


  
**OFFICIAL-OF-THE-YEAR**
  
 MAGAZINE

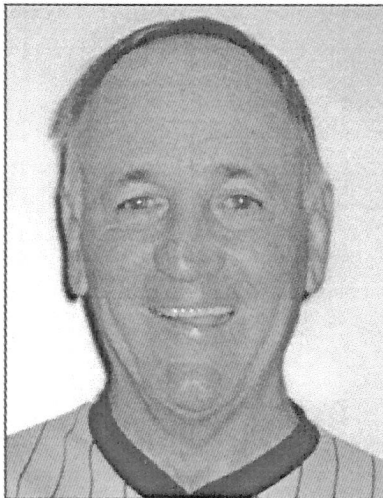
**RICH SMITH**  
 Long Island, New York

**A** Commitment to Excellence. In his nearly five decades as a wrestling official, Rich Smith has committed himself to excellence in always striving to make: "The Right Call!"

Rich Smith is a graduate of East Meadow (NY) High School, where he wrestled for three years. After graduating from Adelphi University with a degree in Health and Physical Education, he began his teaching career at Garden City (NY) Junior High School, where he spent time in the wrestling room helping out the school's mat mentor. It was that experience that influenced Rich Smith into becoming a wrestling referee.

As a 46-year veteran scholastic mat arbiter, Smith served as president and on the Board of Directors for the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association. The following are just a few of the prestigious high school events he has overseen throughout the years:

- Six New York State Championships (Rated the #1 official at the 1978 state tournament)
- 10 New York State Catholic School Championships
- Five New York State Private School Championships
- An amazing 32 Section 8 Finals (Rated the #1 official on two separate occasions)
- 52 Nassau County Conference Qualifying Tournaments
- 10 Nassau County Dual Meet Championships as the "finals" official
- 23 Nassau-Suffolk Catholic School Qualifying Tournaments



*Rich Smith  
Long Island, New York*

Richard Smith has not only achieved refereeing fame as a scholastic wrestling official, but also at the college level for 27 years. Smith was an active member of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association. He served as both first and second Vice President, as well as on the Board of Directors, serving as Chairman one year. In fact, Richard Smith was granted Honorary Lifetime Membership in the EIWOA in 2007. His major accomplishments as a collegiate official include the following:

- 21 NCAA Division III National Championships (Served as head official for eight of those years)
- 12 NCAA Division III Regional Qualifying Tournaments
- Three NCAA Division III National Dual Meet Championships

- 1988 NCAA Division I National Championship Official
- Four Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships
- 10 New York State Collegiate Tournaments
- Three All-Service Academy Championships

Throughout his officiating career, Rich has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and maintained his lifelong interest and passion for the sport of wrestling.

Rich Smith's exceptional efforts as a wrestling referee have not gone unrewarded. Smith received the 2008 New York State Outstanding Wrestling Official Award. That same year he was inducted into the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Hall of Fame. And in 2009, Rich Smith was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame - Long Island Chapter.

Rich retired as a physical education teacher in 1999 with 35 years under his belt. But Smith still remains active as a middle school football coach, and as the ultra-successful head varsity baseball coach at Garden City High School.

Rich and his lovely wife Pam reside on Long Island, New York and have three children and four grandchildren.

*Wrestling USA Magazine* congratulates Rich Smith as the "2010 National Wrestling Official of the Year," for his lifetime dedication to the development and growth of the mat sport in the wrestling-rich state of New York.

(Written by Dr. Bill Welker, chairman of the official selection committee and 2002 National Official of the Year.)