

Matside Michigan Live



2008/09 Awards presented by Cliff Keen Athletic

Youth Wrestler of the Year: Garrett Stehley, Lowell

Garrett has had an exceptional year by anyone's standards, winning the MYWAY state title for the fifth consecutive year and the NUWAY National title for the second consecutive year, also the Border Wars National Championship in the fall. He closed the season with a 64-6 record and posted 28-5 record in representing the State of Michigan in numerous national dual meet competitions as a member of both the Next Level and Michigan Titans squads. Garrett was undefeated at the MYWAY Clash of the Titans All Star Dual Meet and Border Wars All Star X-Mas Duals as well.

Runner up: Zach Cooper, MI Extreme

Honorable Mention: Gage Hutchinson, MI Next Level

High School Wrestler of the Year: Taylor Massa, St Johns

While there were many deserving candidates and although only a freshman, Taylor's accomplishments this past season are hard to argue with: 59-0, MHSAA State Titlist with big wins over multiple state champions, USA Wrestling Cadet Freestyle and Greco National Champion, Runner up at Super 32 and most recently the FILA cadet Freestyle championship. Young Mr. Massa has given notice that he will be a force to be reckoned with for years to come not only here in Michigan but on the national scene as well.

Runner up: Dan Yates, Hesperia

Honorable Mention: Kyle Waldo, Rockford

Collegiate Wrestler of the Year: Franklin Gomez, Michigan State

This was really a two man race between Gomez and Steve Luke from the University of Michigan, both 2009 NCAA Champions. Gomez wins on the balance of strength in his weight class. Only a junior, Gomez returns for one more season to defend his Big Ten and NCAA titles with his mat savvy and cat like quickness.

Runner up: Steve Luke, NCAA Champion - University of Michigan

Honorable Mention: Jason Brew, NCAA DIII National runner-up – Olivet College

High School Coach of the Year: Don Rinehart, Rockford

The Rockford Rams under Coach Rinehart once again captured the DI state team title over long time rival and powerhouse Holt by a single point in the final. Coach Rinehart steps down this season and will be replaced but not soon forgotten.

Runner up: Scott Marry, Hudson

Honorable Mention: Dave Dean, Lowell

Victoria Taylor Inspirational Wrestler of the Year: CC Weber, Goodrich

CC capped her senior season at Goodrich with a 59-5 record and a 4th place finish at the MHSAA DIII state finals at 103#, the highest placing in Michigan history for a female competitor. She also finished 3rd at the Women's U.S. Open this past spring. In the true spirit of this award, CC has been and will continue to serve as a model of inspiration to all female wrestlers here in Michigan.