

2012 STATE Person-of-the-Year AWARDS



**Benny Mitchell
Delaware**

Benny has been very involved in wrestling for most of his life. At Sussex Central High School, he lettered in football, wrestling and baseball. After graduation, he enrolled in the Rehoboth Police Department and has been with the department for a long time. In the 1990s, Benny started the Rehoboth Beach Wrestling Club where they would have practices at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, DE and in 2000, he founded the Henlopen Hammers where they would practice at Caesar Rodney High School in Camden, DE near Dover. Benny had coached and developed young middle school wrestlers by travel to various wrestling tournaments all over the east coast and when they enter high school they have placed in the Henlopen Conference and State Wrestling Tournaments in Delaware. Benny is also involved in running various kids tournaments, two of them are the Rough Rider at Caesar Rodney High School, the Kids Scholastic State Open Tournament at Sussex Tech High School sometimes will run the Henlopen Conferences. Benny also used to be a sportswriter for The Coast Press where he has cover local various athletic events including middle and high school sports in the Lewes and Rehoboth area.



**Stuart Mahler
Florida**

Stuart Mahler has been a staple in Florida wrestling for 40 years and running. You name it and he has done it. He has been a middle school coach, a high school coach and the national team director. He has served as our State Editor for *Wrestling USA Magazine* for the past 27 years making sure that Florida's best wrestlers receive national recognition. He is presently serving as the Vice Chairman of one of the largest growing organizations in wrestling the Florida Amateur Wrestling Association.

Stuart has not only volunteered his time and knowledge for the betterment of Florida wrestling, he is also one of our best fundraisers and sponsors. Through his endless efforts he has ensured that kids from lower economic backgrounds, specifically wrestlers from the South Florida area receive the same opportunities to compete at the national level. Anybody that truly knows Stuart greatly appreciates all that he does for our athletes and the growth of Florida wrestling.



**Eugene Hildebrandt
Minnesota**

Eugene Hildebrandt has been an educator in the St. James school district since 1981. He serves the district as Dean of Students and manages the School within a School program. He has been the St. James Head Wrestling Coach since 1986. Through the following years his teams have compiled an amazing win-loss record and won ten South Central Conference Championships. Through his leadership, our school has qualified seven teams to the State Tournament and won two State Team Championships. He has had numerous state individual qualifiers, state individual place winners and state champions.

Eugene Hildebrandt takes his coaching duties seriously. He is always well prepared. We can count on his teams to be well prepared. The Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association have been able to count on him. He has served the association in numerous ways. His desire to succeed and excel in his profession are unsurpassed.

Most importantly, Eugene Hildebrandt works to help kids. He has been successful because he can motivate kids to achieve. He shows kids that he cares about them as individuals. He takes kids that others may give up on and he influences them into a positive direction. Eugene Hildebrandt is the type of person that will go the extra mile to help kids.

Gene's family include his wife - Julie, daughters - Sarah and Danielle, son-in-law - Erik, and grandson - Landon.



**Bill Creps
Pennsylvania**

Head coach 1974-99 (25 years):
career record 304-75-4 with 11 District 5 and 3 Southwest Regional Championships. Coached 81 District Champions, 18 Regional Champions and 16 state medalists including four state runner-ups

Started the Jr. Wrestling qualifying tournament for Bedford and Southern Blair County in 1970 and has run this sectional tournament of Area 2 every year since - 43 years

- Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association Board of Directors every year since 1980
- President of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association for 2 years 1986 and 1987
- Pennsylvania AA Coach-of-the-Year 1986
- Inducted into Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 2000
- Started in 1988 and still runs one of the most successful AA tournament (Thomas Tournament) for 24 years
- With the help of Tom Elling and other PA Wrestling Legends ran Fan Fest at the state tournament for over ten years