



2009 STATE

Person-of-the-Year AWARDS



Gerry Kirk
Springdale, AR

Gerry is the head wrestling coach at Springdale High School. He has been working with wrestling in Arkansas since the start of the drive that resulted in the state-wide acceptance of the sport. Gerry has continually ran youth programs and held free wrestling camps in Springdale for the last four years. Gerry doesn't care what school or town a wrestler is from, he will always allow the wrestler to attend his camps. Gerry regularly spends his own money to help pay for wrestling fees for dozens of athletes to attend national and local tournaments. Gerry has

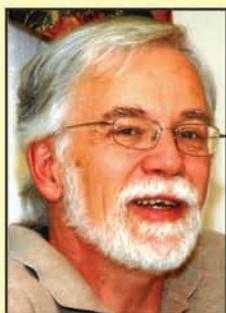
made every team that he has worked with better. This year Gerry took the team that had virtually no experience and coached them to a twelfth place finish in state. He has a fantastic work ethic and genuinely cares about the wrestlers in Arkansas.



Kurt Howell
Newark, DE

Kurt Howell was 4-time Delaware state high school champion at Newark High School and finished his career 108-0. After graduation, he wrestled for Clemson and was a 3-time NCAA qualifier and an All-American finishing with a 100-22 record. Howell graduated from Clemson with a history degree and later received a Masters Degree in PE-Sports Management.

After 8 years at Indian River High School where he coached 4 Henlopen Conference and 1 state champion, he was named head wrestling coach at Smyrna High School. Smyrna became a Delaware high school power and under his guidance where the Eagles won their first Division II Dual Meet Tournament. In 2007 Matt Boyles became Kurt Howell's first state champion at Smyrna. In 2009, the Eagles finished with a 15-3 dual meet record and for the first time since 1995, Smyrna won the Henlopen Conference Wrestling Tournament title.



Dr. Frank Kielizek
Norway, ME

Dr. Frank Kielizek became involved with the sport when son James wrestled and he submitted photos to a weekly newspaper. He saw unhealthy practices by high school wrestlers who would do anything to make weight. He developed a healthy weight management program and in 2004 a statewide WMP was adopted by the Maine Principal Association. He has become one of the most respected scorers at tournaments in the state. Kielizek believes he is just a clog in a terrific community of people, each of whom does his little bit to make the whole thing work, and he cherishes the good associations.

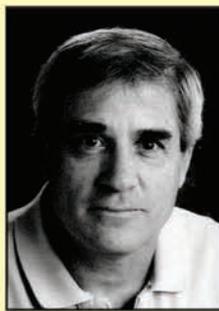


Dave Breen
Norwood, MA

Dave began his coaching career in 1978 as the freshmen coach at his alma mater, Norwood High School. He soon worked his way up to become the head coach at Norwood and then again at Xaverian Brothers High School from 1988 through 1995. During the past 14 years Dave has served as volunteer assistant coach at Bridgewater-Raynham, Franklin and Dedham. During this time Dave has coached over a hundred Sectional Champions and dozens of State Champions.

At each school, Dave takes the extra time to work with wrestlers to continue their education in the classroom and on the mat. There is no greater proponent of education and wrestling than Dave Breen.

Dave has served as a Sectional Representative, coached numerous Massachusetts All-Star teams at National Tournaments and has served as MIAA Tournament Director.



Gregg Greeno
Albertville, MN

Gregg Greeno was the head coach at Saint Michael-Albertville for 28 years (1980-2008). His career record was 537-95-2 (.850) and lead his team to 20 Conference Dual meet titles and 15 Region/Section titles. He lead the STMA Knights to 6 state championships in the 90s and 2000s. He served as the President of the Minnesota Coaches Association in 1993. Gregg was named Minnesota "State Coach of the Year" twice. Also Gregg will be a future inductee to the Dave Bartelma MWCA Wrestling Hall of Fame.

He is a member of the Jamestown College Athletic Hall of Fame.



Paul Vaith
Hastings, MN

For the past 19 Years Paul has coached his teams to a State Championship, and 8 other State Team Tournament place finishes. Paul has coached 144 All Conference Selections, 128 State Entrants, 55 state individual place winners, and 6 State Champions. Paul has twice been selected MWCA State Coach of the Year, and MN/USA Coach of the Year. Paul has guided his teams to a 412-99-1 mark, and had five of his teams place in the top 4 in their bracket at The Clash National High School Duals in Rochester, Minnesota.



Bob Gregg
Washington, PA

A career that started during his sophomore year in high school has now spanned 33 years. WJPA Radio's Bob Gregg has seen the sport change greatly-from riding time and stretch leggings, to freestyle takedown clinics, limitations on injury/blood timeouts and tiebreakers where scorekeepers count the number of takedowns. Gregg has also seen coverage of the sport change-from live & tape-delay radio and tv, hardcopy newspaper and agate type, to instant access via the internet with live, streaming audio heard round the world.

Bob is the Sports Director at WJPA Radio in Washington, PA, which regularly broadcasts 10-12 regular season dual meets, the Chartiers-Houston, PowerADE and Tri-County in-season tournaments, plus the WPIAL & PIAA Dual Meet championships. Then, the focus shifts to the individuals-WPIAL AA & AAA Sections, District and Regional tournaments lead up to the station's start-to-finish coverage of the PIAA Championships. This year's tourney will be the 60th consecutive year of coverage on WJPA-AM.



Ronnie Carter
Hermitage, TN

Ronnie Carter has been involved with wrestling for 40 years as a teacher, coach, official, and administrator, as the Assistant Executive Director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, and then as its Executive Director. Prior to joining the TSSAA, Carter taught mathematics and coached football, basketball, wrestling, and track for 11 years at the secondary school level in Nashville. During his tenure, the number of schools with wrestling programs increased 50% and the number of schools participating in the state tournaments have also increased dramatically. Heavily involved at the national level, Carter served as the president of the NFHS, on its executive board, and on its Wrestling Rules Committee for four years. For his commitment to high school wrestling he was also inducted in the Tennessee chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.