



2000 State Person-of-the-Year Award



Steve Combs
Apache Junc., Arizona

Teacher/Coach - Apache Junction High School
Steve Combs has been involved in the Arizona athletic program since 1964, as a participant, assistant and head coach of football and wrestling. He has been teaching and coaching the youth of the state for the past twenty-seven years. He has served as an assistant and head coach on teams that have won numerous regional, divisional, and state championships in wrestling 5 times.



Gordon Wrin
Framingham, Mass.

Engineer - Gillette Co.
Gordons efforts during the off-season have provided thousands of kids the opportunity to compete in tournaments. You will find him constantly on the phone organizing travel for team Massachusetts to AAU Games and Ocean State Games, as well as weekly events. Gordy has put in over 15 years to USA Wrestling in Massachusetts.



Bill Stanhope
Topeka, Kansas

Business Owner
Bill Stanhope has actively promoted kids wrestling in Kansas for the past 12 years. He has been the Topeka Tornado Wrestling Club President (10 yrs), Kansas District I Director (5 yrs), USAW Kansas Kids State Tournament Director (3 yrs), District Man of the Year, and the 2000 City/County Tournament Director for Topeka/Shawnee Co. He is dedicated to the youth of Kansas, their excellence and success.



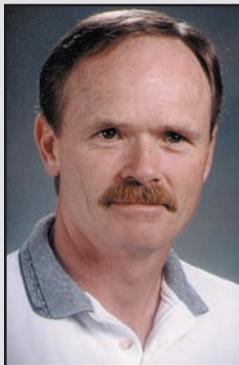
Robert Anniballi
Natick, Massachusetts

Teacher
Bobby has tirelessly worked to organize and run USA Wrestling Tournaments around the state for the past 10 years. He has also coached and managed 10 Massachusetts-USA Wrestling Jr. National Teams; most recently an AAU Jr Olympic Team last summer. Bobby is at the vanguard of our great sport as it enters the 21st century.



Clifford R. Strider, III
Ruston, Louisiana

First Assistant District Attorney
Cliff has been active with the sport for over 30 years. He wrestled at the high school and college levels. Cliff has centered his wrestling focus on officiating since 1969. He is the head official at the Louisiana State High School Championships and the Wrestling Rules Interpreter for the LSHAA. Cliff has held both of these positions since 1987.



Dennis Walch
Westbrook, Maine

Teacher/Coach
When informed that Westbrook would start wrestling if it had a coach, Dennis promptly agreed and the rest is history. Since 1973, Dennis has been the only head coach and won his 300th career dual meet in January. He is a well-respected coach and has been the Maine Coordinator of the Maine/Nebraska Friendship Series (cultural exchange) since 1995, and the Chairman of Health/PE.



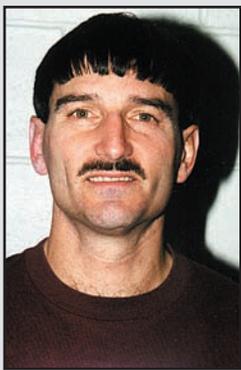
Rusty Davidson
Grants, New Mexico

Teacher/Official
Rusty has been an important part of New Mexico wrestling for 30 years. His contribution to the sport at the state and national level is second to none. He has pushed both high school and international level along with the development of female wrestling in and out of the state. He is always there if someone needs an official or help starting up a program. He has very ambitious goals for himself and New Mexico and is constantly working toward them.



Richard E. Gumble
Binghamton, New York

School Counselor/Coach
Rick has been a major source behind the success and development of New York State wrestling at both the high school and international styles. As a coach/teacher/administrator his efforts have affected many NY athletes, coaches and programs. He is a professional in the true sense of the word and his work ethic and commitment to the sport is second to none.



Chris Drance Warren, Rhode Island

Design Engineer
Chris has been a grass roots leader for youth wrestling in the state for many years. He is the State Vice Chairman, Web Site Director and long-time Director of Warren Youth Wrestling.



Norm Palovcsik Clearfield, Pennsylvania

Norm has been involved with wrestling since elementary school. He earned a PIAA championship in 1968 and in 1971 was part of Penn States EIWA Championship team. He is editor of the PA Wrestling Roundup involved with the Keystone Wrestling Rankings. He has won the Dellinger Award for the "USA's Wrestling Writer of the Year", District IV Man of the Year, and co-authored "The History of the PIAA State Wrestling Championships."



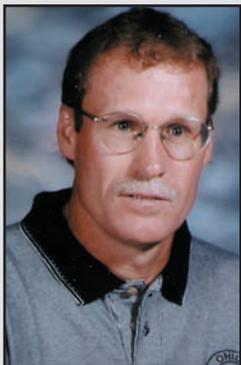
Bob Johnson Brookings, South Dakota

Teacher/Coach
Bob has consistently represented South Dakota wrestling at the highest level. He is a national level officer of the AAU and has been inducted into their Hall of Fame. He is a very successful high school coach and for many years was the tournament director of the state youth tournament. He continues to stay active in all levels of wrestling at the local, state and national level.



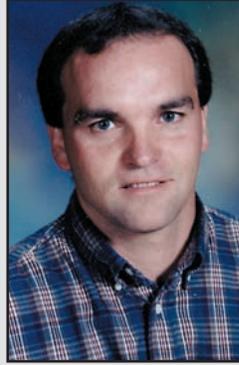
Jim Barnes Rock Hill, So Carolina

Retired Coach
Jim has retired from coaching wrestling after 30 years of teaching and coaching. He has won 17 state titles and over 400 dual matches. His success and dedication to the sport have been the cornerstone to the first 30 years of wrestling in South Carolina.



Chuck Forward Archbold, Ohio

Teacher/Coach
Chuck has coached 28 years in Ohio and has compiled a 278-78 record in 26 years as the head coach at Archbold High School. During his tenure Archbold has won 55 tournament championships, produced 76 individual state qualifiers, 31 state place finishers, 10 state runners-up and 6 state champions. He has been an active coach for USA/Ohio at the Schoolboy, Cadet and Junior levels in Greco-Roman and Freestyle.



Gary Carter Hodgenville, Kentucky

Science Teacher
Gary started a program in a small school, LaRue County High School, 10 years ago in a state where there were no divisions in wrestling. Gary had a state dual championship in 1999, a third place finish in 2000, and a fourth place finish in 1998. At the state tournament he has a third place finish in 2000, a fourth place finish in 1999 and a ninth place finish in 1998.



Bill Garvin Homewood, Alabama

Environmental Consultant
Bill is the coach and director of "Team Alabama." He is active in bringing clinics to the Birmingham area, as well as freestyle and Greco-Roman tournaments. He is also instrumental in the drive to change Title IX. Bill is not a local high school coach but simply an interested parent who wants to see the quality of wrestling in Alabama improve.



Jerry Barker Raleigh, North Carolina

Director of Student Health Services, NC State University
Jerry worked tirelessly bringing the state high school wrestling tournament to the general public in North Carolina through UNV-TV Public Television for the past two years. He contacted individuals to raise funds and made key arrangements for the production of the 90-minute highlight program. He also has directed the WRAL High School Tournament in Raleigh for 28 years.



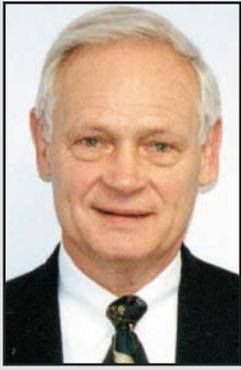
Andy Stone Brookwood, Alabama

Teacher/Coach
Andy came to Alabama in 1995 and started the wrestling program at Brookwood High School in 1999. Brookwood placed third in the state with 3 champions and 4 place winners. Brookwood won the 1-4A State Championships in 2000, with 3 champions and 8 placemen. This was the first state title in any sport for Brookwood in the 72 year history of the school.



Diane Evans Hughson, California

CA USA Wrestling Secretary-Treasurer
The wife of California USAW State Chairman Leroy Evans. Diane processes over 12,000 memberships per year. She handles the state financial matters and serves as the "unofficial" state chairman when husband Leroy is out of town.



David Harty Eagle Grove, Iowa

Teacher/Coach
Mr. Harty gained some valuable administrative experience at Eagle Grove as a teacher and wrestling coach. He also serves as the Assist. Executive Director of the Iowa HS Association. For many years David was a well-known wrestling official with experience at both the high school and collegiate levels. He has worked several national meets. David is a member of the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. He served as the high school representative to the U.S. Wrestling Hall of Fame Selection Committee.



Lewis Curtis Underwood, Iowa

Coach
Head coach of Underwood High School, recently won his 2nd consecutive state championship. Lewis who competed his 11th year has notched a 160-74-1 record; since 1996 107-7. He has had 32 state qualifiers and 75% of them have placed including 5 state champs, 3 runner-ups, 7 thirds, 2 fourths, 4 fifths, and 3 sixths. He coached Iowa's winningest wrestler, Blu Wahle, and eleven 100 match winners.



Jason M. Bryant Poquoson, Virginia

At 20 years of age, Jason is the editor of Mat Talk On-Line (www.erols.com/datwink). He is also the Media Director for VA USA Wrestling, VA AAU Wrestling and the VA Challenge. His work for wrestling in VA spans from announcing high school tournaments, state and regional rankings, and promoting the sport in all ages and styles. He is a junior at Old Dominion where he announces meets and is pursuing a degree in broadcasting and journalism.



G.P. West Tennessee

Mr. West dedicated 33 years to high school wrestling. In his 2nd year he started an invitational tournament. The G.P. West Invitational is one of the strongest and oldest in the state. He coached numerous individual state champions and region champion teams. G.P. served as state chairman for the National Wrestling Federation, perennial president for the state coaches association and worked with the state's freestyle exchange program.

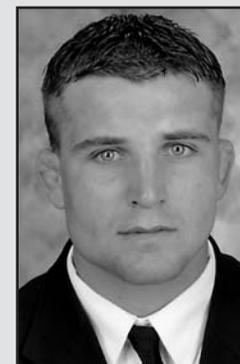
Dan Chandler Minneapolis, Minnesota



Coach
This 3-time Olympian has been deservedly selected as the 2000 Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling head coach for the games in Sidney Australia. The current Minnesota Wrestling USA Greco-Roman State Coach has

developed Minnesota Greco-Roman wrestling as the top wrestling state in the nation.

Tim Hartung Minneapolis, Minnesota



Student/Coach
This University of Minnesota wrestler became the first two-time back-to-back NCAA I National Champion at 197 pounds last spring. He is the current assistant wrestling coach for the University.