

National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum Florida Chapter



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2021

The President's Podium

It's a new year and we are moving in a positive direction. Yes, we had a successful wrestling season, not without a few problems, but the season was completed and we had a great Championship. I personally thought FHAAS did a great job in hosting the event and with the way they handled the Finals. Your Florida Chapter still had the opportunity to introduce our Class of 2021 and present this year's Scholarship. Thank you, FHSAA and its staff, for their generosity. There were some great matches that went down to the last few seconds, showing a high level of competition. Congratulations to all the wrestlers who competed this year.

The Florida Chapter will continue to move forward. I understand we are not totally done with this virus and we will respect current regulations applied. Our goal is to operate as we have in the past with putting together fundraisers and Honors Weekend. As of now, Honors Weekend will continue as in past years, but we do have a plan in place if we are regulated. All indications per our conversations with individuals "in the know" say we may go back to full operations this fall and that we can go back to almost normal.

The Florida Chapter would like to thank everyone who continued to sustain us through last year and this year. Your help and encouragement allowed us to maintain support in the wrestling community with our scholarships, national collaboration, and preparing for the upcoming year

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

Thank you,

Gary Townsend

In Memoriam

Mr. Sonny Blackwelder, Class of 2008

Our deepest sympathies to his family.

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2022 NOMINATIONS

Dear Wrestling Community,

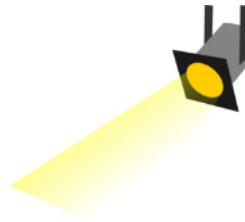
Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. It is the wrestling community that is responsible for helping us find and recognize those men and women that have dedicated their lifetime to the sport of wrestling. We once again ask for your assistance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

The timeline for making a nomination for the 2022 Induction Class is now and continues until August 30, 2021. Applications can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.nwhof.org/florida>.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Steve DeAugustino

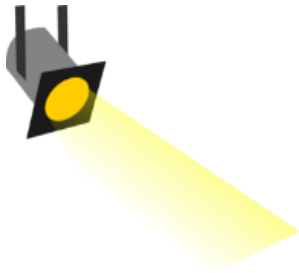
Class of 2004



Steve is doing well, working long hours as Athletic Director at Flagler Palm Coast High School, and enjoying life. He recently spoke with Alan Solomon (Class of 2016) and had these updates for us:

- Steve and Renee, his wife of 35 years, have three children.
 - Son Stephen graduated from UCF and is now in NYC working for NBC Sports
 - Daughter Jaclyn was on the dance team for UF and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in broadcast journalism. She then moved to Cincinnati where she became a Ben-Gal for the pro football team and in-game host for the Reds. Jaclyn is now a newscaster for WESH Orlando.
 - Son Michael is wrestling at Northwestern. Last year he placed 3rd in the Big 10 Conference Tournament, but, unfortunately, there was no national tournament. This year Michael placed 5th in the Big 10 and wrestled in the NCAA Tournament, and Steve and Renee were in attendance!
- Steve has been at Flagler Palm Coast for almost 40 years, teaching PE and as a softball coach, an assistant football coach, and also head wrestling coach for 27 years. When he became the school's athletic director in 2007, Steve stepped down to assistant wrestling coach for five years.
 - The school hosts many district and regional events for various sports, so it keeps him busy.
 - He enjoys former wrestlers and students stopping by for visits.
- Steve relishes being outdoors. He fishes, hunts, and spends time at the beach.
- He likes watching sports and is a Pittsburgh Pirates fan.

- Steve's father, Steve DeAugustino, and uncle, Gus DeAugustino, were inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for *Lifetime Service to Wrestling* by the Pennsylvania Chapter. Steve's cousin Mark DeAugustino, is a member of the Florida Chapter's Class of 2019.
- If Steve and Renee have time to travel, they visit their children.
- They have a beagle named Apollo that Mike brought home a few years ago. Apollo is a challenge to walk because of so many "Squirrel!" moments. Steve says the walk is a great workout!



Alumni Spotlight

Wilbert Johnson

Class of 2008

Wilbert is one busy guy! He recently had a long conversation with Alan Solomon (Class of 2016).

- Wilbert and his wife Anna have three children, a girl and two boys, and are about to be first-time grandparents!
- He attended Miami Dade South Community College, transferred to Tuskegee, then finished at Florida International University with a B S, degree in Physical Education.
- Wilbert is now a retired Physical Education, Personal Fitness, and In-School Suspension teacher.
- He has been wrestling since he was a Junior in high school. He credits Jim Husk (Class of 2000) and Walt Allison (Class of 2004) for letting him attend some of their practices.
- Wilbert has been involved with coaching since 1976 as assistant and head coach at many schools and is still coaching, as he has run a summer camp for 15 years.

- He has been a coach for the Inner City Wrestling Club the last five years. (<https://www.innercitywrestling.org>)
 - The club offers classes and mat time six days a week for ages 6-17.
 - He enjoys teaching technique to the wrestlers.
 - Several club members have moved on to college wrestling.
 - The club has even sponsored a camp in the Bahamas.
- As a wrestling official since 1978, Wilbert has worked at six State Championship tournaments.
 - He has served as Booking Commissioner for GMAC-WOA since 2006.
 - He believes that it is more important for an official to be in the right position to call the points earned than to look fancy, even if it means sacrificing technique.
- Travel for Wilbert is going to North Carolina to watch NC State dual meets. He has also attended every NCAA Championship Tournament from 1995 until last year, but was in attendance again this year in St. Louis.
- His hobbies include exercise and reading, with history one of his favorite topics.

“The art of living is more like wrestling than dancing.”

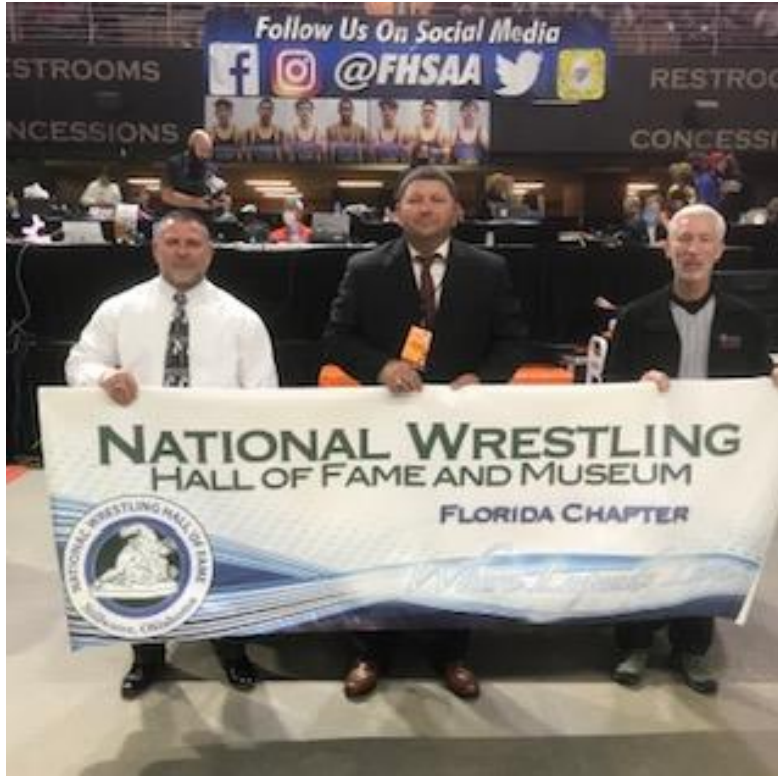
– Marcus Aurelius

“How do you beat an individual who hasn’t been beaten in 13 years? With the help of others.”.

--Rulon Gardner

Florida Chapter at the 2021 State Tournament

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



Bob Hendrickson,
Danny Walker,
and Dan Hartung
- Class of 2021
(Unavailable -
Jeff Levitetz)

From left to right:
Bill Combs, Gary
Townsend, Jane
Townsend, Don Smith,
and Jeff Malavsky.





Dan Hartung



Bob Hendrickson



Danny Walker

The 2021 FHSAA Championships held at the Silver Spurs Arena, Kissimmee, provided excitement by the truck load. 2A was most entertaining as Charlotte, Palmetto Ridge, Lake Gibson and Tampa Jesuit contested for the title. 1A Somerset Academy, 2A Charlotte HS, and 3A South Dade HS took team honors. Congratulations to all who participated in the season's ultimate event.

Our Florida Chapter participated in a reduced capacity. The traveling museum was absent from the mezzanine level. Our annual display has been the most visited place in the arena with the exception of the concession stands. Following new protocols, we cancelled the traditional alumni 'Green Jacket' tunnel used to welcome our new inductees. Lake Gibson Coach Dan Walker, Brandon Coach Bob Hendrickson and Official Dan Hartung were introduced to spectators as the Class of 2021. This group is smaller in number than all other classes because we are combining them with 2020 because of a postponed Honors Weekend. Those six are Dominick Mandicott, Tom James, Marc Allison, Nate Richardson, Mike Turner and Ernie Withers. The Board has rescheduled the August event to September.



Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Marc Allison - Official / Coach

Over the past 50 years, Marc Allison has competed, coached, and officiated in the state of Florida with the exception of his college years in Tennessee. Marc has served on the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Board of Directors, as a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association's Coaches Advisory Board and as the coordinating representative for Pinellas County wrestling. Marc was part of the committee that was instrumental in bringing the State Duals to Florida. Marc has been a member of the Sunshine Officials Executive board for 17 years, serving as a Member-at-Large, Treasurer, and Booking Commissioner.



As a wrestler, Marc was a four-time state place winner, three-time finalist and earned a state title in 1984. His hard work earned him an opportunity to compete in college at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Marc Allison graduated from University of Tennessee Chattanooga where he earned a conference championship and competed at the NCAAs. Marc served as an assistant coach during his last two years of college. After college, Marc returned to Florida in 1993 and coached at Countryside High School in Clearwater.

Marc began officiating shortly after leaving Countryside High School. As an

official, he has worked numerous District and Regional events, and has had the pleasure to officiate the FHSA State tournament with his father, Walt Allison, while his son Marc Allison V, a 3-time state qualifier, was competing as a high school senior.

In 2003, Marc made the leap from the business world to Education. As a teacher and Athletic Coordinator at Dunedin High School, Marc began his second run as a wrestling coach. In his 14 plus years at Dunedin, he accumulated 276 wins, 16 individual state place winners, and 3 individual State Champions. Marc also ran a year-round program that took his teams to Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Louisiana, and Missouri to compete in national tournaments and attend wrestling camps. He was fortunate to produce 17 wrestlers who earned All-American medals at these tournaments.

Wrestling has always been a family affair for the Allison family. Marc began his wrestling career in the practice rooms in South Miami with his father, 2004 Hall of Fame Inductee Walt Allison. His coaching career ended when Marc became an Assistant Principal. He felt fortunate to spend his final year coaching with his daughter serving as a wrestling manager for four years while also having the pleasure of coach his son, Marc Allison V. While Marc is proud of his accomplishments, most notable is the impact he has been able to have on the Dunedin community and the hundreds of Dunedin families who have trusted him with their sons and daughters. Many of his graduates continue to give back to the sport of wrestling today.

Family is first in Marc's life. Besides his dad Walt, mom Joy, and sister Kristy Triantafilu and family, there is Marc's wife Jackie, son Marc, daughter Cali, and step-daughter Samantha LaMondra, and, of course, the Dunedin Wrestling Family!

.. . .

“Victory happens when ten thousand hours
of training meets one moment of opportunity.”

— Unknown

Tom James – Coach

(July 25, 1949 – October 15, 2020)



Tom James was introduced to the sport of wrestling when he enrolled at Memorial Junior High in Long Island New York. Mr. Harold Earl, the school's wrestling coach, encouraged Tom to join the team. Tom had never been on a wrestling mat, but, when he entered the wrestling room, he was immediately hooked the moment he took his first opponent down to the mat. Tom wrestled in high school at 154 lbs. and was undefeated his Senior year in dual meets. Unfortunately, he suffered an injury, ending his high school wrestling career.

After graduation, Tom left the mat to follow his second athletic love, football, at Albert Lea College in Minnesota, transferred and earned his teaching degree in Physical Education at Yankton in South Dakota.

His next stop would be Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where Tom settled into a teaching and coaching career. His high school wrestling coach and mentor, Mr. Earl, suggested he contact Mike Frame, the coach at Fort Lauderdale High School. Frame, who didn't need another assistant, provided Tom with another contact, John Lyzott, the coach at McArthur High School. For the next two years, Tom apprenticed with Ron Schultz as John Lyzott's assistant coaches. Lyzott asked Tom to work with a promising wrestler, Charles Reid. Charles would become Tom's first State Champion.

In South Florida, Tom had the opportunity to work with some of the best men in Florida wrestling. In 1990, Tom was hired as a physical education teacher and an assistant coach for Bill Reinnegar. Two years later, Tom was made head coach for the Plantation wrestling team. Tom's first move was to hire Dan Bowles to be his assistant. Soon after, Plantation had its first State wrestling Champion, Mike Way.

Tom's coaching focus was to provide young wrestlers with preparation, and skill development during the four years of their high school career with focus on strength, endurance, and confidence for success on and off the mat. Coach James had four state champions while at Plantation High School.

Tom left coaching to take on another challenge, high school administrator. During this time, Tom spent lots of time in wrestling rooms across the county when not on the clock. Tom returned to his first love, teaching and coaching by joining the staff at South Broward High School until his retirement.

Tom and his wife Karen were true snowbirds, spending six months at their North Carolina cabin and six months in Sorrento FL. Son Greg and his family reside in

Tennessee. Daughter Christina Forchette and her family live in Delray Beach. Tom's stepdaughter, Mary O'Toole, lives in Ft. Lauderdale.

Dominick Mandicott – Official

Dom was born and raised in Binghamton, New York, and graduated from Binghamton Central High School, where he was first introduced to wrestling. As a freshman, he finished first in the U.E. Novice Tournament. In his senior year he was S.T.A.C. and Sectional champion at heavyweight.

Dominick attended Paul Smith's College, in Paul Smiths, New York, where he wrestled and graduated with an A.A.S. degree in Business Administration. In his freshman year he was undefeated and won individual honors in the Canton Wrestling Tournament, and the long-recognized Collar City Classic. He was also given post-season recognition as Paul Smith's Most Valuable Wrestler. A pre-season shoulder injury caused him to miss his entire sophomore season. As a junior he transferred to the University of Central Florida where he wrestled and graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration/Marketing.



His professional career in plastics landed him in Tampa, Florida, in 1975. In 1980, he joined the West Coast Officials Association, where he began his wrestling officiating career. Throughout Dom's forty years of officiating he has been selected to officiate numerous District, Regional, and State Tournaments.

Dominick is married to Anita, his wife of 35 years, and as he has said numerous times "it's the best thing that has ever happened to him, by far" and, "he truly is blessed to have her".

In retrospect, Dom says that one of the most significant accomplishments of his officiating career was that he was one of the founding members of the West Coast Wrestling Officials Association, where he has also served as Vice President for over twenty-five years. Most important are the many fellow officials and coaches whom he has had the pleasure of meeting throughout the years, along with the many bonding relationships and memories that will be with him for the rest of his life.

Nate Richardson – Coach

Nathanael Richardson Sr. is the fifth of 14 siblings of Sam Sr. and Sarah Richardson. Born in Fort Lauderdale, young Nate devoted time to his church, Greater Horizon's Church of God by Faith and later became an ordained Minister, ultimately serving as Assistant Pastor. Actively participating in church, and as an avid athlete while working at Miramar High School, Nate was also a Junior Varsity Football Head Coach while seeking out the athleticism of Wrestling.



His first wrestling match in ninth grade resulted in a broken ankle, but that didn't stop his interest. Continuing in wrestling while pursuing his education, Nate attained an Associate Degree at Miami Dade Community College in Health Education, then time at the University of Southwest Louisiana, FIU, and Trinity University, where he received a Bachelor Degree in Human Resource Management and Biblical Studies. At FIU in 1979, he became both Florida College State Champion and NCAA National Qualifier.

Nate's Wrestling Head Coach in college, Rick Tucci, developed his skills as well as introducing him to the All-Army Wrestling Team. Nate enlisted in 1980 in the United States Army as a 03C Activity Specialist. While serving, he actively wrestling for four years on the distinguished Army team, promoting patriotism and dedication to the sport.

In the Army, Nate met his wife of 38 years, Gwen Richardson. They had five children. Nate's love for wrestling drove him to help other fellow wrestlers overseas in Seoul, Korea, training with the Korean Olympic Team at Dongguk University, coaching at Seoul America High School, and teaching freestyle wrestling. The Richardson family left Korea and moved to Lawton, Oklahoma, where Nate coached at Lawton High School and officiated at the Freestyle and Greco Roman National Tournament.

After being discharged from the Army and moving back to Florida, Nate worked as Head Wrestling Coach at Chaminade Madonna Prep College for one season, 1987-1988. Afterwards, he made the decision to give back to the place that began his wrestling coaching career, Miramar High School. Becoming the Wrestling Head coach in 1995, he created and led a program for 19 years where success was not just on the mat but also in the classroom. Nate taught Health Education and Treating Athletic Injuries for 21 years. He mentored and coached 12 BCAA Individual Champions, 5 BCAA MVP Wrestlers, 14 Regional Champions, 4 State finalist, 42 State Qualifiers, 22 State Placers, 3 All Americans,

and I State Champion. Nate is a 2-time BCAA Coach of the Year finalist, and has a coaching record of 402-247 dual meets. He knows that “90% of coaching is done in the practice room”, and uses the practice room to exude respect for the craft and for the opponent. He helped establish the motto that would lead all who enter the red and blue mat, “I like it, I love it, I want more of it”.

Coach Richardson is a staple in the South Florida wrestling community and has devoted sweat, blood, and broken bones. His induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2020 is an honor that will illustrate all the years of devotion to the sport of wrestling.

Mike Turner – Coach

Mike Turner has been coaching wrestling for over 34 years. Mike spent twenty-six of those years at Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School where he developed amazing wrestlers out of kids who had never wrestled before and produced many strongly competitive teams over the years

Coach Turner’s wrestling journey began in Ohio where he wrestled for the nationally-ranked powerhouse North Canton Hoover High School. As a senior, Mike and Hoover Vikings team finished a proud 2nd place in the state to National Champions Lakewood St. Edward. It was at this State Tournament that North Canton Hoover scored the most points of any public high school in the history of Ohio.

After graduation, Mike attended West Liberty State University where he continued his wrestling career for four years. Coach Turner resides in Fort Lauderdale with his wife of 30 years, Patti. He is also a proud father to two daughters, Shelby and Shannon.



“Take pride in how far you’ve come;
have faith in how far you’ll go..”

– Unknown

Ernie Withers – Official



Ernest (Ernie) Withers is being inducted as an official for his *Lifetime Service to Wrestling*. Ernie started his officiating career in St. Petersburg, FL, in 1989. Ernie has been a FSHAA registered Official for twenty years. He also was a referee for the National High School Coaches Association for five years. Ernie has refereed numerous Christmas, District, Regional, State and National tournaments. He was also a high school football official for seven years.

Ernie is the General Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Sarasota, an AutoNation Company, and has been in the automotive business for 40 years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, Trustee of the Sarasota

Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota Salvation Army Advisory Board member, Community Leadership Council member of the University of South Florida, Sarasota County Sheriff Association board member and Manatee County Desoto Historical Society member. He is a former Southeast High School Booster club president and a former PTO president for Bashaw Elementary. He has also served in the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

Ernie was born in Youngstown, Ohio, then moved to Long Island, New York at a young age. He was a three-year Varsity wrestler for Ward Melville High School. He graduated in 1972. He wrestled in 73-74 for Rick Tucci at Miami Dade Jr. College North Campus. He finished his competitive wrestling in 75-76 wrestling for the University of South Florida wrestling club, where he graduated in 1976. He credits his love for wrestling to his two older brothers who also wrestled.

Ernie met his wife Cindy at the University of South Florida. They will be celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary on August 27th. He is the proud father of three children - Charlie and his wife Kelly, Lisa and her husband Eric, and Rachel and her husband Josh. He is also the proud grandfather of seven: Allie, Calin, Colton, Kayden, Jaxon, Brody and Mary Anne.

CONGRATULATIONS



Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Dan Hartung – Official/Coach

Dan Hartung has dedicated most of his life in service to wrestling. His lifelong contributions to wrestling include thirty-five years in the state of Florida as a coach and official of both high school and college wrestling, as well as coaching for five years in Pennsylvania. Dan's service and dedication to wrestling has been an inspiration to many student athletes, coaches, and officials.

Dan has been a member of the Florida West Coast Wrestling Officials (WCWO) for twenty-four years, including ten years serving on the Executive Board as a Member-at-Large and Training Director. As an official, Dan has worked many dual meets and tournaments each year during the season. Dan has officiated twenty-three District tournaments, fifteen Regional tournaments, and four Florida State tournaments.

Dan began wrestling in western Pennsylvania in 2nd grade and had an illustrious career, highlighted by being chosen to wrestle in the very first Dapper Dan Wrestling tournament in 1975. He earned a full scholarship to wrestle at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Recruited by Joe Boone, Dan had the privilege to wrestle for one of the best wrestlers in the world, Gray Simons. After college, Dan worked as a grad assistant coach at Slippery Rock State College for the legendary Fred Powell. The highlight of that



1981 season was coaching an All American at the NCAA Tournament, Anthony Calderaio, who was from Boca Raton, FL.

After moving to Florida in 1985, Dan officiated for WCWO for three years. He then coached for eleven years in Tampa at three different high schools; Plant City, Hillsborough, and H.B. Plant. He coached multiple District and Regional place winners, and three State place winners. He organized several wrestling camps and also traveled with his teams to other camps, including Clemson and Slippery Rock.

In 1999, Dan began officiating again. He went all-in by starting to officiate national tournaments during the off season. He officiated for the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA), working their preseason classic at Wake Forest University for four years before officiating at the Super 32 tournament for ten years. Dan represented Florida at the NHSCA Senior Nationals for eleven years. There he was selected to officiate a Senior Finals match eight years in a row. Dan also officiated in thirteen NHSCA Duals Championships, where he was selected to be the Head Official for four years.

Dan officiated for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), at the prestigious Disney Duals for eight years, the World Championships at Ford Field in Detroit, and other Florida AAU events. Several other high-profile events where Dan represented Florida are the Reno Worlds, the Las Vegas Classic, the Dixie Nationals, and The Clash Duals.

In 2008 Dan began officiating college wrestling as well. He officiated for the Florida college teams that are members of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA). Dan officiated in seven NCWA National Duals Championships, six NCWA National Championships, and many collegiate tournaments with DII and DIII teams including the Luther Duals, the Citrus Open, and the Sunshine Open. He also officiated at the Citadel and NC State Opens. Dan officiated Southeastern University's inaugural home dual in 2015 against the University of South Florida, as well as several other home dual meets.

Family has always been important to Dan. His parents, Paul and Mary Kay Hartung, supported his wrestling career and raised him with a sense of fairness and high moral standards, which guided him while wrestling, teaching, coaching, and officiating.

Dan has had a positive influence on many student athletes throughout these years of service. His time and effort have been rewarded by all of the friends he has made in the wrestling community and appreciation shown by the athletes, coaches, and parents.

Bob Hendrickson – Coach



Bob Hendrickson is a Distribution Manager with Breakthru Beverage FL., and a wrestling coach of 33 years at Brandon High School. He resides in Riverview, FL. with his wife of 17 years, Debbie, and has one son, RJ.

Bob graduated from Brandon High School in 1985 and attended the University of Tennessee – Chattanooga and Hillsborough Community college. As a wrestler, Bob was a Sambo National champion at the 1984 AAU Junior Olympics and an undefeated state champion for Brandon high school in 1985.

Bob began his coaching career in 1988, where he has achieved a record of 395 wins – 5 losses. He was voted “Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year” twice by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. He has coached 23 state championship teams, 86 individual state champions, 114 state place winners, and 256 state qualifiers.

Bob’s hobbies include weightlifting, camping, and hunting.

Mark your calendar now!
Honors Weekend for the
Classes of 2020 and 2021
is September 24-25, 2021.

For tickets: [2021 Honors Weekend](#)

For rooms: [Wyndham | Group Reservations](#)

Jeff Levitetz – Contributor

Jeff Levitetz 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, Levitetz worked toward accomplishing his dream of founding Purity Wholesale Grocers, which he did in 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.

Danny Walker - Coach



Daniel Walker was born and raised in Polk County. He graduated from Auburndale High School in 1995 and stated his coaching career in 1998 at Lake Region High School under Kris Hayward. Danny coached at Lake Region High School from 1997-2001.

Under Hayward, Walker learned the sport of wrestling until they parted ways in 2001. While in his last year, he helped Hayward gain State Runner Ups. In 2001, Danny started his head coaching career at Lake Gibson High School.

Since taking over the LGHS program, Walker has coached 11 IBT Team District Championships and 4 Dual District Championships, 4 IBT Regional Titles, and 3 Dual Regional Titles. Coach Walker's teams have also won the 2018, 2019 and 2021 State Dual Championships and the 2018, 2019 and 2020 State IBT Championships. Other coaching accomplishments include: 16 Polk County Championships, 87 State Placers and 13 Individual State Champions. Danny has also been honored as Polk County Coach of the Year 14 times, the 2018 and 2020 Dairy Farmer Coach of the Year, and the 2018 NWCA Coach of the Year.

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<https://compedge.us/>

860-230-1553



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

Officials Position

by Jim Smoot, Officials Representative on the NWHOF FL Chapter Board

Greetings fellow officials!

Congratulations to all the officials who helped pull off a successful wrestling season despite the pandemic. We faced many unique situations with no fans and only one coach allowed in the corner, yet, along with many other restrictions, we still had a successful season. There was only one or two hiccups where meets had to be cancelled.

The post-season was one of the most competitive ever, ending appropriately with the State Tournament, which truly was a showcase of the wrestling talent in Florida. Congratulations to all the officials, coaches, and wrestlers in making this tremendous accomplishment happen. This shows the true strength of the wrestling community.


The pandemic also caused many older officials and those with health concerns to opt out this year, making things even more difficult. This situation showed how important recruiting is needed right now and for the future of wrestling officiating. On the bright side, many young officials stepped up and were given the opportunity to officiate Regions and some were able to do their first State Tournament. Kudos on a great job by all our young officials. More of these young officials are needed, as it is still unknown how many older officials will be able to return to active officiating.

Hopefully, with the vaccine reaching more and more adults and with continued precautions, we will be able to have a successful off season of USA and AAU Wrestling.

Good luck to everyone! Here's to everyone staying healthy and that the future of wrestling in Florida continues to grow.

Yours in Wrestling,

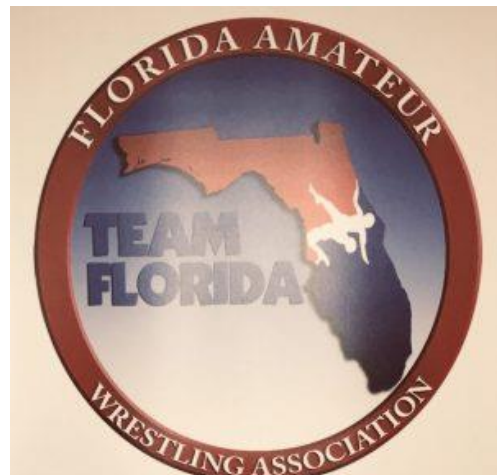
Jim Smoot



“Success is not measured,
it is earned.”

– Unknown

Please support the NWHOF Florida Chapter supporters



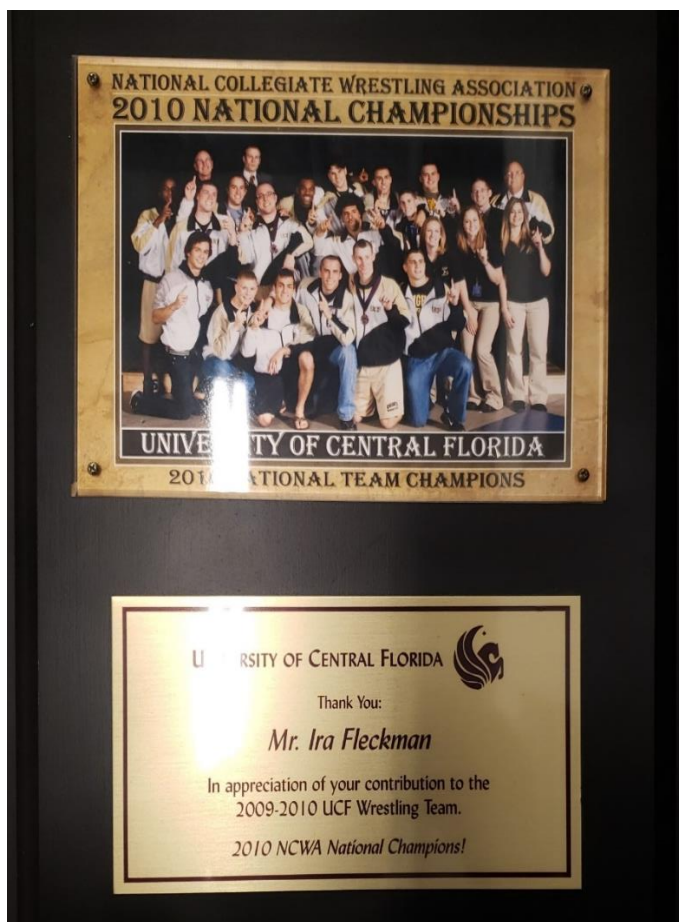
It's not the will to win that matters – everyone has that. It the will to prepare to win that matters.

--- Unknown

Museum Memo

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided not to present the museum display at the 2021 FHSAA State Wrestling Tournament. Hopefully, we will be able to have the museum exhibition at the 2021-2022 State Tournament. In the meantime, we are still welcoming donations to the collection. Thank you to John Niles, Ira Fleckman, and Omar Mudaibin for the recently donated memorabilia. Ira contributed scrapbooks, photos, and plaques amassed over many years, Omar provided more wrestling artwork, and John Niles added the 1996 FHSAA 360° panoramic tournament photo and awards he received as an official.





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!***

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Wrestler Takedown



During the 2020 FHSAA Championships the Florida Chapter of the NWHOF awarded the Next Level Scholarship. Under the guidance of Development Director Jeff Malavsky, the chapter presented three \$1000 scholarships. The recipients were Fletcher High Senior Ana James XiJing Bradshaw, Palm Harbor University Senior Hannah Hall, and Palm Beach Gardens Senior Elijah Ortiz. 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 scholarships for Hannah and Elijah. We welcome Jenmarco.com., our new sponsor, for committing to partner with the Next Level by funding Ana's 'Big' check.

Bob Thomas. Media



Hannah Hall



Ana Bradshaw by Lee Ann Bradshaw, mother

Ana's story is different than most because she spent her first 7 ½ years in an orphanage in China. We adopted her and she came to the U.S., not knowing English or anything about family dynamics. She spent her first two years here in ESOL classes and had to be held back a year because she had no formal education in China. She also was born with two birth defects: Atrial Septal Defect and a partially club foot. The ASD, which is a hole in her heart, closed over time, but she was beyond the age to repair the club foot.

Ana is a Senior at Fletcher High School and first tried out for the boys' wrestling team in 9th grade. She had a background in Taekwondo, jujitsu, and kickboxing. About two practices into the season, Ana broke her upper arm after not stopping when she felt the first pop. She missed about 8 weeks, but was still able to go to the conference tournament later her 9th grade year, placing 4th. She then went to Districts where she was body-slammed, breaking her collar bone. He was penalized; she was out the rest of that season. Ana tried to do a preseason tourney in Kissimmee in 10th grade and dislocated her shoulder making a shot. A week later, she had surgery and missed her entire 10th grade

year. Never a quitter, Ana came back in 11th grade and had a good year winning Conference, District, qualifying for Regionals. but didn't make it to state. She started her 12th grade year with a shoulder separation after wrestling an opponent at practice 30 lbs. heavier. After missing six weeks, Ana came back to win the conference tournament again, Districts again, qualified for Regionals again, but didn't make the State tournament.

Starting the summer before her 11th grade year, Fletcher High School coach David Harrison told Ana about a girls wrestling coach in Orlando named Kirwyn Adderley. At the time in North Florida, there was maybe one other girl trying to wrestle on a boys' high school team, and we honestly did not even know there were girls' teams. That started our weekend trips to Orlando for girls' practices because Coach Adderley truly is a great coach in women's wrestling, helping many girls from different high schools become very good wrestlers and collegiate athletes. We knew nothing about freestyle and the different rules. Ana placed 1st in the girls' early entry Florida Super 32 that year, and won the Dr. Phillips tourney the same year. She also entered the AAU Junior Olympics the same year, placing 2nd in freestyle and 1st in folk style. Ana placed 2nd this year in the Florida Super 32 Early Entry Tourney. She also has entered the Florida girls' state tourney the last two years and finished 5th each time. Ana competed in the Michigan Grappler national tourney this past Fall and placed 3rd in freestyle and 4th in folk style.

Ana has already signed with Missouri Baptist University where Coach Adderley will be coaching her, which makes her very happy!! She plans to major in Physical Therapy there.

Ana truly appreciates all that every coach has done for her: Coach David Harrison for all four years of boys' HS wrestling, Coach Daniel Foy, and this year, Coach Paul Schloth, and, Coach Adderley.

Ana's parents, Todd and Lee Ann, are very supportive, as are older sister Taylor and younger sister Jin Jin, who is also adopted from China but not a biological sister.



Elijah Ortiz

Thanks so much for everything. I'm so honored to be accepting this scholarship. I've wrestled for four years. Mr. William George is my coach at Palm Beach Gardens High School. I'm currently wrestling in the 126lbs weight class and am a 3X District Champ, 1X Regional Champ, 3X State Qualifier, and a State Placer. I've been accepted at Keiser University for the Pre-Med Program, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant.

Thank you again,

Elijah Ortiz

"I grew up on a farm and I always learned when you work you go forward, you don't stop and say 'well, I'll take a break'. You always go forward and get the job done."

— Rulon Gardner

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.

*Memories of Great Matches Involving Florida Wrestlers
by Ira Fleckman, Class of 2006, Contributing Writer*

Joe Andretti, Naples VS Perry Ainscough, Charlotte

Joe was one of my club wrestlers in LAW/CLAW but was coached by Jack Staples at Naples HS. Joe was good looking, not too muscular as a Frosh. or Soph. but very intelligent, serious and a hard worker. He worried too much and so did his dad.

If Joe didn't know anything about his opponent, he would wrestle to win and he always wrestled great under those circumstances. However, if he knew his opponent had a reputation, any kind of reputation, Joey couldn't seem to do anything but watch to see what his opponent would do. The opponent usually did enough to win. Also, Joey couldn't be told to lose weight. Not any weight. Even if Joey were told to run off half a pound, it would make it almost impossible to suffer through the ordeal and wrestle well. Joe just worried too much and let minor details upset him.

Perry Ainscough was the youngest of four brothers, all wrestlers. Kevin, the oldest, won the State Championship for Charlotte at 112 in 1978. Perry won his State Championship in the same weight division in 1981. I had refereed and observed Perry wrestling since he was ten years old; he was a great kid and a great wrestler. Perry was a few years older than my own son, Solomon. When Solomon admired his headlock and inquired about the set-ups he used, Perry shared the information.

The middle two brothers were excellent wrestlers and super young men, too. I actually took them on a trip to Mexico with the Sixteen and Under group and they were great as wrestlers and individuals.

The match was at a Saturday tournament and it was in Greco-Roman. Perry was certainly up a weight class or two but he was considered the superior wrestler, especially in the Greco-Roman style. Joey certainly knew Perry and his reputation.

The match began slowly with Joey very defensive. It was Joey who opened up first, and he not only dominated the action and won the match, but, if my memory serves me, he actually pinned Perry.

Joey went on to wrestle at Notre Dame under Fran McCann, brother of Olympian Terry McCann. He graduated from Notre Dame and became a Certified Public Accountant. He actually coached at Naples for a few years

and did an excellent job as coach. He still lives in the Naples area and, if his job allowed, Florida would be well served to have him back involved with wrestling.

Perry Ainscough went on to attend Liberty Baptist College in Virginia where he became a two time All American in the NCAA Division II ranks. He placed 7th in 1985 at 126 and 2nd at 118 in 1986. I believe he is still living in Virginia.

It isn't only the matches that are remembered but the fine young men who wrestled here in Florida and went on to bigger and greater things.

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