



National Wrestling Hall of Fame **Connecticut Chapter**

Connecticut Chapter National Wrestling Hall of Fame Scholarships

Dear Guidance Counselors, Athletic Directors and Wrestling Coaches:

The Connecticut Chapter of the *National Wrestling Hall of Fame* is proud to provide three scholarships for deserving high school *senior* wrestlers. The scholarships celebrate three criteria: academic achievement, career accomplishments and overcoming exceptional adversity.

Please find enclosed the following documents:

- 1) Criteria and explanation for all three scholarships being offered by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the **Erik Weihenmayer Scholarship**, the **Scholar Athlete Scholarship**, and the **Career Achievement Scholarship**.
- 2) Nomination information and process.
- 3) Nomination form. The same form can be used for all three scholarships.
- 4) Agreement and Understanding Statement form (mandatory).

Please distribute this information within your schools as we are searching for the very best student athletes. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Your time, attention and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Theodore P. Oczkowski
President, Connecticut Chapter, National Wrestling Hall of Fame
ctcoy2002@yahoo.com
203-579-6333, Ext. 6420 (work)
203-980-8060 (cell)



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Erik Weihenmayer Scholarship \$500

This scholarship will be awarded in those years when a deserving candidate is nominated. Requirements include:

- Be a senior, 3 year wrestler
- Demonstrated the ability to overcome exceptional adversity

The recipient of this scholarship lives by the message written by Weihenmayer in his book, *The Adversity Advantage*: "I believe that inside each of us is something I can only describe as a light, which has the capacity to feed on adversity, to consume it like fuel. When we tap into that light, every frustration, every setback, every obstacle becomes a source to power our lives forward. The greater the challenge, the brighter the light burns. Through it, we become more focused, more creative, more driven, and can even learn to transcend our own perceived limitations to bring our lives more meaning."

ABOUT ERIK WEIHENMAYER

The scholarship awarded for overcoming adversity is named after Mr. Erik Weihenmayer. Erik is a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the CT Chapter. A former middle school teacher and wrestling coach, Erik is one of the most exciting and well-known athletes in the world. Despite losing his vision at the age of 13, Erik has become an accomplished mountain climber, paraglider, and skier, who has never let his blindness interfere with his passion for an exhilarating and fulfilling life. On May 25, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer became the only blind man in history to reach the summit of the world's highest peak - **Mount Everest**. On August 20, 2008, when he stood on top of **Carstenz Pyramid**, the tallest peak in Austral-Asia, Weihenmayer completed his quest to climb the Seven Summits - the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. Erik is joined by fewer than 100 mountaineers who have accomplished this feat. Additionally, he has scaled El Capitan, a 3,300-foot overhanging granite monolith in Yosemite; Lhosar; a 3,000-foot ice waterfall in the Himalayas; and a difficult and rarely climbed rock face on 17,000-foot **Mt. Kenya**. More information can be found at www.touchthetop.com

Scholar Athlete Scholarship \$500

This scholarship will be awarded annually. Requirements include:

- Be a senior, **4** year wrestler
- Have a GPA of at least **3.2** on a **4.0 scale** or **80%** of an alternative scale at conclusion of the junior year
- Be a top three place winner in a CIAC divisional tournament at least once in career
- Be a top five place winner in the State Open at least once in career

Please include information about additional accomplishments in CIAC divisional, State Open and New England tournaments along with information about extracurricular activities and prominent roles in school and/or the community to support the nomination

Career Achievement Scholarship \$500

This scholarship will be awarded annually. Requirements include:

- Be a senior, **4** year wrestler
- Have a GPA of at least **2.8** on a **4.0 scale** or **70%** of an alternative scale at the conclusion of the junior year
- Be a CIAC divisional tournament champion at least once during career
- Be a top three place winner in State Open at least once during career
- New England champion or place winner supports nomination
- Repeating as champion at the Class and Open is strong criteria
- Out-of-season accomplishments strengthen nomination

Please include information about additional accomplishments at the New England tournament and off-season wrestling tournaments to support your application. Multiple titles at the CIAC divisional and State Open tournaments will benefit your application.



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Nomination Information

Coaches who have a wrestler who qualifies now or expect that they have a wrestler who will qualify for one of these scholarships in the current year based on their anticipated performance in the State Tournaments should submit an application. All medals earned after submission of the nomination will be tracked by the selection committee.

Nomination Form

Scholarship application form can be obtained online at the chapter website at

<http://ctwrestling7.homestead.com/HallofFame.html>

When to apply

The deadline to apply for the scholarships is March 15. Send your completed nomination package to:

Ted Oczkowski
President, CWHOF
79 Governor's Hill Road, Oxford, CT 06478

What to include in your nomination package: Please fill out the respective application and include:

- Recommendations from your coach, guidance counselor and a school administrator (Athletic Director/Coordinators) of your choice (3 recommendations)
- Information and accomplishments from your wrestling career, any off-season wrestling tournaments and clubs along with your high school athletic career outside of wrestling
- Any service to your community and school

Selection Committee

The selection committee is comprised of the executive board of the CT Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The committee reserves the right to withhold the awarding of scholarships if no qualifying candidates are nominated. Additional information can be found at <http://ctwrestling7.homestead.com/HallofFame.html>

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Scholarship for which nominated:

Erik Weihenmayer Scholar Athlete Career Achievement

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/Town Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

School Name Phone Number _____

GPA ____ out of ____ Is GPA weighted? Yes ____ No ____

In Nomination Package please include this completed form and attach a list of:

- 1) Wrestling Achievements and Honors
- 2) Academic Achievements and Honors, if applicable
- 3) Extracurricular activities and events
- 4) Volunteerism
- 5) If you are being nominated for the Erik Weihenmayer Scholarship, please include a one page essay explaining the exceptional adversity and challenges that the candidate has overcome.

Name of Nominator _____ Date _____

(PRINT)

Phone Number _____



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Agreement and Understanding

I hereby authorize the Connecticut Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (CWHOF) and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (NWHOP), to publish my name as a recipient of the Connecticut Chapter of the Wrestling Hall of Fame Scholarships. This publication may be in an official CWHOF or NWHOP publication, in official communications, various other writings about CWHOF or NWHOP, and by CWHOF or NWHOP electronic (e.g. website or internet) means.

Scholarship _____

Recipient's Full Name _____

Please Print

Recipient's Signature / date _____

Guardian or Parent Full Name (for a minor) _____

Please Print

Guardian or Parent Signature (for a minor) / date _____