

## **THE CALIFORNIA PAGE**

**BY**

**LYNN DYCHE**

### **2016 California Wrestling Hall of Fame Honorees:**

Twenty five individuals have been selected for the “2016 Class of Honorees” to be recognized at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual California Wrestling Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. The banquet will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the San Jose Elks Club, San Jose, CA.

Fifteen individuals will be recognized with the Lifetime Service Award. This award is presented to individuals who have given a minimum of ten years towards improving the stature of California Wrestling. They have served as tournament directors and staff members, announcers, photographers, pairing masters, officials, and coaches.

Receiving the Lifetime Service Award will be: Vic Anastasio, Howard Bryant, Kermit Bankson, Al Fontes, Gary Garcia, Ray Jimenez, Larry Katz, Steve Page, Bruce Shelton and Thomas Thomsen. In addition five individuals, most of them wrestling pioneers who got wrestling organized in the 50’s and 60’ will be recognized. They are: Jack Fiebig, Dr. Al DeFerrari, Richard Swift, John Phillips and Dr. Martin Olavarri.

Ten individuals will be Inductees into the Hall of Fame. They were coaches and/or wrestlers. Inductees are: Jesse Barajas, Greg Chappel, Ms. Afsoon Johnston, Jamil Kelly, Derek Moore, Anthony Palomino, Dr. Marco Sanchez, Steve Siroy, Dr. Casey Strand, and Don Williams. Ms. Afsoon Johnston will be the second woman to be inducted. Ms. Ralphene Lee was inducted in 2003.

For banquet information or to make reservations, contact Del Schwartz, 21712 Superior Lane, Lake Forest, CA 93630 or email at [delschwartz @cox.net](mailto:delschwartz@cox.net)

### **State Tournament:**

The 2016 State CIF Tournament should be very competitive for tournament championship honors. Clovis has to be the team favorite but a few upsets could set the stage for other schools to make a run for the tournament title. San

Marino, Buchanan, Bakersfield, Poway and Gilroy all have wrestlers who can win a state title. Clovis has two state champions and three finalists returning.

**Divisions:** There is a great deal of discussion regarding changing the state tournament format to two or three divisions. At the present time, with only one division, many very good wrestlers are eliminated in regional tournaments and don't have the opportunity to participate in the state tournament. Divisions are a hot topic and if the coaches want divisions, then two or three coaches need to get organized and make a presentation to the State CIF Federated Council.

**Girls State Tournament:** Another "hot topic" is combining the girls state tournament with the boys state tournament. I predict that this will happen within the next three years. What will have to take place is to eliminate the elevated platform for the championship matches, use all ten mats both days and finish with the girls championships at 5:00 PM and the boys at 7:00 PM on Saturday evening. Another option is to have the first round of the state tournament held on Thursday evening. There has also been some discussion about using the theater stage next to the arena with four mats. I am not in favor of this. It's not fair to the coaches, wrestlers and parents to have to wrestle on the stage. Parents cannot see their son or daughter wrestle on the back mats and coaches would be running back and forth from the arena to the theater. Not a good idea.