



CO-OFFICIAL-OF-THE-YEAR

RICH KRIETE

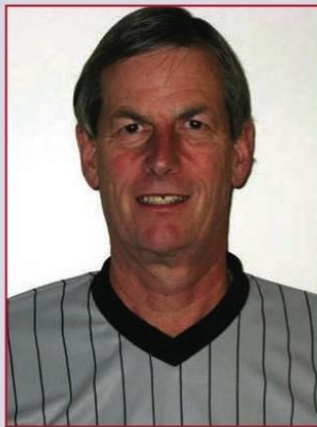
Garden City, Idaho

Dedicated! When referring to Rich Kriete's career as a wrestling official that word is without a doubt the best way to describe his involvement. Rich has just completed a 4 decade career officiating the world's oldest and greatest sport.

Rich began his outstanding career in 1969 officiating in Spokane, WA where he spent 19 years of service, he then spent 6 years in Vancouver, WA and finally spending the last 15 years officiating throughout the Boise, Idaho area.

Over Rich's 40 year career as a high school wrestling official he has officiated State Tournaments in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, a total of 74 post season tournaments, along with an additional 30 different high school regular season tournaments covering the Pacific Northwest.

Rich's storied career also involves 33 years of collegiate officiating, being honored with the opportunity to officiate 28 post season collegiate tournaments including 8 NAIA National Championships, 1 NCAA D-II National Qualifier and 18 Junior College National Qualifiers. Seven times Rich was



*Rich Kriete
Garden City, Idaho*

selected to officiate NAIA final matches as the lead official.

The dedicated career of Rich not only involves his time on the mat but also his dedicated services off of the mat, all in an effort to improve the quality of officiating. As a member of the National Wrestling Officials Association (NWOA), Oregon College Wrestling Officials Association (OCWOA), The Idaho Third District Officials Association, and The Malheur County (Oregon) Officials Association, Rich has served in many leadership positions. Rich has served 10 years

as Idaho's 3rd District Wrestling Rules Clinician and Interpreter, 8 years as the Wrestling Official's Sports Director on the third District Officials Association Board, and is currently serving his third term as the President of the third District Officials Association.

The career of Rich has touched many. At any event one can see the respect that is shown towards him from athletes, coaches, fans, and administrators. Rich is an ever popular figure in the hospitality room of any tournament where he can be heard sharing stories and lending a sympathetic ear to frustrated coaches.

Congratulations - Rich Kriete - *Wrestling USA Magazine's* National Official-of-the-Year!

Written by Todd Cady, President of the Idaho State Wrestling Coaches Association

Dr. Bill Welker, Chairman, Wrestling USA Magazine Official-of-the-Year Selection Committee



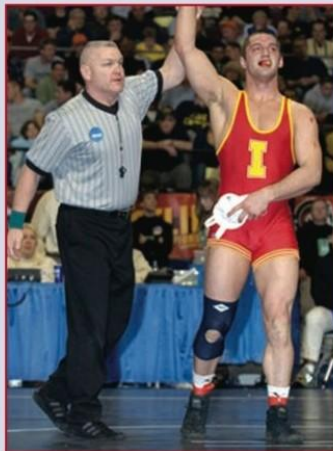
CO-OFFICIAL-OF-THE-YEAR

ROSS THOMAS
 Smyrna, Delaware

Ross Thomas first wrestled at Smyrna High School where he finished 3rd in the Delaware State high School Championships in 1980. After that from 1980 to 1982, he wrestled at Virginia Tech University where he became a 1982 Virginia College State Champion, and in 1983-1984 he was a two-time Mid Eastern Athletic Conference Champion. After graduating from Delaware State, he enrolled in the Marines and in 1987-1988 was on the Marines wrestling squad. In 1990, Ross was named Outstanding Wrestler in the Middle Atlantic AAU / Freestyle and Greco-Roman Open Championships.

In 1996-98, Ross Thomas was named the head wrestling coach at Polytech High School in Woodside, Delaware. He is currently teaching accounting.

Ross Thomas has been the Delaware State Wrestling Rules Interpreter for many years. He has officiated in 15 Delaware State High School Championships. Moreover, Thomas has officiated



*Ross Thomas
Smyrna, Delaware*

in three NCAA Division I Wrestling Tournaments, one Big 10 Conference Tournament. He has also officiated numerous NCAA Division I Eastern Regionals, the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament, the Reno Tournament of Champions, the Lone Star Duals, and the Virginia Duals.

Thomas's other officiating credentials include: the Beast of the East (17X), serving as the Head Official 11 years. He also refereed the Disney

Duals (1998-PRESENT), the Sierra Nevada Classic (1998-2003), the California Classic in 1998, the High School Nationals (2001, 2008 and 2010), and the Ohio Ironman Tournament (2003 and 2004).

Ross Thomas has been named the AAU National Official-of-the-Year on two occasions (2001 and 2008) and the Delaware Official-of-the-Year in 2001.

Congratulations to Ross Thomas for Wrestling USA Magazine's 2011 National Official-of-the-Year!