



Wrestling USA

1999 Wrestling Man of the Year
Wade Schalles - Florida

Sports Illustrated said Mr. Schalles was “the Most Exciting Wrestler to Ever Walk onto a Wrestling Mat.” *Amateur Wrestling News* selected him the best Middleweight this century. Dan Gable called him “the greatest pinner he has ever seen.” He’s in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having the most wins and most pins of anyone who has ever wrestled. He has won 15 National Championships in all five disciplines of the sport...Judo, Sombo, Freestyle, Greco-Roman and Folkstyle. Mr. Schalles is in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the National Sombo Hall of Fame, has received national recognition as Athlete of the Year, Coach of the Year, Sportswriter of the Year and voted the “World’s Greatest Wrestler” by coaches from around the globe for pinning all of his opponents at the World Championships.

He’s authored two best selling books on the sport and his instructional video tapes are on the all-time best sellers list.

Currently, Mr. Schalles is the Senior Sports Manager for the Amateur Athletic Union and resides in Orlando, Florida.

This author’s experience with Wade Schalles was based upon his accomplishments and reports from former Florida club wrestlers, Ren Ward who wrestled at Old Dominion and Mark and Kevin Higginson who wrestled at Clemson University. They told of Wade’s unique wrestling abilities, his often unorthodox efforts to promote the sport and his ability to motivate and reward wrestlers under his direction. This impressed the wrestlers and certainly was appreciated

by this author.

Wade moved to Florida where this author could see first hand Wade Schalles in action. Wade earned the AAU Man of the Year honors for providing opportunities to those who didn’t have them and in places where they didn’t exist prior to his efforts. All to the benefit of wrestlers and wrestling. Wade has been a constant prod to the wrestling establishment (especially the NCAA Rules Committee). Wade’s ability to “think out of the box” often results in forcing those in leadership positions to question the status quo. Moreover, many times new and interesting programs result from Wade’s ideas that increase opportunities and promote the sport of wrestling.

Absolutely Wade’s most important contribution is his willingness to work with wrestling’s leadership, in the USA Wrestling, National Wrestling Coaches Association, and various independents in order to avoid conflicts in the schedule and to better serve the wrestling community. Wade has set many, many records but his ability to contribute, no matter who gets the credit, is the one all can emulate to better wrestling.

Congratulations Mr. Schalles for winning the *Wrestling USA Magazine* 1999 Man of the Year Award.

