

Ross Thomas (Delaware)

Ross Thomas began his wrestling career competing in tournaments in high school, college, the Marine Corp and AAU open tournaments. He placed third in the state championships in Delaware while in high school, was the Virginia State Champion in 1982 while attending Virginia Tech from 1980 to 1982, won the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference Championship two times while attending Delaware State, was on the All-Marine Wrestling Team in 1987 -1988 and was the Middle Atlantic AAU Freestyle/Greco Open Champion and Outstanding Wrestler in 1990.

Ross gained coaching experience when he was the head wrestling coach at POLYTECH High School in Woodside, Delaware from 1996-1998, however, the largest part of his wrestling life has been his 28 total years spent as an official. Ross has been the state rules interpreter in Delaware from 2002 to the present time and has officiated at 14 state high school tournaments in Delaware in 1993 and then 1998 to the present time. From 1992 to the present, he has officiated at various events in the NCAA. Some of the events Ross has officiated at include: NCAA Division I Nationals from 2007 to 2010; Big Ten Conference Tournament in 2010; NCAA Division I East Regional in 1997 and from 2001 to 2004; Atlantic Coast Conference from 2005 to 2009; Reno Tournament of Champions three times; Lone Star Duals five times; the Virginia Duals from 2001 to the present; Beast of the East 16 times with 10 of those as head official; Sierra Nevada Classic from 1998 to 2003; California Classic in 1998; High School Nationals three times and the Ohio Ironman twice.

Ross has worked many AAU National Tournaments including the Disney Duals from 1998 to the present including one year as assistant head official; Folkstyle Worlds from 1998 to 2006 in Detroit, Tulsa and Des Moines; Middle School Duals one year in Chicago; Ironman Folkstyle Head Official from 2004 to 2006 in Bloomsburg/Millersville, PA; Grand Nationals Folkstyle in 2010 in Butte, MT and Southern Nationals in 2004 in North Carolina.

Ross's awards include Delaware Official of the Year in 2001, and AAU Folkstyle Official of the Year twice in 2001 and in 2008.

Ross served in the Marine Corp for eight years where he was an Infantry Officer with the rank of Captain. He is currently completing his 17th year of teaching Accounting at POLYTECH High School in Woodside, Delaware. In addition to officiating wrestling, Ross is also a slow pitch softball umpire and will be working the Men's Class "A" Nationals in Oklahoma City, OK in October. His other interests include stamp and coin collecting.

His years of competing, coaching, officiating and his dedication to the sport of wrestling, make Ross Thomas a very deserving inductee into our National AAU Wrestling Hall of Fame.