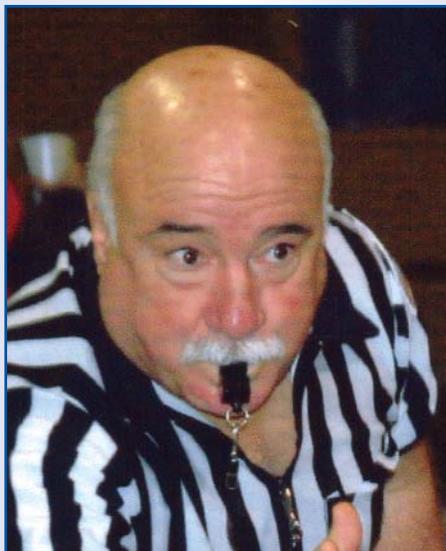
Dedication. If there is one word to describe Thomas F. Moore's officiating efforts, it is most definitely dedication. Tom Moore has been a wrestling referee for an amazing 40 years!

Mr. Moore began his officiating career in 1966 while taking on teaching and coaching duties at Kerr Junior High School in Del City, Oklahoma. And it wasn't long before he began refereeing youth wrestling, junior high school, and scholastic matches.

In 1968, Moore started working the score tables at the Oklahoma State Wrestling Championships. During the next seven years, Tom Moore continued to polish his officiating skills by working high school, junior college, NAIA, and NCAA Division I and II dual meets and tournaments.

Moore began officiating Oklahoma states in 1977 and has done so ever since except in 1983 when he became head wrestling coach at Del City High School. That season two of his "Eagle" wrestlers won states, which included the legendary John Smith.

Tom Moore has served as president of the Central Oklahoma Wrestling Officials Association for 20 years. He also held the position of Commissioner of Wrestling for Oklahoma City Schools from 1984 until 2004. Moore is head official at the Geary Tournament, the nation's oldest wrestling tournament; a position he has held since 1987.



*Thomas Freeman Moore
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Over the years, Tom Moore has officiated two NAIA Championships, three NCAA Division II Dual Meet Championships, and the Oklahoma State Dual Meet Tournament. He has also called such competitions as The Big Classic (the United States All-Star Wrestling Meet sponsored by the late Jim Thomas, a Hall of Fame inductee), the Oklahoma Open Wrestling Tournament in Norman and the Lone Star Duals and Amarillo Open Wrestling Tournament in Dallas and Amarillo, Texas, respectively.

Moore, a "Who's Who Among Teachers in America," has won numerous awards throughout the years. They include 1975 Junior High School Coach-of-the-Year, 1985 Oklahoma Official-of-the-Year, and was also selected as an All-State Wrestling Official that same year. In 1999,

Moore was named the Del City Wrestling Man-of-the-Year. Most recently, Tom Moore was inducted into the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2005.

Moore, who holds a master's degree in education, retired from teaching in 1999 after 33 years as an educator. Presently, Tom Moore is employed as a security guard at the Oklahoma City Zoo. He, who is totally devoted to the sport of wrestling, still continues to maintain a rigorous officiating schedule.

He and his wife, Parky, have two children (Teri and Dave) and five grandchildren (Allison, Brianna, Connor, Kent, and Sydney).

Wrestling USA Magazine congratulates Tom Moore as the "2006 National Wrestling Official-of-the-Year." We commend Mr. Moore for his lifetime commitment to the development and growth of the mat sport in the state of Oklahoma.

(Written by Dr. Bill Welker, chairman of the official selection committee and 2002 National Official of the Year.) 