



2000 SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR

CHUCK BLOUNT

POST REGISTER, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

EDITOR'S NOTE: The criteria for Sportswriter of the Year includes depth of coverage, photo accompaniment, human interest stories, and other factors. Depth of coverage requires that the writer go beyond the simple reporting of results and is able to capture the essence and personality of the sport of wrestling. This is sometimes a difficult task in a media world that places so much emphasis on the high profile sports of football and basketball. It is also a challenge to find the time it takes to write good local sports stories when many newspapers, due to economic considerations, are increasingly dependent upon wire services to provide material. *WUSA Magazine* salutes these writers for the dedication and contribution to our great sport!

Chuck Blount comes from wrestling country. As a high school wrestler in Iowa he learned to truly love the sport. That passion has found its way into the wrestling coverage found in the *Post Register* newspaper of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

It is difficult, as we state every year, to provide samples of good wrestling writing. The criteria listed above are used to analyze a sportswriter's contribution to the sport. Blount sur-

passes those expectations.

In his short time at the *Post Register* he has established himself as a quality writer dedicated to the sport. He has written major articles, which have appeared as feature articles on the front page of the sports section, about the elimination of college wrestling programs due to equity legislation. He does a weekly column exclusively on wrestling. He ranks high school wrestlers and teams, and covers the college scene. He provides great coverage for Ricks Junior College and Boise State University as well as national action. He covers high school and college tournaments and does in-depth interviews and stories.

Says Idaho Falls High School Coach Cliff Laughlin of Blount, "Chuck has covered the sport of wrestling like no one else I've witnessed in the twenty years I have coached wrestling. He has done everything possible as a sports writer that can be done to cover the great sport of wrestling, putting articles out for us 'wrestleholics' to read on a regular basis."

WUSA congratulates Chuck Blount for a job well done!!

Nominated by Head Coach Cliff Laughlin, Idaho Falls High School.

