

[✉ Get e-mail newsletters](#)

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Jacoutot named National Wrestling Coach of the Year

Home News Tribune Online 04/4/08

STORYCHAT: [Post a comment.](#) [View latest comments.](#)

By [GREG TUFARO](#)
STAFF WRITER
gtufaro@thnt.com

Bill Jacoutot, a regional champion at Madison Central High School and a JUCO All-American at Middlesex County College, received his National Wrestling Coach of the Year award a week ago.

But the reality that he has been honored as the country's top mentor remains, to Jacoutot, incomprehensible.

"When I found out I was to be considered the nation's top wrestling coach, it is kind of overwhelming to imagine," said Jacoutot, who recently completed his 27th season as the head coach at Spencerport High School outside Rochester, N.Y.

"I still haven't fully embraced the idea that I'm selected Coach of the Year, especially when you think of the thousands of coaches across the country."

Jacoutot, who owns a 335-28-1 career record, received his award from the National High School Coaches Association last Friday at the national scholastic tournament in Virginia Beach, Va.

His younger brother, Kevin, the head coach at Montgomery High School, said he knew at an early age that Bill would make an outstanding coach.

"He's very dedicated," Kevin explained. "Coaching is a 12-month thing for him. He's been coaching since 1975 in some capacity. He is well-versed in every aspect of coaching. He takes it very seriously. He does clinics all around the country. He is well known for his technique and how he structures and runs practice. Wrestling is his life."

Spencerport ended the 2007-08 season with an 18-0 dual meet record and as the No. 1 ranked team among New York's large schools, which are classified as Division I.

Seniors Bryan Bourne and Paul Glover each won a state title, becoming the school's first state champions since 1999. Four other Spencerport wrestlers placed in the state tournament. Spencerport was ranked No. 10 nationally in W.I.N. magazine's final poll.

Jacoutot, whose four brothers all wrestled for Madison Central — which is now Old Bridge High School — graduated in 1970 and went on to star at Middlesex County College under legendary coach John Sacchi, a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Middlesex, Jacoutot transferred to the University of Buffalo, where he served as team captain.

"Billy was always a student of the game," said Sacchi, who retired last year after 17 seasons as the head coach at Rutgers University.

"When I had him at Middlesex, he would come into my office and he would get a hold of Amateur Wrestling News,

which, prior to the internet, was the only way to get information of what was going on around the country. He would take the News and go from front to back. He'd say, "Coach, can I take this and bring it back?" He would memorize the whole thing. He could tell you who beat who in what tournament and what the score was. He was an encyclopedia."

Sacchi said Jacoutot's inquisitiveness and eagerness to learn is what helped transform the Spencerport mentor into a National Coach of the Year.

"He was always looking to learn and improve," Sacchi said. "Our paths crossed a few times over the years and we were able to talk and exchange ideas and things.

"I found him to be really motivated and willing to learn, and that's what it takes to achieve success in the sport."

Jacoutot said growing up in wrestling-rich Old Bridge helped groom him into a successful coach.

"While wrestling at Madison Central I fell in love with the sport," Jacoutot said. "Old Bridge is a solid wrestling town. Wrestling was immersed in our school and I just took an extreme liking to it and parlayed it into a career."

[Subscribe Now! to the Home News Tribune. It's EZ](#)