

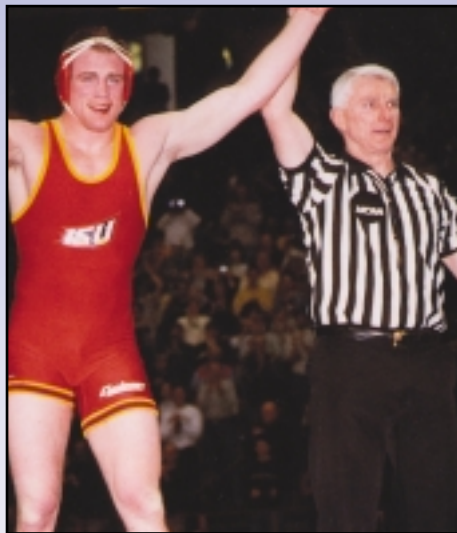


2003 Official-of-the-Year
Dave Frisch

If you had the opportunity to attend the 1984 Division I National Championships in the Meadowlands of New Jersey, you would have seen Dave Frisch, one of the new officials at the tournament. Since that year, Dave has been asked to officiate every Division I national tournament, with the exception of the 1991 tournament when he requested a replacement so he could stay home with his wife who was undergoing chemotherapy treatment as well as radiation treatment for breast cancer. Over the past ten Division I tournaments, Dave has been ranked the top official eight times, including the past seven years straight.

Dave grew up on a farm outside of St. James, MN, in a family of six children—five of whom were boys. All the boys wrestled for St. James High School, and because Dave was the fourth son, his brothers practiced many holds and pinning combinations on him. Dave wrestled varsity for three years, and was a member of the 1972 MN all-classification state championship team. He competed at the college level for Worthington Community College and then at St. Cloud State University where he was a four-time national qualifier and finished as high as 8th place twice.

Dave began officiating after graduation from college as a way to stay involved in wrestling and earn a little extra money. Since then he has officiated 19 Division I NCAA Championships, 10 Division II NCAA Championships, 8 Division I National Dual Team Championships, 9 Junior College National Tournaments and 1 NAIA National Tournament. In addition, he has officiated more than a score of national qualifiers in the Big 10, Big 12, WAC and PAC 10 conferences. Dave was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in



Stillwater, OK, in 1998, and was also inducted into the Colorado Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in April of this year.

Through the years Dave has had the opportunity to raise the hands of many great champions; however, none compares to the match he had the opportunity to work in the 2002 championships. Dave was selected to officiate Cael Sanderson's final collegiate match, an opportunity and experience he will always remember as the highlight of his career.

Dave and his wife Becky have lived in the Colorado Springs area for the past twenty years. They have three children: Stephanie, a high school English teacher and head basketball coach, lives in Colorado Springs. Tony is a Combat Search and Air Rescue Swimmer in the U.S. Navy, and is stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. Tony is married to Cristy, his high school sweetheart, and they have a son Gavin, and their second child was born in April. Heidi is completing her sophomore year at the University of

Northern Colorado and is preparing for a future in elementary education while she plays tennis for the UNC Bears.

If you were to ask Dave to identify the greatest champion in his life he will tell you, "Other than the Lord, it is my wife who has been my best friend and mate for 29 years." Dave and Becky have been through much together: raising their three children, wrestling with Becky's breast cancer, Dave's malignant melanoma, and Becky's ongoing battle with diabetes. Both will tell you they would have never made it through these trials in life without their faith and trust in the Lord.

In his spare time Dave enjoys riding his mountain bike, running, fishing, camping and climbing mountains. His climbing buddy is one of his old high school wrestling teammates, Rod Lang, who has been a friend since grade school, and who also lives in Colorado Springs. Dave and Rod have climbed over twenty of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks and reached the summit on one in snowshoes during the winter months. Not only has Dave hiked up mountains, but he has also run the Pikes Peak Marathon in under five hours, one of America's most grueling running events. He has also run a regular marathon in less than three hours. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Dave is also very involved with church ministry. This past year Dave retired from running a children's program at their church which he was instrumental in establishing in 1985. The program ministers to 200-300 children each week.

Dave plans on officiating for a few more years. He said his hair is a little more gray now than it was in 1984, but otherwise, everything else is pretty much the same. See you on the mats next year, Dave.