



*America's longest-running program  
recognizing excellence in high school athletics*

### **Cocoa's Wilkinson Named 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Football Coach-of-the-Year**

Gainesville (Jan. 22) --- Cocoa High School's John Wilkinson was named the 2009 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.

Wilkinson is the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2009 season.

Coach Wilkinson's team won the district championship, finished with a 15-0 record and won the Class 2A state title. In his five years at Cocoa his teams have made three Final Four appearances and won back-to-back state titles (2008, 2009). At Cocoa, coach Wilkinson has a 56-10 record and an overall career record of 71-25.

Wilkinson, previously named Class 2A Coach-of-the-Year, finished with 10 first-place votes and 126 points, finishing ahead of Class 6A Coach-of-the-Year Kevin Pettis of Deland who was runnerup with 75 points. Class 3A Coach-of-the-Year Richard Stuart of Miami Belen Jesuit finished third with 72 points. Class 1B Coach-of-the-Year Ronny Pruitt of Hawthorne finished fourth with 54 points, followed by 4A Coach-of-the-Year John Hicks of Niceville (48), 5A Coach-of-the-Year George Smith of St. Thomas Aquinas (29), 1A Coach-of-the-Year Verlon Dorminey of Jacksonville Trinity Christian (10) and 2B Coach-of-the-Year Bob Henriquez of Tampa Catholic (7).

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 FHSSA-sanctioned sports for the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **2009 Final Voting**

<b>Player</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total</b>
John Wilkinson	10	2	2	126
Kevin Pettis	2	7	1	75
Richard Stuart	4	2	3	72
Ronny Pruitt	1	2	5	54
John Hicks	1	2	4	48
George Smith	1	1	2	29
Verlon Dorminey	1	0	0	10
Bob Henriquez	0	1	0	7

**Point totals based on: 1<sup>st</sup> place (10), 2<sup>nd</sup> place (7) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (6).**

**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

**2009** – John Wilkinson, Cocoa