

Jerry and Sheila Wager, of Las Vegas, Nevada, were inducted into the Amateur Athletic Union National Wrestling Hall of Fame on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Orlando, Florida. Both Jerry and Sheila are lifetime members of the AAU.

Jerry competed in wrestling and was a 12-time Ohio State AAU Champion. He wrestled for Toledo University and was a Mid-American Conference Champion. He was a U.S. National AAU Greco Roman Champion and on the U.S. Greco Roman World Team. In 2003 he was inducted into the Toledo University Sports Hall of Fame for his wrestling and football accomplishments.

Jerry's wrestling career also included coaching the USA World Team where he was the head coach for seven consecutive world championship teams. His team was the first Greco Roman team in USA wrestling history to win a world championship. In Las Vegas during the 70's and 80's, Jerry also coached 26 national YMCA and AAU team championships. He was the AAU Coach of the Year in 1978.

As a wrestling official, Jerry served as an official in the Big 10, Mid-American, Ohio and MIAA. He was later the head official for the Southern Nevada High School program. He has been a FILA referee/judge since 1962. Jerry was selected as the AAU Official of the Year in 1973. He officiated at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 and was the first American to be named mat chairman in a Greco Roman World Championship in Norway in 1983. He currently holds the title of FILA Exceptionelle Referee Honoraire (retired), a position he will hold for life.

Sheila Wager worked her way up through the ranks of AAU, earning her National III, II, and I ratings prior to 1975. She gained FILA recognition in 1975. She was the first woman to achieve the rank of FILA Exceptionelle, the highest category in the world. In 1988 in Seoul, Korea, and again in 1992 in Barcelona, Spain, Sheila was a U.S. Olympic Team Referee/Judge. She was the first woman in history to officiate the sport of wrestling at the Olympic Games.

Sheila received the honor of being selected "Official of the Year" in 1980 by the Southern Nevada AAU and in 1982 by the National AAU. She is also a FILA Exceptionelle Honoraire (retired). In 1995 Sheila received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the USA Wrestling Hall of Fame.