

2004 National High School Senior Championships



By Dan Fickel, National Editor
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The 15th Annual National High School Senior Championships were held April 2-4 at the Public Hall Convention Center in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The event, admirably hosted by the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA), showcased a record 804 competitors from 48 states. The talent-stocked field attracted 20 four-time state champions, 40 three-time state champions, and 110 two-time state champions. The Tournament Staff included NHSCA Executive Director Bob Ferraro, Tournament Director Ed Ferraro, Event Coordinator Steve Pados, Assistant Director Gino Frank, Task Masters Gimp Brownwell and Ray Liddick, Head Announcer Sandy Stevens, Assistant Announcer Todd Hibbs, Head Official Sandy Cageao, and Registration Coordinator Jeanne Ferraro.

The National High School Senior Championships is open to any wrestler that has been a state finalist during his

career, except for single class states: California, where top-six state place-winners are eligible to compete, and Indiana, New Jersey, and New York, where wrestlers who have finished in the top-four are eligible. In addition, seniors who have placed in the top-four in the High School Division of the NHSCA National Open Championships are eligible.

Led by a tournament-record six individual champions, the Buckeye state of Ohio won its third consecutive team title in impressive fashion. Ohio had title winners in Ricky Deubel (119), J. Jagers (135), Steve Luke (160), Chris Hahn (189), Joe Dennis (215), and Tony Johnson (275). As a team, Ohio captured its eighth national title in the 12 years that team scores have been kept. Second-place California continued its streak of placing in the top-four every year at the tournament, while Michigan enjoyed its finest finish ever in third-place, as traditional powers Pennsylvania and New Jersey rounded out the top-five.

TOP 20 TEAM SCORES

(Number of placers in parentheses)

| | | |
|----------------|-------|------|
| Ohio | 173.5 | (19) |
| California | 136 | (8) |
| Michigan | 118.5 | (7) |
| Pennsylvania | 113 | (8) |
| New Jersey | 112.5 | (7) |
| Illinois | 104 | (5) |
| Minnesota | 103.5 | (3) |
| Indiana | 102.5 | (6) |
| New York | 99.5 | (4) |
| Utah | 94 | (3) |
| North Carolina | 83 | (5) |
| Florida | 76.5 | (0) |
| Tennessee | 70.5 | (4) |
| Wisconsin | 68.5 | (3) |
| Missouri | 66.5 | (2) |
| Maryland | 59.5 | (2) |
| Texas | 59.5 | (3) |
| Kansas | 58 | (2) |
| Montana | 57 | (3) |
| Colorado | 55 | (2) |