

Lifetime Achievement for Officials

CHARLES EDWARD YAGLA



As a competitor, Chuck Yagla reached the heights, but for generations of collegiate wrestlers, he's known not for what he did to opponents, but for what he did with a whistle around his neck.

Yagla was a three-time All-American, a two-time national champion and the Outstanding Wrestler at the 1976 NCAA tournament wrestling for the University of Iowa. He dominated the U.S. freestyle scene for several years, winning four National Open titles, and fresh out of college, was the alternate on the 1976 Olympic team. He also won gold and silver medals in the World Cup and finished second in the prestigious Tbilisi tournament in Russia. In 1980, he earned a spot on the Olympic team, but of course, did not compete when the U.S. boycotted the Moscow Games.

Beginning in 1983, Yagla spent 24 years as an NCAA official, gaining the respect of coaches and competitors nationwide.

From 1996-2007, he was a fixture at the NCAA Division I Championships and was selected to referee finals matches five times. He officiated at six NCAA Division II Championships.

Two conferences, the Big Ten and the Pac-10, counted on him to officiate their conference championships for over 20 years. Both conferences chose him to be "head official" of their championships four times.

He was a referee for two NWCA All-Star meets and was one of the officials selected for the National Duals 12 times.

Yagla hung up his whistle after the NCAA Championships in 2007, but couldn't quite escape from officiating entirely. In July of 2008, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Wrestling Officials for both the Big Ten and Big 12 Conferences.

He is a member of both the National Wrestling Officials Association and the College Wrestling Officials Association.

When he's not in a wrestling gym somewhere, Yagla is employed at Kirk Gross Company in Waterloo, Iowa as Director of Marketing and Public Relations.



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