

Mark Gervais - long-time men's Wrestling coach at Marist High School was honored on Feb. 21, 2009 as one of the Grand Marshals for the 72nd IHSA Individual State Championships.

The following is the excerpt that was read to the crowd at Assembly Hall:

*“A 1972 graduate of East Leyden High School, **Mark Gervais** continued his wrestling career at Northeast Missouri State, before staying on to coach three All-Americans and win an MIAA Conference championship during a three-year coaching stint at his alma mater. Gervais would go on to serve as an assistant coach to Ronny Clinton at Eastern Illinois University, where he earned a Master’s Degree in Sports Administration.*



Gervais arrived at Chicago (Marist) in 1982 and would begin a 25-year stretch that included 511 dual meet victories as the school’s head coach during the 1983-84 season. Gervais’ coaching career included eight individual state champions, 10 individual runners-up, 50 other place-winners and 100 state final qualifiers. His teams won 24 consecutive East Suburban Catholic Conference titles, 11 regionals and six sectionals. Marist would win the team state title under Gervais in 1987 and combine to finish second or third on four other occasions.

“The Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame Member and 1987 IWCOA Coach of the Year is currently the Chair of the Physical Education and Health department at Marist, where he coaches freshman wrestling and bass fishing.”

*Gervais is also a member of the **East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame.***