



2004 Coaches' Wife-of-the-Year Award

 MAGAZINE

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Editor's Note: This is always one of our favorite awards. Look behind the scenes in most high school wrestling programs and you will find a coaches' wife who serves as a part-time mother, assistant coach, and biggest fan. We let the nomination letter, edited due to space limitations, do the speaking for this award. - Cal

I hesitate to nominate Debbie because she really abhors attention, but I feel compelled to share this with you.

Debbie has been at my side for 22 years. Over the span of those years she has always made certain that things were done. The list is endless, and some things may seem small. But I can tell you from experience that there is a great deal of work, cost, and sacrifice behind the staggering number of things that she does.

Debbie supervises our group of wrestlerettes and managers who assist the program as scorers, timekeepers, and by helping daily with practice preparation. She takes mop heads home every day to wash them in preparation for the next day's practice. She prepares "treat bags," which often include muffins or cookies she has baked, for the wrestlers to have at big tournaments or important matches. She makes the pins that are given to all wrestlers, a task which involves purchasing the materials, spray painting them, and supervising the final construction of the personalized pins.

At the end of the season Debbie pres-



ents to each wrestler a video tape of his matches. The amount of time she puts into copying all their matches is incredible. For most of the year we will have a camera attached to a small television in our living room, where she copies matches for hours on end. She also spends her own money to purchase film and have it developed in the process of taking hundreds of action photos. It is not uncommon for her to have nearly 100 photos of every varsity wrestler. The photos are separated and placed in individual envelopes to be handed out during the annual banquet.

Debbie has been instrumental in helping the evolution of one of our best

traditions. Any time one of our wrestlers qualifies for state, we make up signs to place in their yard the night before we leave. The idea is that when they come out the next morning they see how proud everyone is of them. It is time consuming to make the posters, attach them to the sign brackets, and distribute them the night before leaving. Debbie punches out needed letters in advance, cuts out wrestling shapes and mascots, buys the materials, and gets it all ready for the actual sign construction. She helps construct the signs and then laminates them to protect them from the weather. This project is a tremendous labor of love for her.

In addition to the projects mentioned, Debbie also acts as the wrestlers' team mom. She feeds them, washes their clothes, and many other things. Most importantly, she is supportive of the time and passion I spend on the sport, allowing me to be gone many weekends, get home late at night, and attend camps and clinics.

We have shared a lot of great memories with friends, parents, and wrestlers over the years. One of the best was 2002, when our son placed in state and our team won the state title. To me, Debbie is not just "Coaches' Wife-of-the-Year" for one year, but for the entire 22 years we have been together.

Nominated by Coach and Husband
Victor Lorenzano