



2007 STATE Person-of-the-Year **AWARDS**



Jeff Gaier
Cincinnati, OH

Jeff Gaier, in his 25th year as head coach at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, has been instrumental in developing wrestling in Southwest Ohio. He originated the Kid Crusader Wrestling Club in 1985 which currently trains 90+ grade school aged wrestlers. His high school teams have been nationally ranked 5 times, have produced eight state champions, 48 state placers and 101 state qualifiers. His team finished runner-up at the Ohio Division I Tournament this season to National Champion St. Edward.



Don Bradley
Belmont, MA

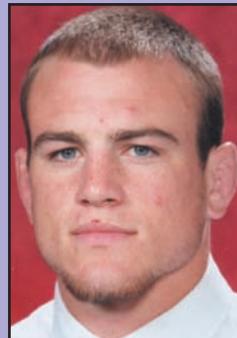
A complete schoolman, a conscientious advisor, a 3-season coach (football, LaCrosse, wrestling) ... Don does it all – and does it with talent and dedication. No person on the faculty is more admired & respected, by students or by fellow faculty. When Don speaks, people truly listen.

– Rick Melvoin, BHS School Head



Bill Desler
Bentonville, AR

Coach Bill Desler is the 1st coach of an AAA approved team and they are undefeated in the state tournament. They have suffered only one loss at state.



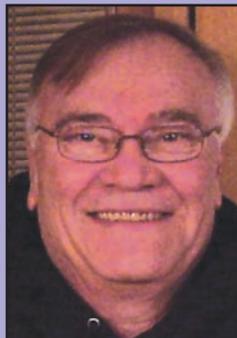
Cael Sanderson
Ames, IA

Cael Sanderson is an undefeated four-time NCAA champion and Olympic gold medalist. As the first year head coach at Iowa State University, he lead his team to their first Big 12 Championship title since 1982. Voted Coach-of-the-Year after a second place finish at the 2007 NCAA Wrestling Championships.



Mark Cammisa
Danbury, CT

As State Director of Connecticut's State Youth Wrestling, Mark Cammisa has helped the quality of wrestling improve, as well as oversees the youth states and qualifiers.



Gary Hindt
Wabasso, MN

Gary Hindt is the only coach Wabasso has ever had. He has amassed a 563-170-6 record. He currently ranks 18th nationally. He has coached 14 teams that have had 2 or fewer losses and only 2 losing records in 39 years of coaching. And after numerous close misses, Gary finally took a team to the state tournament in 2004 and finished as the state runner-up. He has one of the longest, if not the longest, coaching tenures in the state.

Gary is a Real Estate Broker and retired from teaching 8 years ago.



Mike Atlas
Burlington, MA

Mike Atlas runs masswrestling.com, where with the help of volunteers he provides a free place for the entire wrestling community in Massachusetts to share opinions, rankings, events, news and more. On any given day, 45 people are viewing the site at the same time, ranging from high school, college and youth wrestlers, to their fans and coaches alike.



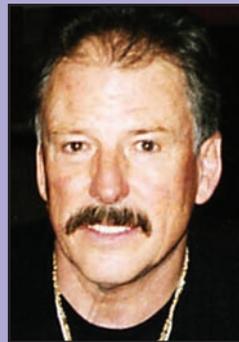
B. J. Guzzardo
Baton Rouge, LA

B.J. Guzzardo has been the LHSAA Commissioner in charge of high school wrestling for over 18 years. During four of these years, B.J. served on the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee. B.J. is responsible for raising the pay of wrestling officials as well as the introduction of high school rules and procedures in Louisiana which dictate health and safety for our wrestlers. This man is responsible for a progressive state wrestling tournament that improves yearly under his guidance as Tournament Director with this year's tournament breaking attendance records.



Don Rinehart Rockford, MI

Don Rinehart was named the 2007 Coach-of-the-Year Division I, and is in his 33rd year of coaching. His team won the Division I State Championship with a season record of 30-1. The team boasted three state champions, three runners-up, one 5th and one 8th place individually. He collected his 500th career win this season. He has been on the MWA committee for the last six years.



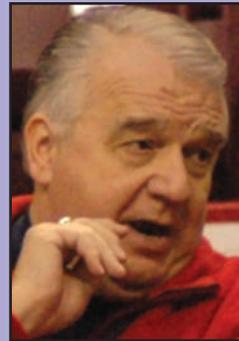
Jim Husk Miami, FL

Jim Husk has been part of Florida wrestling since the 1964-65 when Florida started wrestling, and has been part of every Florida State Wrestling Championship since. Jim has given his life to Florida wrestling, and is known as the God Father of wrestling in Florida.



Keith Shields Winston Salem, NC

Keith Shields has coached 20 years as an assistant and head coach in the Forsyth County School District. He has served as the NHSCA Tournament Director for the past four years and coordinated the Collegiate Southern Scuffle that included 42 college teams this past year. He helps coordinated the NC high school Super 32 held in Greensboro and one of the largest one-day tournaments in the nation that include high school wrestlers nationwide. His energy and enthusiastic approach promoting amateur wrestling has earned him respect nation-wide.



Dr. Michael Cordas Harrisburg, PA

Dr. Cordas has served the PIAA Wrestling state tournament for many years. His dedication to the high school athletes in Pennsylvania has been tremendous. He heads the medical advisory committee for wrestling. We salute Dr. Cordas for his unselfish service.



Terry Devereaux Augusta, ME

Terry enjoyed an outstanding career at Belfast High School, reached the New England finals at 155 in 1978 and wrestled at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. When the competition days were over, he stayed mat side as the coach for 10 years at Cory High School and helped bring respectability to the Rams program. He has stayed active by serving as a tournament director or Site director at various events throughout the Pine Tree State. He was one of the many driving forces in staging the Class A, B and C state meets at one site. He recently became the state director for USAW-ME, still Referee's and is a wrestling columnist for the *Kennebec Journal/Morning Sentinel*.



Bill Swink Grottoes, VA

Bill Swink is head coach of the Virginia AAA State Tournament Championships in Colonial Forge and has organized and sponsored new events, high-level duals and individual tournaments in recent years to promote strong interstate competition. He has been the organizer and sponsor of the Battlefield Duals (regular season duals tournament), with interstate competition from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and hosted and organized the Marine Corps Ultimate Challenge (regular season round-robin individuals tournament). He also organized and coached the Raptors Wrestling Club that competes in off-season events. His team won the 2006 War on the Shore Tournament in Maryland, and finished 2nd at the 2006 Kansas City National Wrestling Classic.



Dr. Tim Miller Kingwood, WV

Dr. Miller is a resident of Kingwood, WV. "Dr." began his efforts with West Virginia mat over 10 years ago as a service to the wrestlers, coaches and fans of West Virginia. One of the top wrestling pages in the nation has helped keep West Virginians and the rest of the nation informed about wrestling in our state. "Dr." was the recipient of the Media Person-of-the-Year Award in 1997 and 2004, and was presented a special award at the state tournament by the Coaches Association for his work on the web page.



Blake Love Missoula, MT

Blake Love is selected for his work with officiating (numerous years as the head ref for USAW and AAU) and for all his work as a Montana high school official, Junior and Cadet National Team Coach, and then also for his work with starting the Northwest Junior Duals Team in Montana this last year.



Van Hale Afton, WY

Van Hale follows the Star Valley Wrestling Team on his own time. He assists kids from Star Valley after and during meets, as well as athletes from other schools. Sometimes when he arrives at tournaments, coaches and athletes from other teams are looking forward to his arrival so he can help them out. Often he works with kids to enable them to compete directly against the Star Valley team he supports. Van also volunteers his time to work with all of the teams at Star Valley High School. He has become a fixture in the wrestling community and his time and dedication are greatly appreciated.



Greg Hatcher Little Rock, AR

Greg Hatcher has been the main catalyst in the state for wrestling, and is the founder and president of the Arkansas Wrestling Association. He found or provided funding for free mats for the first 20 schools to wrestle in Arkansas.