



2003 State Editor-of-the-Year **Don Huff** Iowa

Don was contacted in 1996 about the creation of the First Annual *Wrestling USA Magazine*/Cliff Keen Dream Team Classic Dual Meet. With the assistance and leadership of Don and his assistant Steve Gillen the Dream Team Classic became a reality at Waterloo High School in Iowa, the home of wrestling legend Dan Gable.

Don Huff, as a wrestler for West High School, was a two-time Iowa State champion in 1956 and 1957. After a very successful college career he started his coaching in 1961 at Estherville High School.

During the three years at Estherville he had 12 state qualifiers, 6 being place winners. In 1964, Coach Huff moved to New Hampton High School and success followed as his



teams had 15 state qualifiers and 8 of them were place winners.

In 1968 he returned to his alma mater, West High School as an assistant coach, a position he held until 1977 when he was named head coach. During the next 20 years Coach Huff had remarkable success as his teams were conference champions 6 times, district champions 5 times, 3rd in the state 3 times, and in 1989 West High School was crowned state champion. His teams had 102 state qualifiers, with 50 of them being place winners including 12 state runners-up, 7 high school All-Americans and 13 individual state champions. Two of his wrestlers, Mike Van Arsdale and Jamal Fox were 3-time All-Americans and NCAA National Champions at Iowa and Wartburg.