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Matthew Dodson and Julie Leonard Named Top Bowlers

GAINESVILLE (Dec. 18) --- Matthew Dodson of Orlando University High School and Julie Leonard of Oviedo High School were named 2008 Florida Dairy Farmers Bowlers-of-the-Year.

Dodson won the boys' state bowling title winning two-of-three games from the 2006 Bowler-of-the Year Andrew Koff while Leonard took the girls' title by defeating her opponent by winning two-of-three games .

Tom Baral of Martin County High School won Dairy Farmers Boys' Coach-of-the-Year honors while David Bardsley of West Centennial High School won Girls' Coach-of-the-Year honors leading their teams to state championships.

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

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 26 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.