


2005 Master-of-Wrestling Award
 MAGAZINE

Reed Hawke New York

The former Jamesville-DeWitt School's coach and gym teacher, Reed Hawke, directed the New York State High School Wrestling Tournament for 34 years from 1970 thru 2003.

Under Hawke, who helped bring the tournament to Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse in 1968, wrestling has been the third-highest moneymaker of all the New York state high school tournaments.

"He's an icon," said Walter Eaton Jr., assistant director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Eaton said no other tournament director, sport coordinator or state committee member comes close to having Hawke's tenure.

Eaton said that besides some expense money and a small stipend the state began paying a few years ago, Hawke has donated his time and talent.

"He's very organized, meticulous," Eaton said. "Reed has never let us down. He's one of those guys who is probably under the category of too nice."

Some of Hawke's fondest memories over the years include the 1970 tourney, when Section 3 won its first team title, "on our home ice, so to speak." He also recalls former West Genesee star Dan Hunt, the first wrestler to win three titles (1972-74) since the tournament started in 1963.

Hawke, also remembers less fondly the 1993 tournament inside the Oncenter



(forced out of the War Memorial for renovations). Hawke and his crew realized early that the portable bleachers in the Oncenter wouldn't hold half the number of fans that would show up. With the help of NewChannels, Hawke was able to provide 1,700 fans seated in a downstairs ballroom a live television feed on a pair of large screens. "That saved our butts," he said.

Mostly, Hawke said he remembers the "family atmosphere" surrounding the event, with the same referees, workers and coaches coming back year after

year. The event also involves Hawke's family, including his wife Fern and their children; Michael, Reed Jr., Ron, Kathy and Lori (another son, Randy, is deceased) who help move boxes of supplies, and sell programs and tickets at the event.

His proudest accomplishment, Hawke said, is helping to get new weight loss requirements instituted in 1998. New York was at the forefront of implementing a system that bases weight loss on body fat measurements. A computer formula then determines how much weight a wrestler can reasonably lose.

Reed Hawke ponders life without a state tournament to direct.

"I'm about the oldest guy on the floor now," he said of the event. "I've seen all these people come and go and I'm still here."

He stops to consider where all the time went.

"It just doesn't seem like it was that many years," he said.

Hawke reaches over and answers the call.

Congratulations Reed for receiving our highest award for 2005. The wrestling community and *Wrestling USA Magazine* wants to honor you for your life and time commitment to the positive development of young men of America through the sport of wrestling.