



Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards
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Contact: Troy Bell 352-240-6505 or troy@scout.com

Robert Weiner Named 2008 Florida Dairy Farmers Football Coach-of-the-Year

Gainesville (Jan. 29) --- Tampa Plant High School's Robert Weiner was named the 2008 Florida Dairy Farmers Football Coach-of-the-Year following a final round of voting by a statewide panel of high school football coaches and media representatives.

Weiner is the 17th winner of the annual award sponsored by Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association to honor the top high school football coach for the 2008 season. Coach Weiner is the second coach (Bill Castle –1998, 2003) in the program's history to win the overall Coach-of-the-Year award twice, previously winning the award in 2006.

Coach Weiner's team finished the 2008 season as district champ on its way to a 14-1 record and the Class 4A state title. In his five years at Plant, his teams have won four district titles, made two Final Four appearances and won two state titles (2006, 2008). Weiner has a record of 54-13 in five years at Plant and an overall career record of 187-56.

"Florida's dairy farmers congratulate coach Weiner for a job well done and we salute him with a milk toast," said Matt Lussier, a Gainesville area dairy farmer. "We take a lot of pride in watching a winner such as coach Weiner represent our industry and this award in such a positive manner and we wish him continued success."

Weiner, previously named Class 4A Coach-of-the-Year, had four first-place votes and 128 points, finishing ahead of Class 6A Coach-of-the-Year Mike Cullison of Sanford Seminole who was runnerup with 123 points. Class 3A Coach-of-the-Year Shelton Crews of Tallahassee Godby finished third with 120 points. Class 2A Coach-of-the-Year Corky Rogers of Jacksonville Bolles finished fourth with 103 points, followed by 1B Coach-of-the-Year Bill Powers of Jupiter Christian (102), 2B Coach-of-the-Year Blaze Thompson of Pahokee (96), 5A Coach-of-the-Year Jerry Pollard of Pensacola Pine Forest (90) and 1A Coach-of-the-Year Mike Hayde of Fort Meade (74).

The Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards program exemplifies Dairy Farmers Inc.'s commitment to the state's youth. While honoring the state's top athletes and coaches in all 24 FHSAA-sanctioned sports for the 17th consecutive year, the program also emphasizes to young people the importance of keeping dairy products a primary part of their diet in their overall nutrition plan.

2008 Final Voting

Coach	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Robert Weiner	4	2	5	0	11	0	0	0	128
Mike Cullison	5	2	2	1	10	0	0	2	123
Shelton Crews	5	2	2	1	6	4	1	1	120
Corky Rogers	3	2	0	3	8	3	0	3	103
Bill Powers	3	1	1	0	11	3	3	0	102
Blaze Thompson	1	1	1	3	12	3	0	1	96
Jerry Pollard	1	1	1	1	10	6	2	0	90
Mike Hayde	0	1	0	0	11	5	3	2	74

Point totals based on: 1st place (10), 2nd place (7), 3rd place (6), 4th place (5), 5th place (4), 6th place (3), 7th place (2) and 8th place (1).

Football Coach-of-the-Year Winners:

1992 – Wally Dunne, Coral Springs

1993 – Paul Maechtle, Bradenton Southeast

1994 – Rod Shafer, Lake Wales

1995 – Bob Withrow, Jacksonville Sandalwood

1996 – Robby Pruitt, Union County

1997 – Danny Green, Lake City Columbia

1998 – Bill Castle, Lakeland

1999 – Milton Watson, Glades Central

2000 – Nick Coleman, Venice

2001 – Al Morrell, Clewiston

2002 – Richard Wood, Tampa Wharton

2003 – Bill Kramer, Naples

2004 – Bill Castle, Lakeland

2005 – Joey Wiles, St. Augustine

2006 – Robert Weiner, Tampa Plant

2007 – Billy Rolle, Miami Northwestern

2008 – Robert Weiner, Tampa Plant