

2008 STATE Person-of-the-Year AWARDS



Joey Archangelo
Bear, DE

Joey Archangelo wrestled at Claymont High School where he was a 3-time Blue Hen Champion and a state champ with a record 96-12-2. Joey went on to Delaware State University where he was a MEAC Champion and 3rd in Eastern Regionals. After graduation, Joey pursued a career with the New Castle County Police, while with the police he finished 3rd in the World Police Games in wrestling in Calgary. In 1999 he started the Hockessin Police Athletic League where he opened up open wrestling sessions to the kids at Caravel Academy. Last year, in his first year as Caravel Academy's wrestling coach, the Bucs claimed four individual state champions.



Tom Ackley
Fryeburg, ME

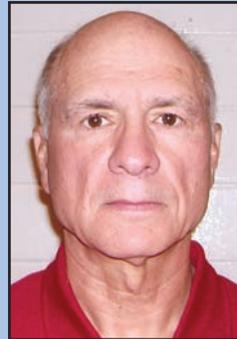
Tom's exposure to wrestling was as a student trainer, traveling with the U Maine wrestling team. Ackley's biggest strength is organizing and his pride was to make every effort to ensure that meets were a positive experience for everybody. He served several terms on the Maine Principal Association and was Team Trainer for the Maine team which hosted the Russians in 1974. Ackley retired in 2005, to spend more time with his wife Sue, however, he returned this season to run the Mid-State meet and Class B/C Regional.

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 and respected, by students or by fellow faculty. When Don speaks, people truly listen.



Tim Norstrem
Brandon, FL

Tim Norstrem has done an outstanding service to the Florida Wrestling Community. He has served on the Board of Directors for Florida USA Wrestling. Tim has been greatly involved with the Brandon Wrestling program where his sons wrestle, and has shared his services by holding different positions on Florida National Teams.



Bruce Bittenbender
Stevensville, MI

Bruce is only the second coach in Michigan to ever earn more than 200 career wins with a career record of 702-169-7. He created the Southwest Michigan Coaches Association to promote high school wrestling in southwest Michigan. He was seven times Regional Coach of the Year and in 2003 he was Michigan Coach of the Year. He has served as historian for MWA since 1996.



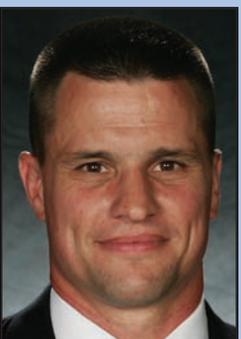
Chris "Bull" Kienzle
Baton Rouge, LA

Though Coach Chris "Bull" Kienzle has his wrestling roots in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania, he has sprouted his technique and execution style here in Louisiana. He is head wrestling coach of St. Michael the Archangel in Baton Rouge, as well as head Coach of the Warrior Wrestling USA wrestling club and Assistant Coach with BRAWL USA wrestling club. He gives of himself to the sport he loves without hesitation. Coach "Bull" is another Louisiana class act.



Lyle Freudenberg
Foley, MN

Legacy. Alone the word is merely six letters placed together to portray the definition of a long history of success. Lyle Freudenberg is one of the types of people that put meaning to the word. Coach Freudenberg has been coaching high school wrestling in Foley for nearly 30 years. During this time he has moved his way up to become the fourth winningest coach in Minnesota wrestling history. He has accumulated three state champion trophies, a Minnesota coach of the year trophy, countless other trips to the state tournament as well as hundreds of individual state entrants. Perhaps his most impressive accomplishment in so many years is the profound affect his success has had on the town and on individual students. We are all proud to share and know that with his continuing help, encouragement and commitment Foley will remain "the wrestling community".



Jay Weiss
Cambridge, MA

Harvard Coach Jay Weiss is an integral member of the wrestling community in Massachusetts. Along with his many accomplishments in the college ranks, Jay has actively supported athletic and coaching development in the Commonwealth through USA Wrestling-Massachusetts. His work with the Massachusetts Junior National Team and clinics throughout the state has raised the level of training, technique and competition throughout our Commonwealth.



John Rogers
Albuquerque, NM

John graduated from Rio Grande High School, Albuquerque, NM in 1979. During his high school career he earned varsity letters in wrestling, football, and track. In his senior year he placed 2nd in the state wrestling tournament at heavyweight and was selected as the schools' Outstanding Athlete.

After completing his initial enlistment in the Navy, John returned to his alma mater (Rio Grande High School) as a voluntary coach. He coached at Rio Grande from 1985 to 2007. During his tenure he was instrumental in the team achieving 1 state title, 2 runners-up, three 3rd place finishes.

John has also been a pairings official for Olympic style wrestling, earning a Silver Level Certification for Pairings. John was renowned as the expert of the NFHS Rule Book by all coaches and officials.



Rich Vetock Revloc, PA

Rich has been a big part of wrestling in Pennsylvania for many years. His contributions are wide-spread as he has designed websites for District 6 and his local high school. He keeps the team rankings for District 6 and has also done their individual rankings. For many years, he has been an integral part of the NW AAA Regional and PIAA State Championships. He is currently part of a committee working on automating a statewide and district individual ranking system.



Charles Easter Nitro, WV

Coach Easter is the wrestling coach at Nitro High School in Nitro, West Virginia. A graduate of Pocahontas High School in 1979, he participated in football, track and baseball, and was a member of the National Honor Society during high school. Never having wrestled in high school, he dove into the sport when his three sons became involved in the sport. He took over the head coaching position in Nitro after the former coach left for health reasons. His efforts at Nitro have kept the sport alive. Chuck's proudest achievement is having his three sons win eleven individual state championships between them during their high school careers and then accept wrestling scholarships to Cornell and VMI.



Charlie Clay North Myrtle Beach, SC

Coach Charlie Clay has built the North Myrtle Beach wrestling team from the ground up, starting the school's first wrestling team in 2001. In 2006 North Myrtle Beach finished as SC State 3A Dual Runners-up. In 2007 the team achieved SC State 3A Dual Runners-up once again winning 33 dual matches. In addition to Coach Clay's devotion to building the team at North Myrtle Beach, he has been one of the key leaders in the Coaches Association with taking the North/South All-Star Classic to the next level. The SC North/South All-Star Classic completed its 20th annual event this year, with the last five years being held in North Myrtle Beach. Coach Charlie Clay is deserving of this year's honor as South Carolina's State Wrestling Man of the Year.



Ward Gossett Chattanooga, TN

Ward Gossett began covering high school wrestling as a college undergraduate in 1970 and has done a superb job promoting wrestling since then with a few interruptions for military service and other newspaper assignments. Though he writes numerous articles about local teams for his Chattanooga-based *Times Free-Press*, he also contacts coaches across the state in an effort to report significant events during the season and to better prepare for his outstanding coverage of the post-season championships involving coverage of qualifying tournaments and of previews, daily updates and follow-up articles for the state championship tournaments. He promotes college wrestling for the UTC Moccasins but also has covered wrestling in the old SEIWA and SEC conferences and more recently, the Southern Conference. Recently, Ward began a wrestling blog on his newspaper's website for the rabid wrestling fans in Tennessee who need more outlets for wrestling-related information.



Blaine Isham Essex Junction, VT

In high school, Blaine was the Vermont State Champion in 1971-72. In his career Blaine has been the Assistant Coach at Essex High School from 1980-1994, was a wrestling official for 10 years, coached Youth Wrestling at Essex from 1981 to the present, and has coached the Essex High School boy cross-country team from 1987-1994, winning three state championship. He has conducted countless clinics and tournaments.



2008 NJCAA Championships - 157 lbs. Davaughn Perkins (North Iowa CC) in on the leg of Mashall Giovanni (Highline). Perkins won by decision 9-8. Photo by John Johnson.