

58th Annual

<p><i>William F. Powley Memorial Service to Wrestling Award</i> presented to</p>

Frank Torres

The Powley award recognizes decades of dedication to wrestling

In 1974 three coaches from my alma mater Lodi High School took me under their wings and into their coaching staff and started to teach me the sport of wrestling and the art of coaching. They were Drew Camolila, Charlie Tumminelli and Nick DiDomenico. I'm grateful to all three but my biggest influence was Nick. Nick was the wrestler of the group, and he taught me the X's and O's of the sport. But also, for the many years that we worked together, he also taught me to start communicating those skills and techniques to the wrestlers themselves. Nick is not only well known in Bergen County Wrestling circles, but also throughout the state as well. I truly learned from one of the best.

I spent my first 10 years working with the Lodi wrestlers until I received the opportunity to get an assistant coaching position at Don Bosco Prep H.S. working for head coach Jeff Steccato. Leaving Lodi was tough but I soon learned that kids are kids no matter where you coach and I soon became very comfortable at the prep school in Ramsey.

After four years at Bosco, a coaching position became available at Lodi where I returned as Nick's assistant for the next eight years. I remained at that position until Nick, Henry Hascup, a former wrestler at Lodi, and myself decided to open up a wrestling club. Mat Time opened on April 6th, 1992, at which time I resigned as assistant coach to dedicate more time to the club. Unfortunately, because of Henry's work

schedule and new family, he had to take his leave of Mat Time. My last high school coaching position was in 1998 once again at Don Bosco Prep working for head coach Scott Borer. Nick remained at the club for approximately 15 years before beginning to enter a new career coinciding with his retirement from teaching and coaching.

Even with how much I love coaching this sport, the thing I love the most about it are the people. Throughout the years some of my closest friendships have been with people involved in the sport of wrestling, whether coaches I coached for or against, the student-athletes I instructed or their families which I became part of in some cases. It is great to see goals attained and dreams achieved, but also to never forget the things that make this great sport even greater are the people themselves.

There are really so many people to thank for all the help that I have received along the way, but I would remiss if I failed to mention the most important is my Heavenly Father for allowing me the chance of having been able to coach the sport of wrestling for these forty-plus years. He has blessed me with the opportunity and privilege of having been part of the careers of so many great student-athletes. He has truly been my number one mentor and my biggest influence throughout the years. To Him I am deeply indebted and extremely grateful. I would also like to thank the BCCA for presenting this honor to me.