

THE CALIFORNIA PAGE

By Lynn Dyche

2024 CIF STATE TOURNAMENT: Poway High School (CIF San Diego Section) won the 2024 California CIF State Tournament. This was a total team effort and Poway had seven wrestlers in the championship finals along with additional place winners. In my February California Page Article I predicted the top five team placers. They were Poway, Gilroy, Buchanan, Clovis and St. John Bosco. All five of these schools finished in the top five with Poway finishing first followed by Buchanan, Gilroy, St. John Bosco and Clovis. Buchanan has won the previous seven state tournaments.

The competition at this year's tournament was extremely tough. There were many very close championship finals matches with three decided by "tie breakers" and three won by one-point decisions. The tough competition was the same for the girls division. What an improvement with the girls wrestling over the past five years. With some excellent coaching and better competition, the girls wrestling has really improved. Walnut High School from the CIF Southern Section won the girls division state title followed by Newport Harbor and Poway.

Monty Muller retires as Head Official: Monty has served as the head official at the state tournament since it moved to Bakersfield from Stockton. His official duties included the nomination and selection process of officials for the state tournament, assigning mat assignments, coordinating the rotation of officials during the quarter-finals and semi-finals and assigning officials for the state championship matches for both the boys and girls divisions. In addition, Monty coordinated the pre-tournament officials meeting the night before the tournament as well as meetings between sessions. Thank You Monty Muller for a job well done. A replacement for Monty has not been announced at this time.

Randy Hartman is the new Coordinator of the officials' evaluation process at the state tournament. Randy who officiated 15 state tournaments as well as 8 NCAA Division I Tournaments will be responsible for the evaluation of officials. He will have a group of retired officials as well as coaches serve as evaluators during the tournament and will work with the head official on the assignment of officials for the championship matches.

California Wrestling Hall of Fame: The 2024 Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on June 1st in Fresno. At this year's banquet individuals from the CIF Central Section area will be recognized for induction or to receive the Lifetime Service Award. For banquet information contact Duane Morgan at duanemorgan6@icloud.com.

The 2025 Hall of Fame Banquet will be held in Laguna Hills and will recognize individuals from the CIF Southern & San Diego Sections. If you would like to nominate an individual for recognition, contact Jeff Roberts at chewydogone@yahoo.com