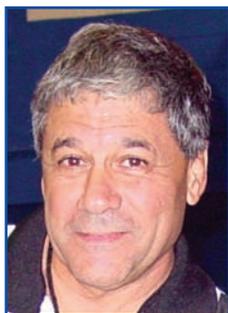


## 2011 STATE Person-of-the-Year AWARDS



**Rick Tucci**  
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Rick Tucci has donated more than 30 years of his life to Florida wrestling. He has served as a coach, an official, a FAWA Board Member and always been there to support the children of Florida.

His four Olympic games, 17 world championships, countless junior college tournaments, 11 Florida state championships and over 5,000 high school matches has earned Tucci a reputation as one of the most impressive officials the sport has to offer.

His induction into the Broward, Florida, Junior College and National Wrestling Halls of Fame, backs up his impact on the sport and those who compete in it.

It is time that we thank this man for his contributions to Florida Wrestling.



**Bill Edmundson**  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

For the seventh consecutive year the finals of the North Carolina State wrestling individual championships matches have been filmed and made available to view first on public TV, then cable TV and for sale to the public on DVDs. Bill Edmundson's video production company has filmed, edited and produced the video

of the finals matches each year. He has adjusted to a change in venue, a change of divisions from three to four divisions, change of production specifications from NC Public TV to Time-Warner Cable

Bill's unique expertise in both wrestling and video production has made this possible. Bill has served as the head coach at Rosewood High School since the team started in 1993. His teams have made the state duals tournament 17 consecutive seasons, every year after the first season. His teams have won 401 dual meets and numerous conference championships. He has directed and hosted 15 Eagle Invitational Tournaments, which has grown in stature as one of the best-run tournaments in North Carolina. Under his direction Rosewood has hosted numerous conference, spring open, youth and girls state tournaments. The first two 1A Eastern Regional Tournaments were hosted at Rosewood as the N.C. State Tournament expanded to 4 divisions.

Bill is respected and appreciated by other coaches especially in the eastern part of the state. He has helped many coaches in organizing new programs at their schools and by assisting coaches and athletic directors with ideas for promoting their teams and in hosting tournaments. He is accommodating and comfortable to work with as he has adjusted to a change in state tournament and state organization personnel, announcers and many loud and boisterous coaches. The coaches, wrestlers, parents and fans have often spoken about the professional touch that Bill has used in providing the productions of the state wrestling championship tournaments over the past seven years.



**Aaron Polansky**  
Dighton, Massachusetts

In order to become one of the elite high school wrestlers in the United States, it is important that you learn to wrestle both Freestyle and Greco-Roman and compete at the Junior and Cadet National wrestling tournament which is held in Fargo North Dakota every summer. For the past ten

years Aaron has served as Director of USA Wrestling-Massachusetts, the state chapter of the national governing body of the USA Olympic Wrestling Team which hosts this tournament. Aaron Polansky has brought together a group of talented and dedicated coaches of Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and under their guidance, Massachusetts has successfully had wrestlers earn All-American status each and every year.

Coach Polansky is also responsible for organizing and sponsoring many spring and summer tournaments around our state. Other notable achievements are the successful IronMan Tournament and Stance in Motion. Through Stance in Motion, USA Wrestling-Massachusetts has provided wrestling mats for fifteen new wrestling programs around our state.

In addition to his duties as an Assistant Principal, Coach Polansky also assembled representatives from the six New England States to introduce the Youth New England Wrestling Tournament. He also proposed to the MIAA to formally recognize Girls' Wrestling as an official Massachusetts High School sport.

For these achievements as well as many others, we would like to honor Coach Polansky for the persistence, hard work and dedication that he exhibits in order to lead the sport of wrestling in Massachusetts into the twenty-first century.



**Jayson Ness**  
Bloomington, Minnesota

"In 2010, Jayson Ness capped a historic career with one of the most successful seasons in the history of Minnesota wrestling. The Bloomington, Minnesota native completed a perfect 31-0 season as a senior complete with his first NCAA championship and his fourth-career All-American accolade. Along the way, Ness charged up the Minnesota record book and finished his career as Minnesota's all-time leader in career pins (73) and third all-time in career wins (148). To top off his perfect senior season, Ness was honored with the 2010 Hodge Trophy, making him the first Minnesota wrestler ever to earn the title of college wrestling's top competitor. Along with the Hodge, Ness was honored as the Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, the NWCA Most Outstanding Wrestler of the National Championships and the InterMat Wrestler of the Year to conclude his college career as the most decorated wrestler in Minnesota history.