



Wrestling USA

1999 Master of Wrestling Award Ed Aliverti - Washington

It all started back in 1955 when Ed Aliverti took his first teaching job...that of choral director at Edmonds High School in Edmonds, Washington.

His first big task was that of recruiting members for his choir that only numbered 11 upon his arrival. By the first concert, he has found 129 students that were willing to give music a try...among them were six young men who called themselves "wrestlers".

When he first met the six of them, he started right out talking music. In turn, they talked wrestling to him and none of them really understood what the other was about.

Aliverti agreed to try their sport if the six would try his music. They joined the choir, and he turned out with the high school team for two weeks to learn. Thus it began.

At the request of the high school coach and the six wrestlers, Ed agreed to serve as the P.A. announcer for the team's first dual meet. And he got hooked.

Since that time, he and his wife Shirley, who shares the sport with him, have been part of the past four Olympic Games as members of the announcing team for wrestling and have been asked to join the team for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Together, they have done over 20 world championships that have taken them to Korea, Japan, Spain and Canada. They also have been involved with countless college and high school tournaments.

Just recently, they were a part of the very exciting World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling in Spokane, Washington...an event that climaxed three straight months on the road for the two of them.

It started the first week of January



with the Virginia Duals. This was followed up with the National Dual Team Championship in Iowa, the Oregon Classic in Portland, the Dave Schultz International Classic in Colorado, the Alaska AAAA High School State Championship in Anchorage, the Washington State High School Championships known as the Mat Classic, the PAC-10 Championship at Stanford University, the USA Northwest Regional Open Tournament. In addition, Ed was part of the NCAA Division II and Division I Collegiate Championships. Oh, yes, they even found time for speaking engagements at high school wrestling banquets and to accept a couple of invitations to do a high school dual meet in the local area.

Ed and Shirley take great pride in the title of "volunteer" for wrestling. As stated by National Wrestling Coaches Association executive director, Bob Bubb, while presenting Ed with the

organization's Meritorious Award in 1998...he is "one of the greatest ambassadors wrestling has."

His pet phrase--"The World's Oldest and Greatest Sport"--is one in which he truly believes. He sees his role as an announcer to be a bit more than just a public address personality. He tries to inform, he tries to educate, entertain occasionally and even sing a song or two if needed. He tries to present the sport and its participants in a dignified and respectful manner.

He works hard at trying to do a good job. He spends hours pouring over records and information he receives on wrestlers and will meet with them on a one-to-one basis to insure accuracy. At world championships, he meets with team leaders from over 60 countries just to get spelling, pronunciations and inflections correct. He has even learned the national anthems of world wrestling powers to be able to present should they come to the United States for a Friendship Dual.

Ed has been recognized as a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Washington State Wrestling coaches' Hall of Fame...honors that still befuddle him.

"Wrestling is wrestling," he believes. "Even though the skill level demands are different from our folkstyle to international freestyle and Greco-Roman, it's still wrestling...it's still the world's oldest and greatest sport."

And it all started in his high school choir room with six young men who called themselves..."wrestlers".