

National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum Florida Chapter



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 3

Spring 2022

The President's Podium

This issue - a guest columnist!



To The Florida Chapter Board of the NWHOF:

I want to thank each and every one of you for the stellar work you have done in helping our organization fulfill its mission during these past couple of years. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, you have been steadfast in your commitment to preserving our sport's heritage and recognizing deserving individuals who have met the criteria for enshrinement in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's Florida Chapter.

Through your service with the Florida Chapter, you promote the values and benefits of our sport to future generations. If our sport is to be relevant in the decades to come, we must build upon the shoulders of those who have shaped our past, so that our present-day participants can continue to inspire future generations.

Because of your board leadership, you have offered the wrestling community in Florida a first-class, unforgettable annual event to celebrate the state's wrestling leaders, past, present and future. I urge all of you to keep up the great work that shines as an example to our State Chapter programs all across the United States of the impact you can have on the mission of our National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

With sincere appreciation,



Lee Roy Smith
Executive Director, NWHOF

***Remember, when we do it, we do it with class,
for we are honoring the best of the best.***

Gary Townsend



In Memoriam

Mr. Ron Jones, Class of 2008



Our deepest sympathies to his family.

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On behalf of the Florida Chapter Board of Directors, we congratulate all Florida wrestlers for the hard work and dedication you have put in for the 2021-2022 wrestling season. Wrestling is one of the toughest sports in history, and to wrestle a full season is an honor. Be proud of what you have accomplished!

2023 NOMINATIONS

Dear Wrestling Community,

Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. It is the wrestling community that is responsible for helping us find and recognize those men and women who have dedicated their lifetime to the sport of wrestling. We once again ask for your assistance to help us find deserving individuals to honor.

The timeline for making a nomination for the 2023 Induction Class is now through August 30, 2022. Applications can be downloaded from our website at <https://nwhof.org/state-chapters/florida>. All applications need to include one letter of nomination and at least two letters of recommendation. Completed applications are to be sent to Robert Burns, 328 S.E. 2nd Court, Deerfield Beach, Florida, 33441.

If you have any other questions, please contact me at 954- 426-6457.

Thank you in advance and thank you for your continued support of the greatest sport in the world.

Bob Burns. Class of 2007



Florida Chapter Awards

The following awards are approved by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Given in recognition of 20 years or more of dedication to the development of leadership and citizenship in the youth through the sport of wrestling.

Outstanding American

Given to former wrestlers who are highly successful in other walks of life and use the disciplines learned in wrestling in their profession.

Medal of Courage

Presented to a former wrestler who has overcome what appear to be insurmountable challenges.

John Vaughn Award.

Some years, the Florida Chapter bestows this prestigious chapter award that was created to acknowledge those deserving athletes and other individuals who otherwise may not receive recognition for their profound contribution to the sport of amateur wrestling in the state.

Know a new coach or AD in your district?

Changed your preferred email?

Changed schools?

If you can answer YES to any of these questions, please let us know so we can continue to deliver the newsletter to you, and to let others receive it too. Email the new information to:

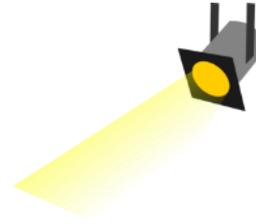
NWHOFfloridachapternewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

David Laxton

Class of 2005

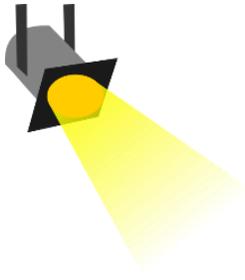


David and his wife Sandy are enjoying life on their acreage in North Florida. He recently spoke with Alan Solomon (Class of 2016) and had these updates to share:

- David and Sandy have been married for 37 years and have three children, David Lee, Brittany Ann Page, and Travis Neal.
- They have two grandsons, Tommy Lee Laxton and Edison Wavier Page, and expecting a third in August!
- Son Travis is a wrestling coach at South Walton HS and just had his first state champion.
- In 2010, David's Suwannee Wrestling team was voted Team of the Decade by the *Gainesville Sun*.
- Also in 2010, David was the FACA Coach of the Year.
- Last year David was honored by being inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame.
- The Laxton family enjoys being together to hunt, fish, go boating, and attend country concerts.
- He has breakfast with a group of friends almost every day and they have a poker night once a month!

“SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing!”

– Brian Allen, *Advice from Champions*, page 143



Alumni Spotlight

Gerald Kuntz

Class of 2006

Jerry is a guy on the go! He was in San Antonio, Texas, when he was first interviewed by Alan Solomon, Class of 2016.



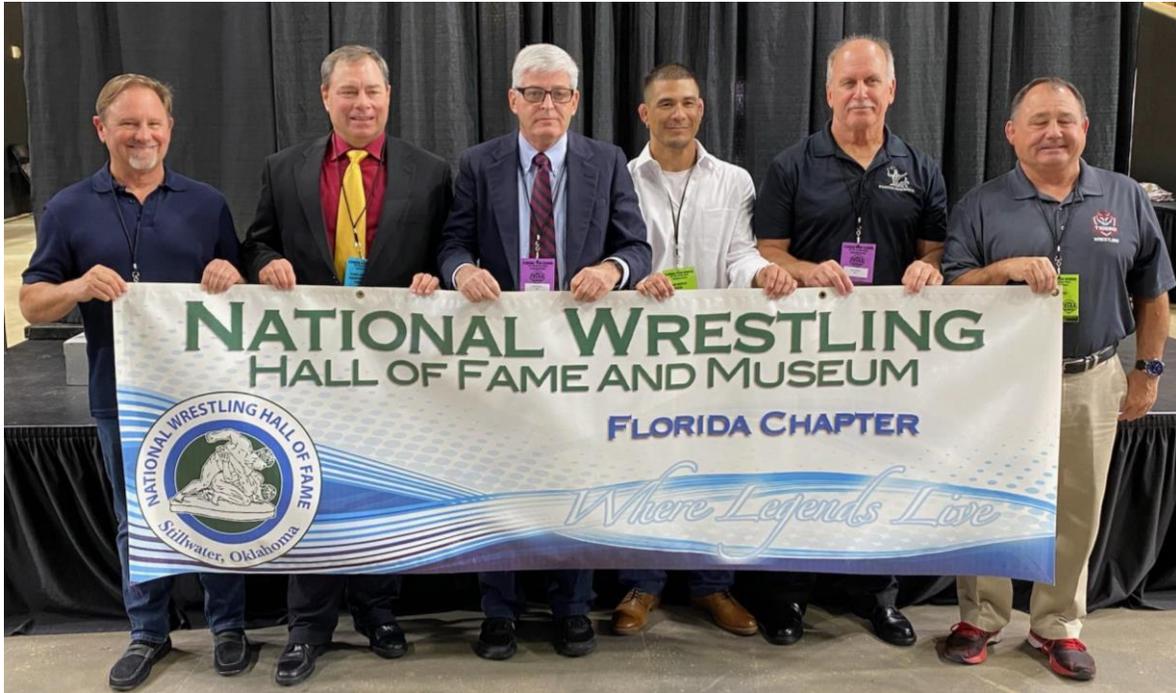
- Jerry and Sarah have four children and five grandchildren.
- They own 150 acres in West Virginia and have a log house built from 3,000 logs!
- They love travelling around the USA.
- During one of the interview calls, Jerry was visiting the 112 lb. Wrestler on the Napoleon, ND wrestling team, a classmate that beat Bismarck, ND in a dual meet in 1963.
- Jerry has had some health issues and had to learn to walk again.
- Before the back injury, he rode motorcycles and enjoyed white-water rafting.
- Jerry says he misses wrestling big time. “It was part of my life for over 44 years, coaching and officiating in South Dakota, West Virginia and Florida, and running tournaments, especially with Jane and Gary Townsend.”
- He also strongly suggests that everyone needs to visit the NWHOF in Stillwater, OK. His word: “What a tribute to wrestling!!”

“The greatest gifts I’ve received from wrestling are not championships but lifelong friendships.”

– Neil Duncan, *Advice from Champions*, page 154

Florida Chapter at the 2022 State Tournament

By Bob Thomas, Class of 2017, Media Services Chair for the Florida Chapter



Class of 2022

L-R: Kevin Pedersen, Mark Prince, John Lawton, Humberto Reyna, Jr.,
Dave Phillips, and Bryan Wilkes. Unavailable: Jeff Levitz

Our Florida chapter has established itself as a mainstay of the FHSAA championships. We have a large footprint when it comes to the traditions we have started and grown to become part of the pageantry. The 100 foot traveling museum display entertained and informed hundreds of fans and participants. We brought interest and excitement when 40 'Green Jackets' gathered for a team picture on the floor then assembled to form a tunnel for the introduction of the Class of 2022. The bios of the seven inductees (John Lawton, Jeff Levitz, Kevin Pederson, Dave Phillips, Mark Prince, Humberto Reyna Jr., and Bryan Wilkes,) were

read to the crowd as each traveled the gauntlet to the center mat and the cheers of the crowd.

The final touch is when the NWHOF-Florida Chapter Board presents a framed NWHOF certificate to the winners in each boy and girl weight class. We appreciate the cooperation of the tournament director, Rick Tribit, and the FHSAA.

See you at Honors Weekend, September 26 and 27 in Orlando.



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Lifetime Service to Wrestling

John Lawton

In 1965, John watched his first wrestling match and attended his first wrestling practice. In 2022, he is still raising the winner's arms, having already worked as a referee at a dozen wrestling events, and working to continue the sport by attending five meetings to help plan wrestling tournaments.

John wrestled for four years in high school, winning a district title in 1969 for North Hunterdon High School in Annendale, NJ. He wrestled one semester at American University, Washington, D.C., and went 7-1 in varsity bouts and won two intramural ribbons.



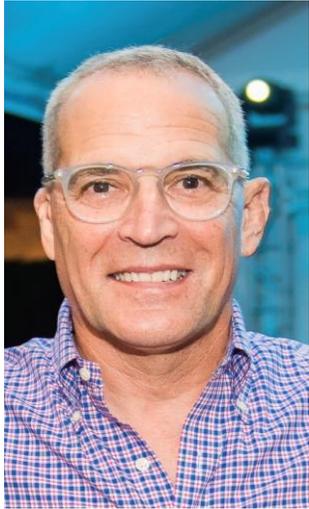
He began as an assistant coach for the Hunterdon Hills Wrestling program; then served as Head Coach for the first-ever Midget Wrestling program at Voorhees High School, Glen Gardner, NJ, where he coached one state champion. In 1975, John started as a cadet referee for the Central Area Chapter of New Jersey. He is presently in his 47th consecutive season as a registered high school wrestling referee, working since 1995 in Florida.

John joined USA Wrestling in 1996 and has worked over 100 National and Regional wrestling tournaments for USA Wrestling plus AAU, NHSCA, and Rocky Mountain Nationals. As a member of the Florida Amateur Wrestling Association, John served as Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, National Teams Director, Central Area Director, and, in 2011, Team Leader for Team Florida that placed 2nd in the Junior Nationals at Fargo in Greco and 3rd in Greco in the Junior National Duals in Oklahoma. He was also a registered NCAA referee for a decade, working college wrestling events in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida.

As a journalist, John has covered the Florida High School States for eight different

publications. He also covered the 2003 NCAA Championships in Kansas City, the 2003 World Freestyle Championships in New York's Madison Square Garden, and the 2004 Team USA World Team Trials in Indianapolis.

Jeff Levitz



Jeff Levitz has been involved with wrestling most of his life. He wrestled for Deerfield High School in Chicago under coach Steve Combs (NWHOF Class of 1985), who served many years as USA Wrestling's Executive Director. Jeff then continued with the sport at the University of Alabama under coach Pat Milkovich (NWHOF Class of 2000) for two years, earning a Varsity letter. After graduating from UA in 1980, Levitz worked toward accomplishing his dream of founding Purity Wholesale Grocers, which he did 1982.

As his sons grew, Jeff once again hit the mat. He was involved with the Boca Raton Police Athletic League wrestling program from 1995-1997. He then founded the Boca Raton

Wrestling Club in 1997. Jeff coached his sons when they wrestled in youth tournaments.

From 1995-2000, Jeff was a board member for USA Wrestling. Following this service, Jeff began his financial support to wrestling when he served as co-chair of the successful "Wrestling for the Next Millennium" capital campaign, which benefitted USA Wrestling, the National Wrestling Coaches Association, and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. The campaign was completed in January 2002, with a total of \$7.5 million in pledges made to the organizations.

After the campaign finished, Jeff became the Greco-Roman Team leader for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. He has also served as team leader for other international teams including the 2003 Senior Greco-Roman World Team, the 2003 Pan American Games Greco-Roman Team, the 2002 Senior Freestyle World Team, and the 1999 Senior Freestyle World Team.

In 2002, Jeff was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as an Outstanding American, which was followed in 2004 by the honor of USA Wrestling's "Man of the Year". From 2003 to 2006, Jeff served as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. In 2011, he was inducted as an Outstanding American into the Illinois Chapter of the NWHOF.

Dave Phillips

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Dave graduated from Cleveland State University in 1976 and moved to Fort Myers in 1981. Dave's coaching career spanned 30 years. Starting as a volunteer Assistant Coach at North Fort Myers High school from 1991-1995, he then served as Assistant Coach at Mariner High School in Cape Coral from 1995-2000, and as Head Coach at Mariner from 2000-2021, where he announced his retirement at the end of the 2021 season.



During his 30 years of coaching, Dave led his teams to over 400 dual meet victories, coached 71 state qualifiers, 33 state placers, and eight state champions. Additionally, at Mariner High School, Dave coached the team to four District championships, one Regional championship, and twice was honored as the *News Press* Coach of the Year.

Not limiting his dedication to only the high school season, Dave, along with his long-time volunteer Assistant Coach Mike Pedersen, organized the AAU Mariner Wrestling Club in 2000, coaching hundreds of wrestlers and competing throughout the state in the off season.

Wrestling has always been a family affair for the Phillips family. Over the years, Dave was privileged to coach all three of his sons, Jason, Erik, and Max, through their high school wrestling careers, and to have his daughter Katie by his side as statistician for four years. He considers this an honor and one of his greatest fortunes!

Coach Phillips will never be far from the mat, but looks forward to retirement and plans to spend time traveling with his wife Ellen exploring new places and visiting their four children, eight grandchildren, and great-grandchild!

“The lessons learned, such as humility, sacrifice, pain, competing, overcoming, and persevering through setbacks, are most apparent. Those shared experiences give all of us in the community a bond like no other.”

--John Licata, *Advice from Champions*, page 141

Mark Prince



Mark Prince, a 3X State Finalist and 2X State champion from Virginia, began his coaching career in Florida in 1991. For the past 30 years, he has helped produce over 17 State Champions and 30+ State Placers from the Pinellas County area. Many of his past athletes have gone on to serve our country in all branches of the military. This includes his three sons who currently serve in the Navy, Air Force and the Marines. His proudest coaching moment came in 2015, when Mark watched his son win Dapper Dan and become the last Florida wrestler to finish his high school career ranked #1 in the country. In 2020, Mark and his family operated the D1 Wrestling Academy to keep wrestling active for all Florida wrestlers during the pandemic by hosting multiple tournaments

and clinics. Mark and his family continue to serve the wrestling community. He as a coach, clinician, tournament director and referee.

Humberto Reyna, Jr.

Better known as “Coach Duck” in the wrestling community, Humberto was born on September 2, 1977, in Miami and currently resides in Homestead. His family consists of two lovely children, Bretli and Layla, and his beautiful wife, Nayme Noa. His ancestry comes from hard-working Mexican migrant descent. Humble and soft-spoken is a great way to describe Humberto’s personality. His hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling has earned him nominations for many prestigious awards. Last but certainly not least, he enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends.

Currently, Coach Duck works at South Dade High School as a SPED/EBD Para professional III. Since 2001, Coach Duck has had the position of an Assistant

Wrestling Coach at South Dade High School Coach Duck runs a very successful 501C 3 non-profit youth wrestling club (Gladiator Wrestling) in Homestead, FL. He also runs a well-respected State Champ Camp once a year. Many youth athletes migrate to this to be surrounded by the best under one roof.



Bryan Wilkes



Bryan Wilkes is a Florida Native, born in Bradenton Florida. He is currently the athletic director at Palmetto High School where he has been since 2005. Bryan started wrestling at Southeast High School in 1976 and was a two-time district champion and two-time state qualifier. After graduation, he wrestled at Carson-Newman College before entering the United States Marine Corps where he trained to be an aviation crew chief on helicopters. Bryan tried out for the All-Marine wrestling team in January of 1983, and was part of the team until 1985. Those teams were US Armed Forces champions in 1983 and 1984, as well as national champions in 1984 at the USA National Championships held at the University of Michigan.

After serving his country, Coach Wilkes began his coaching career starting at Crystal River High School in Citrus County, where he was able to coach his brother Dana in 1986. Bryan then moved to Lecanto High School, another Citrus school, in 1989, where he was an assistant for two years.

Coach Wilkes found his way back to Southeast High School in 1991, where he was an assistant under Hall of Fame coach Bob Thomas (Class of 2017) until 2003. Southeast finished state runner-up in 1993, and had multiple tournament championships as well as state placers during those years. In 2004, Coach Wilkes started the wrestling program at one of the oldest established schools in the area, Palmetto High School. During his tenure as head coach, the Tigers won five county championships, six district runners-up, and approached 200 dual meet wins.

In August of 2020, Bryan had to step down from coaching to pursue an administrative position, the athletic director at Palmetto High, where he is today.

Coach Wilkes has a daughter, Logan Wilkens, who is married to Danny. He is a grandfather of Killian, 3, and Kallie approaching one year of age.

Outstanding American

Kevin Pedersen

Kevin began his wrestling career at Miami Palmetto High School, where, in 1976, he was an undefeated State Champion and an academic and athletic All-American in wrestling. In 1980, Kevin graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. From 1980-1986, he was an officer in the United States Army, 24th Infantry Division, serving as Platoon Leader, XO, and Battery Commander.

From 1991-2012, Kevin was a Senior Special Agent in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (commonly called the DEA). He twice received the DEA's Administrator's Award for Valor, awarded for outstanding bravery above and beyond what is expected in the line of duty. Kevin also received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the Southern District of Florida.

From 2001 to present, Kevin and his wife Michele have owned and operated Goodyear Tire and Service Center in Homestead, FL. He also went back to his wrestling roots and served as Head Coach at Westminster Christian School.

Kevin was the subject of the Emmy nominated ESPN Sports Center feature film *Pin Kings*: the astonishing story of how two wrestling teammates from Miami came to oppose each other in the cocaine wars -- one as a drug smuggler, the other as a DEA agent.



“As you navigate your life, ask yourself these three questions: Can people trust me to do what’s right? Am I committed to doing my best? Do I care about people and do I show it? If the answers to these questions are yes, then you will find success.”

– Jay Weiss, *Advice from Champions*, page 158

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Golf Outing During Honors Weekend

Friday, August 26, on a Disney World's Golf Course!

- The event begins with a 10:00 AM Tee time
- The first 24 golfers with cart and a bucket of range balls included.
- A free Continental Breakfast Buffet will be available before the outing in the Townsend Suite at the Wyndham.

For more information, contact Don Smith by phone at 561-629-2399, or email him at djs4track@gmail.com

Mark your calendar now!

Honors Weekend for the

Class of 2022

is August 26 and 27.

More information soon!

Official Position



Jim Smoot, Class of 2019,

Director of Officials for the Florida Chapter

Officials, as we close out the folk style season and head into free style and Greco wrestling, I just want to say congratulations to all officials for a great season and for contributing to the growth of our sport. This year's State Tournament included the first ever sanctioned FHSAA Girls State Championship! It was truly a remarkable time in Florida wrestling history and I happened to be privileged and honored to raise the hand of the first ever Girls State Champion at 100 pounds. We need to keep the girls' programs growing, as women's wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in America.

The need for new officials will only continue to grow as the girls' programs develop into having full rosters. It is essential to continue to reach out to former wrestlers, current college wrestlers, and recent graduates to fill the ranks of wrestling officials. Many officials, like myself, are retiring from active officiating after 30+ years. Hopefully, those retiring will stay active in evaluations and helping their associations in developing the new officials so we can leave the sport in the best shape possible.

Now is also the time to officiate during the off-season of folk style wrestling. Officiating free style and Greco Roman will only make you a better ref. Officiating these styles helps you with positioning and improvement overall.

I hope everyone has a great Spring and Summer of wrestling. Please encourage all your state associations to help contribute to the Wrestling Hall of Fame Florida Chapter. Advertisements and messages for the Hall of Fame program help us to continue to be able to recognize and celebrate those to be honored who are deserving of a lifetime achievement for their dedication to the sport of wrestling.

Sincerely,
Jim Smoot

Smoot's Whistle Goes Silent in Retirement

by Bob Thomas, Media Services

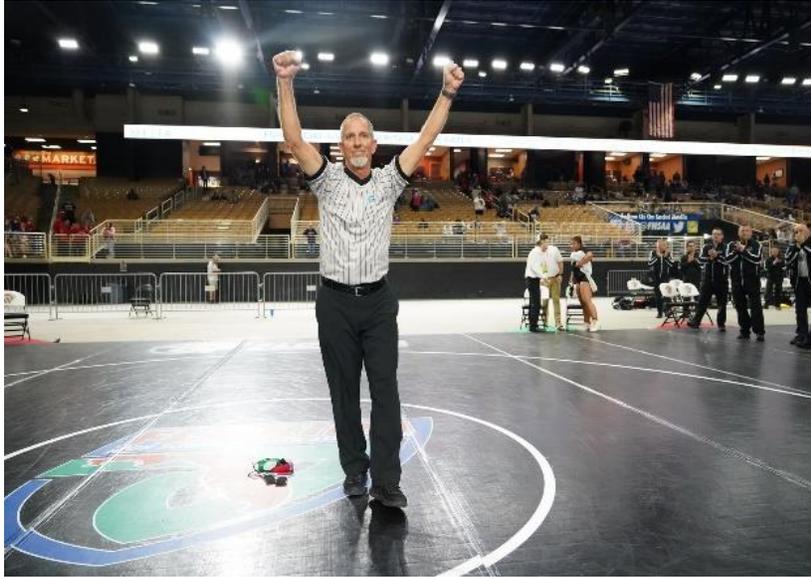
and guest columnist for Official Position this issue



Signaling 2, gesturing a reversal, showing neutral position and slapping the mat, are now left to the next generation of Florida officials. Wearing #1 during the action inside of Silver Spurs Arena, Jim Smoot literally laid to rest any rumors of his pending retirement.

He started his officiating career in St. Petersburg and has been an FSHAA Registered official for 33 years. He began refereeing with USA Wrestling in 2012. Jim wore the whistle for 25 FSHAA District Tournaments, 23 Regional Tournaments, and 12 State Finals. He also has done Super 32 Qualifiers. Since joining USA Wrestling, he has officiated six State tournaments, three SE Regional Qualifiers, and one Kids National Tournament. In 2013, Jim was honored as the New Official of the Year. He was inducted into the NWHOF Florida Chapter in 2019, and is currently serving on the Board as our Director of Officials.

As all good things must come to an end, Jim Smoot wrapped up his career after 33 years on the mat. The moment came while working the first ever FHSAA Girls State Championships. He raised his last state champion's hand in victory, then ceremoniously removed his wrist bands,



flip coin, and whistle, placed them on the mat and raised his own arms in triumph.

Congratulations and thank you for making our sport the greatest.



“Be prepared mentally and physically to officiate to the best of your ability. The wrestler depends on you to be on the top of your game as they are.

--- Rick Tucci, *Advice from Champions*, page 243

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Museum Memo



by Pete Collins, Class of 2012,
Museum Director for the Florida Chapter

On March 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the Silver Spurs Arena mezzanine abounded with the history of Florida wrestling. The Florida Chapter's Traveling Museum occupied over 100 feet of display space. The tables were filled with historic memorabilia ranging from 1965 high school past through Florida connections to the college ranks.



Central to the display was the Lifetime of Service trophy with the names of all honorees dating back to 2000. Three television monitors ran video productions of women's wrestling, way back Florida High School wrestling, and all Hall of Fame honorees. We had wonderful

engagement with the fans as they stepped up to our prize wheel. With the spin of the wheel, they would win rewards including HOF T-shirts.

A special thank you to Ira Fleckman (2006) for working the display and sharing his knowledge of our sport with the many visitors. Thanks also to Bob Walker (2003) for sitting with us and spinning your tales from the 'way back machine'.

The state championship programs are very popular, and we ask anyone in possession of past years' programs to please donate them for the display. We are excited about the ways in which we will enhance and grow this important endeavor. Thank you to all who visited the museum.



If you would like to make a donation, email Pete Collins at petecollins52@gmail.com Another way for those in the wrestling community to donate is to post articles and photographs on our Facebook page "I Wrestled in Florida". <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWrestledInFlorida>

***Come visit the Florida Chapter
Museum during Honors Weekend!***

Mark your calendar now!

**Honors Weekend for the
Classes of 2020 and 2021
is August 26 and 27, 2022.**

More information soon!

Please support the NWHOF Florida Chapter sponsors

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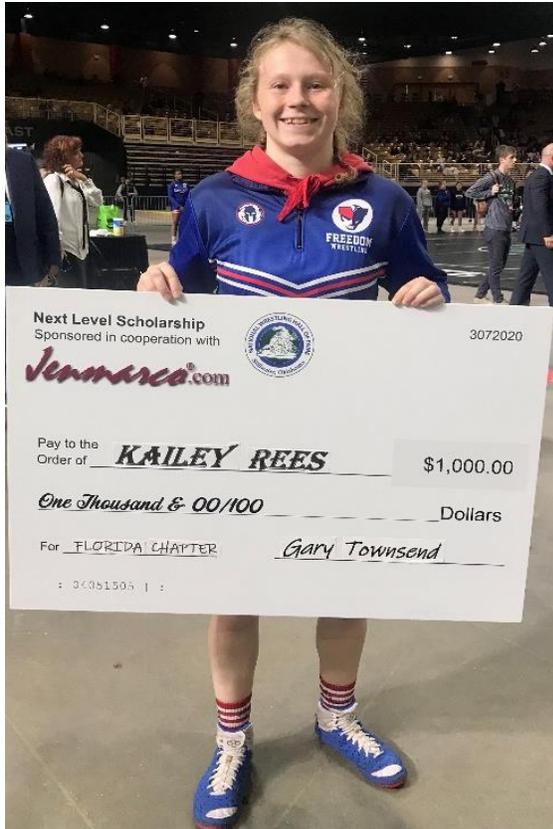
Wrestler Takedown



by Jeff Malavsky, Class of 2019,
Director of Development for the Florida Chapter

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

During the 2022 FHSAA Championships, the Florida Chapter of the NWHOF awarded the Next Level Scholarship. Under the guidance of Development Director Jeff Malavsky, the chapter presented two \$1,000 scholarships to Freedom High School Senior Kailey Rees and Manatee High School Senior Erik Borresen. These young student wrestlers plan to take their talent to the next level. We wish to thank Nick Desola with K&L Injury Attorneys for sponsoring the scholarship for Erik. We also thank Jenmarco.com for continuing to partner with the Next Level by funding Kailey's 'big' check.



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS

RETIREMENT PLANS

Certain IRA holders have the opportunity to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations. For tax-free eligibility, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) must be sent directly from the IRA payable to the receiving qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Eligibility and Donation Limit

IRA holders must be at least 70½ years of age before the distribution. In addition, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs who meet the age requirement can also take advantage of QCDs.

For those who qualify, the maximum IRA charitable distribution is limited to \$100,000 per tax year. Any distribution in excess of this limit will not qualify for the tax exclusion benefit and will be treated as ordinary income. The provision applies for Traditional, Roth, and inherited IRAs, but does not typically apply to distributions from “active” SEP or SIMPLE IRAs.

Benefits of a QCD

If a taxpayer makes the donation as prescribed by the IRS, then the distribution will be excluded from gross income and counts toward:

- The taxpayer’s \$100,000 exclusion limitation for the year the distribution occurs and
- The taxpayer’s required minimum distribution (RMD) for the current year

With the increase in the standard deduction for 2018 and future tax years to \$26,600 for married filing jointly age 65 or older and \$13,600 for single filers age 65 or older, more Americans will be using the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions on their tax returns. QCDs are excluded from taxable income, but do not allow for an itemized deduction. If more individuals age 70 ½ or older use the standard deduction, the QCD is a great way to keep taxable income lower when satisfying an RMD and still get the full benefit of the standard deduction. By using the standard deduction, a taxpayer will receive no benefit for their charitable contribution unless it is processed as a QCD from an IRA. In addition, by not including a charitable donation from an IRA as ordinary income, an individual’s adjusted gross income is not increased, which could affect the ability to:

- Qualify for Roth IRA contributions
- Avoid other potential tax ramifications, such as:
 1. The 3.8% health care surcharge. (Even though distributions from IRAs are exempt from the 3.8% health care surcharge, taxable distributions from IRAs could push income over the threshold amount, causing other investment income to be subject to the surtax.)
 2. Paying more for Medicare Premiums.
 3. Taxation on Social Security Benefits.

QCD Tax Reporting

Typically, the custodian of an IRA will report a QCD as a normal distribution on the 1099R tax form, while QCDs from inherited IRAs are reported as death distributions. This gives the IRS no notification that an IRA holder intended to make a tax-free distribution from the IRA to a charity. It is the responsibility of the IRA holder or his or her tax preparer to properly report the QCD on a 1040 tax return. It is also strongly suggested that the IRA holder obtains a receipt from the charitable organization.

Is a QCD the right strategy for you?

Please seek the aid of a competent tax advisor or tax attorney for guidance.



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32018-01 Stifel does not provide tax advice. You should consult with your professional tax advisor regarding your particular situation.

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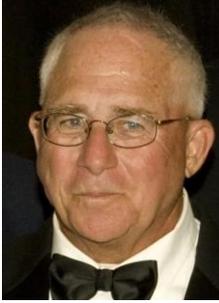


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Thank you, Frank Pettineo (Class of 2006)
for your continued support!



*Memories of Great Matches Involving Florida
Wrestlers*

by Ira Fleckman, Class of 2006, Contributing Writer

**Kerry McWoodson, North Miami VS Rohan Gardner,
Miami-Palmetto**

I watched Kerry McWoodson grow up on the mat. His dad, Coach Mac, coached my son at the Norland Middle School along with Lonnie Hill. That was a great duo of coaches and you can bet no wrestlers got out of line or talked back in that room.

Kerry was built for power and, although he knew about every move in wrestling, he usually kept it pretty simple. Grab your opponent, throw him down, turn him over and pin him. Kerry wasn't too flashy on the mat but after he took off his t-shirt, most of his opponents were ready to give up. Yes, his physique was that impressive. Kerry could wrestle, too.

I didn't know Rohan that well. He is Orville's older brother (Orville is Florida's second NCAA Division I Champion) and I had seen him wrestle many times. He was smooth, slick enough to frustrate, and smart enough to take advantage of an opponent. Still, he was a hard-nosed David Solderholm coached wrestler.

The match was between a two-time defending State Champion, Kerry McWoodson and a runner-up from a higher weight class. To be honest, I expected Kerry to defeat Rohan without too much trouble. The match didn't turn out that way.

Rohan didn't know he was supposed to lose and he attacked just enough to keep Kerry and the referee from getting to him. He also managed to turn Kerry's best efforts into points for himself. Towards the end of the match, Kerry was behind and attacking, but it was clear that Rohan had confused him and forced him to abandon his own game plan. It is not easy to beat a defending state champion, and to upset a two-time champion is an uphill task. However, that is just what Rohan did.

I am not too sure but I believe that Rohan attended Northwestern University, which means his scholarship was superior, too. I know for certain that he was listed in the top ten on several rankings and he may have been a NCAA Division I All American. I don't know where he is now

or what he is doing.

I met up with Coach Mac recently and asked after Kerry. He completed his education, has a great career going but lives somewhere up north. It is always good to see Coach Mac, who still looks like he could hold up a small building by himself.

About the Florida Chapter

**The Florida Chapter for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame
was established in 2000.**

Our mailing address is:

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame - Florida Chapter
1505 Crowberry Lane, Sebastian, FL 32958**

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YOU can support the NWHOF any time you shop on Amazon. Just change to AmazonSmile! Here's how and why:

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

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To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

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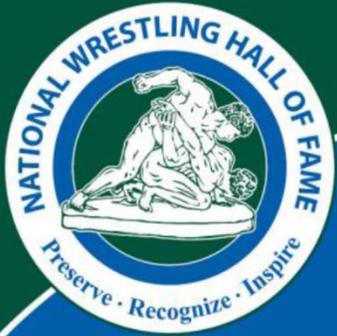
On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

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AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

It's that easy!

Note: Thanks to shoppers using Amazon Smile, **\$870.38** has been donated to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame so far at no cost to customers.



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**State Chapter
Induction Banquets**



Waterloo, Iowa

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