

Triple Crown Winners

The triple crown awards are given to the wrestlers who win the Wyoming High School state championship here in Casper then won the Wyoming Amateur Wrestling Associations Freestyle and Greco Roman state championships a week later in Lander.

This year we have 6 winners of the triple crown award. 3 are men and we have 3 women, and these young lady's mark the first time we have had female winners of this award.

From Moorcroft and the Moorcroft Mat Masters - Rebekah Anderson

From Lovell and the North Big Horn Rams - James Love

From Jackson Hole and the Jackson Bronc's wrestling club - Tai McBride

From Kemmerer and the Diamondville wrestling club - Rooney Proffit

From Thermopolis and the Thermopolis WC- Lilly Quintanilla

From Big Piney - Caleb Brown

From Evanston and the Evanston Elite - Brady Roberts

Adult Awards

Former Board Members - Bryan Galey - Has been a WAWA member since 2005 and was elected as a Member at Large in 2008 and served for 6 years, and then he was elected as the kid's director in 2014 and was in that position until 2018. He took 2 years off and came back as the State Chairman for a 2-year term. We want to thank Bryan Galey for his hard work and accepting his award today is his grandson, Dominic Galey.

Mat Official of the Year - The 2024 mat official of the year is a person who took on the responsibility of being the southwest quadrant referee in 2023 with great passion. He received his M2 status in 2022 and no doubt will achieve higher rank as soon as he is ready to seek it. He has made numerous presentations for the state clinics, he is constantly recruiting referees and enjoys mentoring young officials to love and honor the sport. He travels to support the growth of USA wrestling and has been the head referee at numerous tournaments around the state. He is a coach in high school women's wrestling, mentoring young women to become successful. This

individual has grown up in the sport and loves and honors the sport of wrestling. This year's WAWA official of the year is Clayton Wright.

Operating Official of the Year – The winner of this year's award has been contributing to the sport for over 18 years. She has ushered her 8 kids through wrestling in the WAWA Organization and now has one of her grandchildren in the program as well. She has spent the last few years traveling and learning more about pairing, including upgrading to her P2 last year in Fargo. On top of being a fabulous pairer, she is a great mom, coach, club president, and ruler of all things! This year's winner of the Operating Official of the Year is Tiffany Velarde.

Coach of the Year - He was Born into a wrestling family! He wrestled on and off in his younger years. He also loved football and baseball. Damon wrestled for 4 different high schools, in 3 different states (Utah, Indiana, and Wyoming.) Damon had many different coaches; and they all made a huge impact on him. As a freshman, he placed 1st at Freshman Nationals in Virginia Beach, He placed 2nd at Brute Adidas Nationals his sophomore year, was a Utah 4A State Champion for Uintah High School his junior year, and Utah 4A State Runner up his Senior year for Wasatch High School. He wrestled on a full ride scholarship for 2 years at Western Wyoming Community College. While there, he met the love of his life, Hadley and (after a lot of convincing) they were married. They settled in Lyman and now have 3 rowdy, strong willed, spirited children that got that from their dad! Damon loves to coach kids and has enjoyed coaching a variety of different wrestling clubs. He helped bring back the Bridger Valley Bruins Wrestling club made a comeback in 2021. He has since become the head coach for Lyman Intermediate School and accepted a position coaching the Lyman High School Girls team. He loved it and became a huge advocate for Women's wrestling! That led to an assistant coaching role in Team Wyoming girls wrestling, with his oldest daughter Mandi in tow. He loves coaching these girls and has said "They really know how to pull together. They help each other and feel like family!" Damon wants what is best for all the kids that he interacts with. He not only wants them to become better wrestlers, but to become the best people they can be! Wrestling teaches hard work, how to deal with disappointment, and pride in how far we have come. Wrestling isn't just a sport; wrestling teaches us about life! Please help me congratulate Damon Mele.

Chad Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award – Ryan started coaching the Jackson Bronc's youth wrestling club in 2004. He has followed his 3 boys for 20 years, coaching, loving, supporting, and adjusting his everyday schedule to make sure he could be there for each one of them. As we all know, in

wrestling there are many ups and downs but there is nothing that makes him prouder than to see his sons succeed on and off the mat.

Ryan not only ran the youth wrestling club but also helped coach the middle and high school wrestling teams as well. Ryan has welcomed kids into the club from neighboring communities, despite their rivalry on the high school levels, just to make sure that they had a coach to travel, support and encourage them through their wrestling careers. Ryan jokes about all these “little turds” getting on his nerves but to him they are all Family. Please help me congratulate this year’s winner of the Chad Johnson Lifetime achievement award, Ryan Castagno.

Governor’s Awards

Folkstyle Awards

8U – Our first award today goes to a young man who was a first-year wrestler. He placed first at the AAU Black Hills Folkstyle Nationals and the 2023 Montana Open and went 45-1 in local tournaments, he was the 2023 three style champion at 49 lbs. going 13-0 over the 3 tournaments. This year’s winner of the Governor’s Award for Folkstyle in the 8U division, wrestling for the Eastside United Wrestling Club, from Casper, Barrett Jackson.

10U – The next award goes to a young man who wrestles for the Douglas Wrestling Club, last year he took first at 13 different local tournaments, he was a Rocky Mountain Nationals Wild West champ, he took 3 rd at the Wyoming Amateur Wrestling’s folkstyle tournament and was the Montana Open champion in the 8U 54 lbs. in a bracket of 40. He had a 43-6 folkstyle record and an overall record of 62-8. He also took 2 nd at the WAWA Freestyle and 3 rd in Greco/Roman state tournaments. The winner of the Governor’s Award in Folkstyle for the 10U division is Greysen Seim.

12U – In the 12U division the winner of this year’s Governor’s Award is a young man that wrestled for the Touch of Gold club out of Gillette. He is a 4.0 student with interests outside of wrestling that include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Chess Club, taking Extra Learning Opportunities classes, playing multiple instruments in a band, volunteering for the Salvation Army as well as playing football. He was a placer at the Rocky Mountain Nationals Monster Match and Wild West tournaments, was a 3-style champ at the 2023 WAWA state championships, wrestled in 2 tournaments at the USA Wrestling’s

Folkstyle Nationals going 5-1. He also placed 2 nd in freestyle and 3 rd in Greco/Roman at the USA wrestling's western regionals in the 12U 98 lb. division. This year's winner of the Governor's Award in the 12U division is Burke Malyurek.

14U – The next award goes to a young man who wrestles out of Rawlins, he is a 6-time WAWA 3 style champion including 2023, was a Rocky Mountain Nationals champ, he went 8-0 and was an all-American at the AAU Lee Pomulak duals for team Wyoming. His overall record in 2023 was an astounding 67-0, with 51 of those matches being high school matches and winning the Charlie Lake, the Vernal tournament of champions, the Battle in the Big Horns, the Thoman Soda Ash, the Ron Thon, 3A East Regionals and 3A WHSAA state at 106 lbs. He also won the 2023 USA Wrestling's Western Regionals in both Freestyle and Greco/Roman going 10-0. This year the Governor's Award in the 14U division is a repeat Governor's award winner and wrestling for the RawTown Elite is Hudson Baker.

16U – Our next winner has been in WAWA for 10 years, he competed in the 2023 Virginia Beach middle school nationals as well in the 2023 Freestyle and Greco/Roman national championships in Fargo, he was a 2022 USA wrestling's TOA – King of the Mountain champ as well as an all-American going 7-1 in the AAU Lee Pomulak duals, Black Hills Nationals and Rocky Mountain Nationals Monster Match champions. Last year he won the Shane Shatto, the Carlie Lake as well as going undefeated in the Thoman soda ash and the Flat-Water Fracas duals. He was the 2022 WAWA Middle School state champ and a 2023 WAWA 3-style champion and placed 5 th at the 2023 Western Regionals in Greco/Roman. This year's winner of the Folkstyle 16U Governor's Award from LaGrange and the CWC Thunder club is Kozad Porter.

Junior – The next award goes to a young man that wrestled for the Camel Kids, he had a 58-5 record in 23-24, he was a 2-time Ron Thon champion and a 4-time WHSAA 4A state champion. In 2023 he went to the NHSCA Virginia Beach High School Nationals tournament and went 8-2 and placed 4 th out of a field of 124 of the best wrestlers from across the country at 132 lbs. and in 24 placed 6 th . This year, at the USA Folkstyle nationals he was an all-American going 7-2 and placing 5 th . He also wrestled for team Wyoming in both freestyle and Greco/Roman at Fargo. This year's winner of the Folkstyle Governor's Award in the Junior Division from Gillette is Antonio Avila.

Female – We have 2 awards today for the women in folkstyle, the first is a young lady out of Gillette who has wrestled for just 3 years, she won 23 different local tournaments in both boys and girls divisions, in Wyoming she has a 49-0 record against the boys and 36-0 against the girls, she took 1 st in the Rocky Mountain Nationals Wild West in 10U and 2 nd in 12U, 1 st in the Black Hills & AAU Folkstyle and Montana Open and went 7-1 at the AAU

Twin River Duals. She took 4th at USA Wrestling's Western Regionals in folkstyle and 1st in both freestyle and Greco, she has won a total of 5 regional tournaments and is a 4-time all-American and this is the second Governor's award she has won. This year's winner in folkstyle for the girls wrestling for the Touch of Gold club is Audrina Summers.

Our last Governor's Award today goes to a young lady who wrestles for the Thermopolis Wrestling Club and Hot Springs County High School. She took 1st at the WAWA Middle School State, went 8-0 at the AAU Twin River Duals and 8-2 at the AAU Scholastic Girls Duals. She was a 2023 WAWA 3-style winner and was a Triple Crown winner this year winning the WHSAA folkstyle and the WAWA Freestyle and Greco championships at 115 lbs. She took 2nd at the USA Wrestling's western regionals in Freestyle and 1st in Greco, and then wrestled for team Wyoming in Fargo in freestyle. This year's winner of the Female Folkstyle Governor's Award is Lilly Quintanilla.

Freestyle Awards

8U – Our first award today goes to a young man out of Rock Springs who had a season record of 58-5 and a lifetime record, so far, of 241-38, he placed 2nd at all styles at last year's WAWA 3 style tournament, placed 4th at the Salt Lake Slam, 1st at the Turkey Tussle and Beehive Brawl. He placed 1st at the USA Wrestling's Western Regionals in both Freestyle and Greco, and then 5th at USA Wrestling's Greco/Roman Nationals and 3rd at USA Wrestling's Kids Freestyle Nationals. This year's winner of the Governor's Award for Freestyle in the 8U division, wrestling for the Top of the Rock Wrestling Club is Ryker Henderson.

10U – The next award goes to a young man who has an overall career record of 173-17, went 74-5 overall last year and 35-3 in freestyle, he is a 3-time Wyoming State Games Ironman Champion, in 2022 he was a Rocky Mountain Nationals triple crown winner, and a 2-time WAWA 3-style winner. He was a champion in freestyle and 3rd in Greco at the USA Wrestling's western regional tournaments and has achieved all-American honors 7-times. The winner of the Governor's Award in Freestyle for the 10U division is Trenton Allemand.

12U – The next award goes to a young man who wrestles for the Touch of Gold Wrestling Club, last year he won 9 local tournaments and placed 2nd in all 3 styles at the Cowboy State Games and was a 3 style WAWA champion, he took 5th at the Black Hills and AAU championships and 1st at the Rocky Mountain Nationals Wild West in folkstyle. He took 1st in both freestyle and Greco/Roman at the USA Wrestling's western regionals and then took 6th in the 12U 80 lb. division at the USA Wrestling Folkstyle Nationals. He is a 4.0 student and volunteers for the Salvation Army. The winner of the Governor's Award in Freestyle for the 12U division from Gillette, Brooks Bath.

Greco Roman Awards

8U – Our first award today goes to a young man who is from Green River. He took 2nd in all 3-styles at the WAWA Kids tournament, he took 3rd in freestyle in both Western Regionals and USA Kids Nationals, then in Greco/Roman took 2nd at Western regionals and 5th at Kids Nationals. This year's winner of the Governor's Award for Greco/Roman in the 8U division, wrestling for the Green River Grapplers club is Kayson Calkins.

10U – The next award goes to a young man who also wrestles for the Grapplers. He took 2nd at the TOA Salt Lake Slam and the Beehive Brawl, 1st at the Intermountain Warrior triple crown winner in the 10U and 12U in the Champions Utah and Fremont tournaments, he has an overall record of 208-18 – 35-4 in Greco. Last year he was a WAWA 3-style winner at 56 lbs. He took 4th in Greco at Western Regionals and took 4th in freestyle and 5th in Greco at USA's Kids Nationals. The winner of the Governor's Award in Greco/Roman for the 10U division is Colton Oeltjenbruns.

12U – The next award goes to a young man who is a 6th grader at Buffalo Ridge Elementary, where he carries an A average, he is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and choir. He loves playing football, riding dirt bikes, hunting, fishing, camping, and hanging with friends. He took 4th at the WAWA Middle School state tournament, has a record of 76-12, he took 1st in both folkstyle and Greco and 2nd in freestyle at the Cowboy State Games. He took 6th at the Rocky Mountain Nationals Monster Match, 3rd at the Montana Open, 3rd at the Black Hills & AAU Folkstyle tournament and 2nd at the RMN Wild West. He was a 3-style winner at the 2023 WAWA state championships and took 3rd at USA's Western Regionals in Greco. He volunteers for local events and received the Touch of Gold's Outstanding Wrestler Award. The winner of the Governor's Award in Greco/Roman for the 12U division is from Gillette, Levic McGee.

14U – The next award goes to a young man who last wrestles for the Camel Kids wrestling club, he is a 4.0 student at Thunder Basin High School, he is a AAU Black Hills Nationals Champion, an all-American at the Lee Pomulak Duals with team Wyoming, a 3-style WAWA champion as well as a WAWA Middle School champ, this last year he went 35-1 in high school winning the 4A state championship at 113 lbs. He took 1st at both freestyle and Greco at the USA Wrestling's Western Regionals and has previously received the WAWA

governor's award for both folkstyle and freestyle. He wrestles in honor of Stephen Cribben and Ryan Sartor who were both killed in action and takes pride in being able to carry on his soldiers' stories. The winner of the Governor's Award in Greco/Roman for the 14U division is from Gillette, Breckin Henry.

16U – Our next winner is also out of Gillette; he began wrestling at the age of 4 and remains in the community as well as spending time with the Touch of Gold club coaching and being a mat official. His personal accolades include 7-time WAWA Greco champion 4A East regional Champ and 2-time placer in the WHSAA 4A championships, this is also his 3rd time winning a Governor's award, he was a 2023 team Wyoming member competing in freestyle and Greco in Fargo going 5-2 in Greco and hopes to be on the team again this year. He is a 3.5 GPA student and hopes to continue wrestling in college. This year's winner of the Greco/Roman 16U Governor's Award from the Touch of Gold, Ashton Leegaard.

Junior – The next award goes to a young man that wrestled for the Powell Wrestling Club and at Powell High School, he was a triple crown champion last year winning the high school 3A state championship and the WAWA state juniors' championships. He won the Ron Thon at 220 lbs. and went 5-2 at the Twin River Boys Duals. He had a 41-2 high school season record; he went 3-4 at the latest USAW Juniors freestyle and Greco/Roman national tournaments competing on team Wyoming in Fargo a total of 3 times and then wrestled in the US Open in both styles as well. He was also a 2-time cultural exchange member. This year's winner of the Greco/Roman Governor's Award in the Junior Division is Stetson Davis. Stetson is not here today to receive this award because he is at US Army Ranger training, accepting this award will be his high school coach, Nick Fulton.

Female – The last governor's award goes to a young lady that wrestled for the Green River Grapplers wrestling club, besides wrestling she loves hockey and soccer as well as camping, fishing, and hanging out with family and friends, this year she had a 45-0 record against girls. She was a double triple crown winner at the Rudy Gunter and Lander tournaments, took 5th in folk, freestyle and Greco in the boy's division and was a WAWA 3-style winner in the girls, 3rd in both freestyle and Greco at USA Wrestling's western regionals in the boy's division and 1st in both in the girls division and was all-American in Iowa for team Wyoming for the Duals team. She recently went 8-0 with all 1st period pins in the AAU Twin Rivers Duals in Iowa and placed 5th at the AAU Folkstyle Nationals in the boy's division. This year's winner of the Greco/Roman Governor's Award, from Green River, in the Female Division is Peyton Potter.