



2008 Official-of-the-Year Award

WILLIAM J. ROTHS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Consistent. If there is one word to describe William J. Roths' officiating efforts, it is most definitely consistency. Bill Roths has officiated the grand sport of wrestling for over three decades!

An all-state wrestler for New Hampton High School, Bill Roths also wrestled at the college level for Upper Iowa College, where he earned a BA degree in elementary education and physical education in 1973.

Since 1974, Roths has refereed at every level of the mat sport, from youth to college. And he never looked back. His officiating efforts on the mats reads like a "Who's Who" in Iowa refereeing circles. In fact, Bill Roths has officiated the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) for over 20 years (1985-2005). He now assumes the responsibilities as the IHSAA rules interpreter and supervisor of officials at the state wrestling tournament. Roths is also supervisor of the referees at the Northeast Iowa Wrestling Conference. Bill is presently the president of Iowa Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association. As you can see, Roths is busy on and off the mats, promoting the sport he so dearly loves.

Roths collegiate experience as an overseer of the mats is also second to none. He has officiated numerous national collegiate tournaments since 1989, including two NAIA (1989 & 1995), four NCAA Division III (1991-2006-2007-2008), six NCAA Division II National Duals (1997- 1998- 1999- 2000-2002-2003), the NCAA Division I (1998), three Division III National Duals (2006-2007-2008), as well as six Big Ten Conference Tournaments (1998-2001 through 2005).



Bill Roths presently serves as head official for the Division III Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, having refereed the event from 1986 to 1993 and 1998 to 2008.

Bill Roths' "consistent" efforts on the mats for over 30 years has, by no means, been unnoticed. He has been named three times as Iowa Northeast District Official of the Year (1989-2002-2004). Roths was also selected two times as the IWCOA Official of the Year (1989-2004). Moreover, Bill Roths is a distinguished member of three halls of fame, which includes the IHSAA Officials Hall of Fame (1999), the Upper Iowa University Hall of Fame (2003), and the New Hampton High School Hall of Fame (2005).

One very interesting footnote; Bill is also an accomplished vocalist. In fact, he sang the national anthem at the finals of the 1995 IHSAA State Wrestling Championships.

In the private sector, Bill Roths is involved with many worthwhile organ-

izations, including the New Hampton Rotary Club (where he served as president from 2003 to 2005), the Waterloo Rotary Club, the New Hampton Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Cliffs "Hearst Center for the Arts," the University of Northern Iowa Athletic Club, and he is currently president of the Chickasaw Wellness Complex. He and his family are also active members at St. Mary's Catholic Church, where he sits on the church council.

An outstanding educator for several years, both as a teacher and coach, Bill Roths decided to enter the business world. Roths is presently vice president in charge of Real Estate and Business Development for Community National Bank in Waterloo, Iowa.

Bill and his devoted wife, Mary, are the proud parents of two daughters: Nicole Heth of Cedar Falls and Emily Roths of Waukee, Iowa.

Wrestling USA Magazine congratulates Bill Roths as the "2008 Official-of-the-Year." We commend Bill for his lifetime commitment to the development and growth of the mat sport in the "wrestling rich" state of Iowa.

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