


2003 Man-of-the-Year
Larry Sciacchetano
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

When it comes to international wrestling, one of the highest ranked leaders from the United States is FILA Bureau member Larry Sciacchetano of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sciacchetano is in his second term on the FILA Bureau, the governing council for the international wrestling federation.

For all that he has done for international wrestling, as well as his impact on wrestling at all levels in the United States, Sciacchetano has been named 2003 Man-of-the-Year by *Wrestling USA Magazine*. Known fondly as "Shack," he has made a positive impact on wrestling for many years.

An example of his leadership was the selection by FILA of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma, as the physical location for the new FILA International Wrestling Hall of Fame. This announcement was made during the Iowa vs. Oklahoma State dual meet this winter, before a crowd of 9,000 fans.

Initially, the FILA Wrestling Hall of Fame was intended to be posted on the internet only. Sciacchetano was selected to move the project forward. His creativity and vision guided FILA to develop a partnership with the National Wrestling Hall of Fame to honor the world's greatest wrestlers.

In 1998, he led the U.S. delegation to compete at the Takhti Cup in Tehran, Iran. It was the first U.S. sports team to travel to Iran to compete in close to 20 years, since the Iranian Revolution. The U.S. tour was reported in the international media. The visit was a major success, and the USA returned months later to compete at the 1998 World Freestyle Championships in Tehran. Sciacchetano was selected to oversee the World Championships that year in Iran.

As a FILA Bureau member,



Sciacchetano travels across the world to attend major wrestling competitions. He has worked hard to help FILA to better market and promote the sport worldwide.

Sciacchetano served as president for USA Wrestling from 1994-98. During his tenure, the United States won a World Team title in freestyle at the 1995 World Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as won the most wrestling medals at the 1996 Olympic Games, also held in Atlanta. As USA Wrestling president, he led the organization to tremendous growth in membership, as well as outstanding success in international events.

One of his most challenging tasks as USA Wrestling president came in January 1996, when wrestling hero Dave Schultz was murdered. Sciacchetano returned to the USA from a business trip in Russia and hosted a national media conference to represent USA Wrestling

and share his thoughts about Dave. He helped wrestling mourn the loss of one of its greatest heroes, and honor the memory of his life.

Sciacchetano was also a tremendous wrestling coach on the college level, as well as within international freestyle wrestling circles.

He served as assistant coach of the 1993 U.S. World Team, which won the first World Team title for the United States. He has also taken numerous U.S. teams on tours to foreign nations for competition. He served as Team Leader of the 1994 U.S. Freestyle World Team, which competed in Istanbul, Turkey.

Sciacchetano coached nine years at Louisiana State (1975-85), leading the Tigers to seven Southeast Conference titles and two eighth-place finishes at the NCAA Tournament. He was head wrestling coach at Montclair State and New York Maritime College. He was twice named NCAA National Coach of the Year (1970, 1975) and was the NCAA National Rookie Coach of the Year in 1965.

He coached the Syrian wrestling team at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games, and assisted the U.S. staff at the 1992 Olympic Games. He coached numerous champion wrestlers for the New York Athletic Club. Sciacchetano served five years as State Chairperson of New Jersey in the early 1970s, and has also written three books on wrestling.

As an athlete, he was an undefeated high school wrestler in New Jersey, and went on to win three NCAA All-American honors in the College Division for Montclair State. He was a finalist in both styles at the 1964 Olympic Trials.

Originally from Teaneck, New Jersey, he now serves as chairman of Pentagon Petroleum, Inc., a successful international oil exploration company based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.