



2007 Photographer-of-the-Year Award

DAVID JEDLICKA Bothell, WA

It is my pleasure to present Dave Jedlicka of Bothell, Washington as the *Wrestling USA Magazine's* Photographer-of-the-Year. Dave has, over the last few years become one of the most prolific wrestling photographers for the state of Washington, if not the nation. He writes articles and publishes photos for a local weekly newspaper, the *Lake Stevens Journal*. He travels to all the major tournaments in our region including Tri-State, Pac Coast and the district, regional and state championships. This year he is also attending the Western Junior Regionals and Senior Nationals in Las Vegas and will be once again covering Nationals in Fargo. All of his photos are posted on his website, jedicheetah.com for all the wrestlers, parents, coaches, and fans to see. At this time there are over 8,000 wrestling pictures to view.

The most important thing to know about this effort is that he does all of this for free. He doesn't charge to see his pictures or sell them in any way. It is his contribution to the sport of wrestling and he absorbs his travel costs, not to mention the time that he spends at events, editing and posting all of the photos. Wrestlers from around the state have Dave's photos on their MySpace pages. Parents all over have an accessible way to see and memorialize their children's images. The state of Washington has a lot of quality volunteers that help make this a great place for wrestling. Dave is one of those people that works tirelessly in support of our great sport.

Dave grew up the son of an Air Force officer father and Registered Nurse mother. He lived and wrestled in New Mexico, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Dave relocated from the east coast to Washington in 1990. After ending his wrestling career he left the sport for 15 years, but then got the 'bug' again and returned to the sport in a big way. He started attending local tournaments and



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then on the suggestion of a friend, put his photographic skills to use. Initially it was just to cover one of Washington's strongest high school programs at Lake Stevens, but soon realized that there was a void that needed to be filled to capture the great wrestlers of this state for posterity. Now, anywhere that great wrestling is going on, Dave is there mat side. He is a staple at all the big tournaments. Dave isn't a professional photographer, at least in the sense that he doesn't make his living from his craft. He works for Hansen Bros. Moving & Storage, the oldest moving company in the Northwest as the manager of their corporate headquarters office. They must be a 'wrestling-friendly' company because Dave is frequently absent to cover the sport. His wife of 14 years, Kaori, also must appreciate the sport, because she frequently goes without Dave weekend after weekend as he travels the state and the country following our wrestlers wherever they may be. Like many of us, he exhausts all of his vacation time each year to attend wrestling events.

One of the great messages that comes out of Dave's story and experience is that anyone that will make the small investment in equipment, time and energy can really do something important to help wrestling. Many local newspapers are constantly searching for content and there is often a void where our sport is concerned. Taking some quality photos, writing a concise caption and sending the pictures to the newspaper can help raise awareness of local programs and help generate increased interest. Photography is a fantastic medium for promoting wrestling and evoking a visual response. Dave Jedlicka does a great job of making sure that everyone gets to see wrestling in Washington State.

Written by David Gilbertson, D.C.

As the producer of the Washington Wrestling Report (WashingtonWrestlingReport.com) I have been involved with the coverage and promotion of Washington wrestling since 1996. The web site has steadily grown in popularity over the years as I have added more and more information to it and it is presently the most frequented site in the state for wrestling. I used to take pictures at many tournaments for posting at the web site, and in fact have had several featured on the *Wrestling USA Magazine's* web site over the years. Over the past two years I have had a gentleman step in and he has taken the photography of Washington wrestlers at my site to a new level. At first it was just a photo or two but Dave has since taken and posted thousands of pictures to the web and I have links to his site from my main page. I have featured numerous photos by him on my main site and have also used them in articles I have written for local newspapers. I like his work so well that I link directly to his site and use it as the photography section for my site. 