Vincent Cacioppo

From:

Martin Muller <mgmnet@cox.net> Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:13 PM

Sent: To:

Vincent Cacioppo

Subject:

Press credentials for the 2021 LHSAA State Wrestling Championships...

Louisiana High School Athletic Association 12720 Old Hammond Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Attention

Mr. Vince Cacioppo

Director of Communications

Dear Mr. Cacioppo,

First, let me congratulate you on your new position. I will try to make our relationship as problem-free as I can.

My name is Martin Muller and I have run a website I call *Louisiana Wrestling News* (*LWN*), located at www.lawrestling.com, since 2012. It is designed to cover Louisiana high school wrestling via a mesh of internet technology and old-school journalism, with no supervision aside from decades-old standards of decorum.

I know I am asking you to deviate from the norm, but it would help me tremendously if you could let me know in advance how many press credentials I will receive. I am going to apply for one for myself as a writer and six others to include myself and five amateur photographers who want to assist me. (One is new and has a photography degree from LSU; the others are from Shreveport and have two to four years of experience photographing the event from 2016-2019 in Bossier City.) Five photography credentials were approved in 2019.

Due to circumstances upon which I see no reason to dwell, the LWN was denied passes for the 2020 tournament. The saddest part about that is not that I did not get credit for a great article (my name actually rarely appears on the website). It is not that my photographers did not make as much money as they would have had they been allowed to work the event, nor that I drove five hours to Bossier City and back and arrived in River Ridge \$5,000 poorer with no photographs.

The saddest part is that hundreds of kids whose families are on tight-budgets have no photographic record of what the LHSAA website once called "a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most of the participants."

This year it will probably be harder for parents to get photographs of their children participating in the event. Many families are much worse-off than they were a year ago due to COVID-related issues. If they could not afford photographs last year, this year will probably not be any easier. Nor, due to COVID, will many probably be allowed to watch their kids due to crowd restrictions.

I expect crowds will be much less than they have been in the past. I believe wrestlers who are not supposed to be on the floor will be kept in the seats more than in past years. This, however, means more room on the floor (outside of the barricades), so additional photographers should not represent more of a COVID threat by being there.

Wrestling has been pretty lucky so far. Many events have been postponed or cancelled, and crowds have been limited, but the kids and coaches are working every bit as hard as they have in the past. If a state championship tournament is to be held then at least we should try to give them the best coverage possible of the pinnacle of their wrestling year, or high school career, for which many have worked very hard well before the LHSAA season started.

My photographers only work with me on this one event, and as four come from Shreveport, the earlier I can verify I will get credentials the earlier they can make the necessary arrangements to make the trip. I hope you will provide credentials for all of them, allow me to blow \$15,000 and spend week-after-long-week preparing an article befitting the event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at any time at (504) 305-1824.

Sincerely

Martin Muller
10510 Clinton Street
River Ridge, LA 70123
(504) 305-1824
Editor — Louisiana Wrestling News (www.lawrestlingnews.com)
Archivist — Louisiana High School Wrestling Archives (www.lhswa.org)

[WARNING: This email is from an external source. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]

ATTN: ADAM M.

June 27th, 2018

Louisiana High School Athletic Association 12720 Old Hammond Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Attention:

Mr. Eddie Bonine

Executive Director

Cc:

Mr. Kelly Wells

Executive Director

Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission

Dear Mr. Bonine,

I am writing you in the hopes that the LHSAA and SBSC will consider allowing Louisiana Wrestling News (LWN) photographers inside the barricades to take photographs of the matches at the 2019 LHSAA State Wrestling Championships. Closer access will allow us to take much better photographs than we can while maneuvering through others behind the barricades.

I can imagine reasons as to why we have not been allowed to do so when the event has been held in the CenturyLink Center. I will address them below:

1) The photographers will get in the way of coaches, scorers and wrestlers.

This is not a problem as I have told my photographers to stay away from the coaches' chairs and the scorer tables at events they attend to learn about the sport. There is still room for them to take photographs when following those rules. The only reason they might have contact with a person at the scorers' table is to get a photo of the computer screen showing who is wrestling. Usually, with a zoom lens, they can get a photograph of that without having to ask anyone to move. (The computer screens are necessary for sorting and selecting photos to be published later.) They will also stay out of the way of on-deck wrestlers, who are supposed to be the only ones allowed inside the barricades.

The photographers do not know what they are doing.

Granted, they do not have the wrestling experience I do, but before I select the photographers I make sure they have attended at least one tournament and one dual meet. One of them has helped me since the 2016 tournament, two others since the 2017 tournament. Aside from those three, I had one new one last year who was familiar with wrestling and attended some matches.

3) The LWN represents a financial threat to the LHSAA contracted photographers.

This is probably the main "sticking point" allowing us inside the barricades, but it is not necessary. The LWN does not pose a financial threat to RomaPics whatsoever. The LWN does not wish to make any money from the pictures or the Website itself. If anything, I am there to spend money, as I pay my photographers between \$600-\$1,000 depending on their years of experience at the state championships.

From what I have gleaned from some other people, schools pay for RomaPics to take photographs of their wrestlers, and those are the photos RomaPics offer after the tournament. The parents, wrestlers or fans can choose to buy the photographs they want from RomaPics. RomaPics allows the photos to be sold for a certain time period before they become no longer available.

My article on the state championships takes at least two months to complete. By that time, the option to buy RomaPics photos has expired. If it has not expired yet, I will be happy to agree to not publish my article until RomaPics takes down their galleries (if done so in a similar amount of time as this year). I will publish a few photographs in brief articles about Friday and Saturday, but not many. I encourage people to buy from RomaPics because, despite my going home with 20,000 or so photographs, it takes weeks to sort them and see which ones came out well enough to keep. I cannot guarantee that I am going to have better photographs than those taken by RomaPics.

If you look at www.lawrestlingnews.com and hit the link to the "2018 State Championships," you will see what I do regarding the event. This year I published around 4,000 photos. One of the reasons I started the LWN Website was because the photographs published with wrestling results on news Websites were often terrible. It was obvious the photographers knew little about the sport, and most of the writers did not know much either. Everyone seems to like taking videos of matches, but videos are not what one places on a mantlepiece, nor something a grandparent wants to watch. I hope to get meaningful photographs of the kids which show the exertion and talent it takes to be a good wrestler.

If you look at the attached page with photos offered by Romapics and some of my photos, you should see what a difference knowing the sport means. They are all of Ouachita Christian senior Matthew Matherne, who, in his fifth finals appearance, finally won a Division III state championship (and was the second-best wrestler in the state at 145 lbs.).

To reiterate, I do not make any money off my Website or the photos published on it. I am not asking to be the official LHSAA photographer for the tournament, and I do not represent a financial threat to RomaPics. I just want to provide the best coverage of the tournament which includes not only photographs of champions, but also of any kids who have the "guts" to step on a mat versus an unknown opponent.

Hence, I hope there is room in the contract for the 2019 state championships to allow LWN photographers better access from which to take photographs and enable me to produce better articles.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Muller

Editor – www.lawrestlingnews.com

Mans 1 now

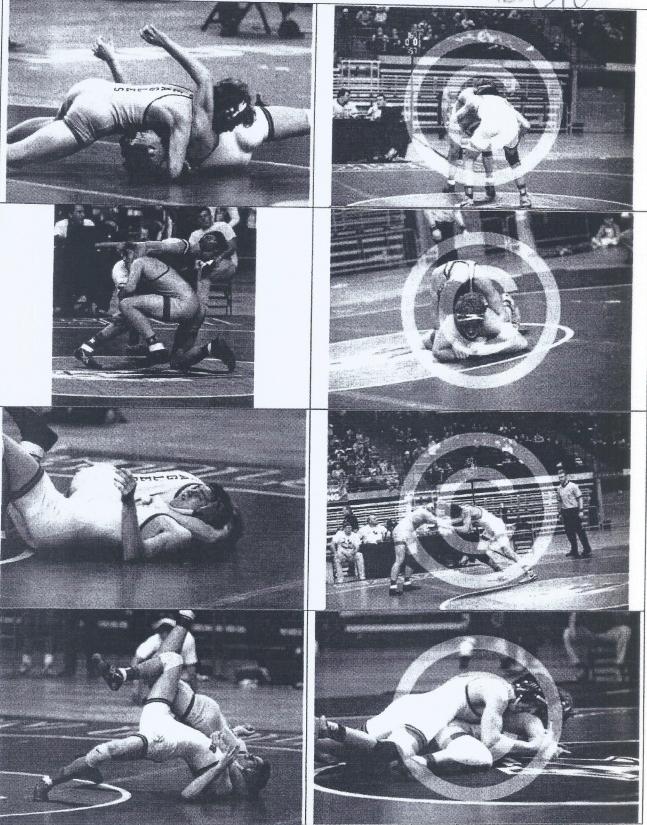
10510 Clinton Street

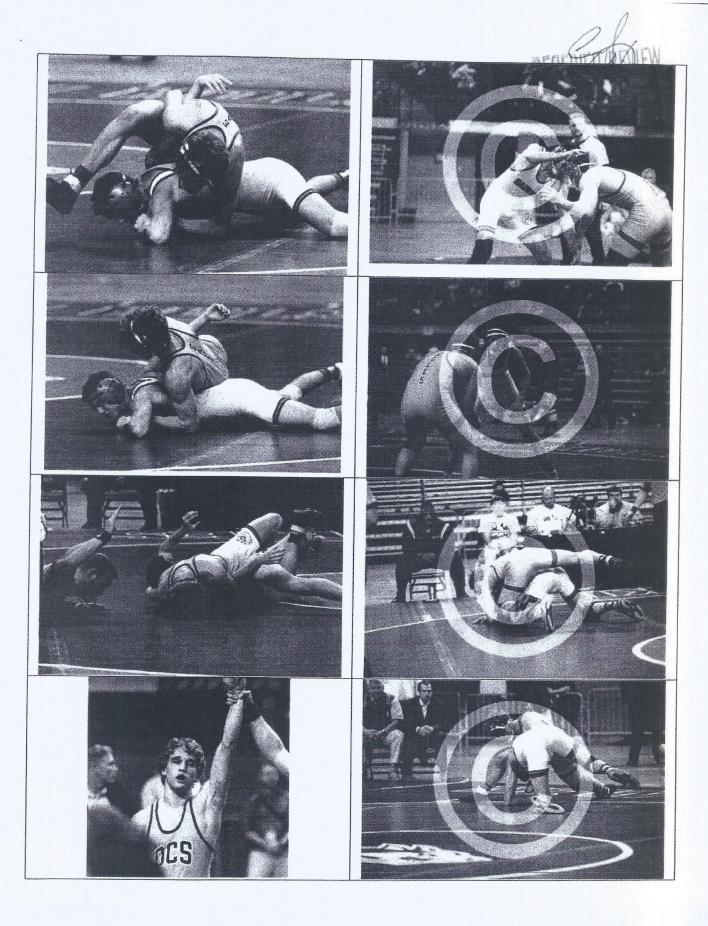
River Ridge, Louisiana 70123

(504) 305-1824

mgmnet@cox.net

REDEPERMENTEN





See attached.



Adam D. MacDowell, Assistant Executive Director

Louisiana High School Athletic Association

Direct: 225-300-4212

Cell: 225-270-1737



Thanks,

Ryan Romaguera Romaguera Photography 2319 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70001 504-828-3064 - Office 504-648-5553 - Direct 504-382-3771 - Cell

[WARNING: This email is from an external source. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]

From: Ryan Romaguera <ryan@romaguera.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:58 AM

To: Adam MacDowell

Subject: Fwd: Louisiana Wrestling Contact

RECEPTIONIEW

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kate Adams** < <u>kadams@lhsaa.org</u> > Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 11:16 AM Subject: Louisiana Wrestling Contact

To: ryan@romaguera.com <rayan@romaguera.com>

Hey Ryan!

Please see below for Martin's contact.

Martin G. Muller

10510 Clinton Street

River Ridge, Louisiana 70123

(504) 305-1824

mgmnet@cox.net

Kate Adams

Director of Communication and Media Relations

Louisiana High School Athletic Association | kadams@lhsua.org

Office: (225) 300-4205 | Work cell: (251) 458-9815



Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message and attachments are confidential, intended only for the recipient(s) named above and intended only for the use of the recipient(s) named above, and may be legally privileged. The information may be confidential and protected settlement communications under Federal Rules of Evidence 408 or Louisiana Code of Evidence. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, or copying of this communication, or any of its contents, is strictly prohibited. If you have this communication in error, please resend this communication to the sender and delete the original message and any copy from any drive, software, or disc you may have. Thank you.



Thanks,

Ryan Romaguera Romaguera Photography 2319 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70001 504-828-3064 - Office 504-648-5553 - Direct 504-382-3771 - Cell

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content is safe.]

#305 P.001/001

Randy P. Angelle

Mark D. Boyer

Bart J. Hebert

A. Todd Caruso

F. Dominic Amato

BOYER, HEBERT, CARUSO

I. Brent Barry*

Neal C. Angelle*

Jerry L. Denton, Jr.*

*Special Counsel

& ANGELLE

Attorneys and Counselors at Law (A Limited Liability Company)

Christi R. Hemphill Lesley J. Beam Diana L. Tonagel Benjamin R. McDonald

(Reply to Denham Springs) November 13, 2020

VIA FACSIMILE 504-534-8961 & US MAIL

Scott L. Sternberg 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020 New Orleans, LA 70112

Re:

Martin Muller/LHSAA State Wrestling Championships BHCA Client: Louisiana High School Athletic Association

Dear Mr. Sternberg:

This law firm serves as general counsel to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. I am in receipt of a copy of your November 10, 2020 correspondence directed to LHSAA Executive Director, Eddie Bonine. Although I disagree with your assertion that the "LHSAA administers a public functionits meetings are open meetings", it is probably not an issue that needs to be addressed at this point.

Your client, Martin Muller, will be provided with media credentials in the same form and fashion as other members of the media who will be in attendance at the LHSAA State Wrestling Championships.

Should you wish to discuss this in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact and/or write.

With best wishes, and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

BOYER, HEBERT, CARUSO & ANGELLE, LLC

Mark D. Boyer

MDB/ale

Adam McDowell cc:

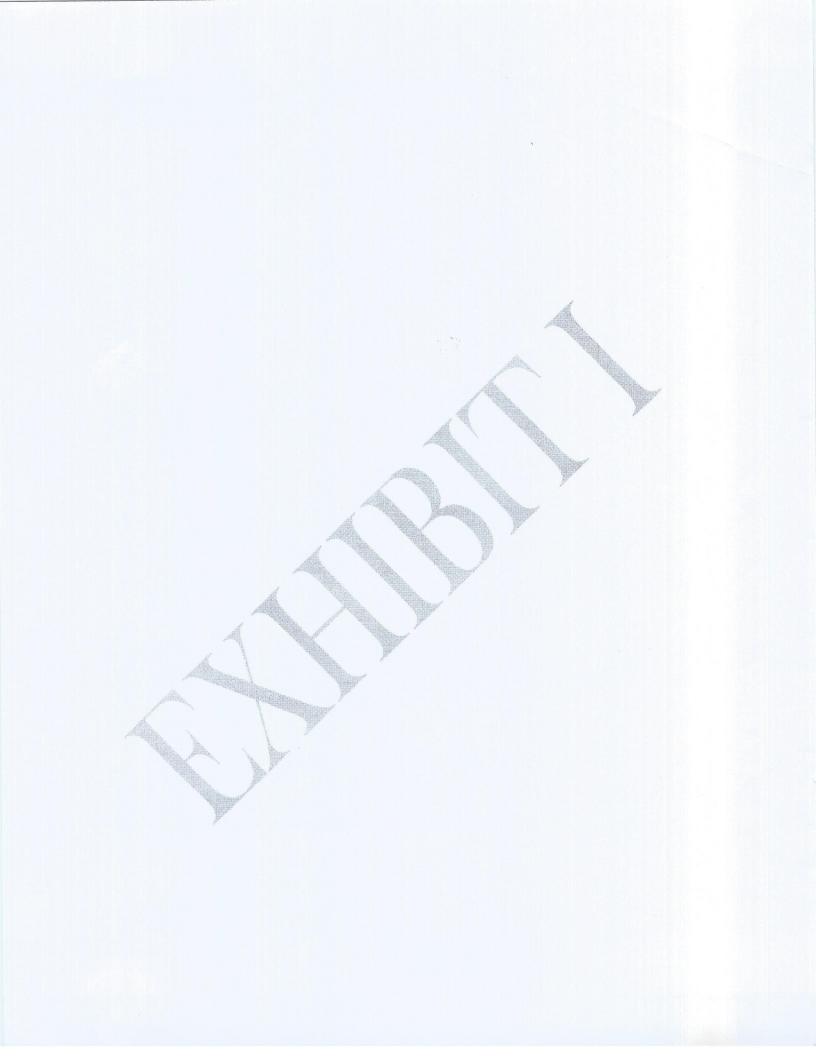
Your credential requests for LHSAA Championship events you applied for have been received and are being reviewed. A recap of your request is below:

Organization	LA Wrestling News Martin Muller	
Organization Contact Person		
Attendees	Job Description	Fall Classic Event
Martin Muller	PRINT: Photographer	Wrestling
Camille Tyra	PRINT: Photographer	Wrestling

You will receive an email regarding the status of your request at a later date. Please note that some requests may not be granted due to our current policy. If you have any questions regarding your credential application, please contact Vincent Cacioppo at <u>225-999-3174</u> or <u>vcacioppo@lhsaa.org</u>.

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powered by Sports Systems



From:

Vincent Cacioppo

Sent:

Monday, January 11, 2021 8:37 AM

To: Cc:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Emilee Hardesty FW: Press credentials for the 2021 LHSAA State Wrestling Championships...

Just a heads up here...

Thank you,

Vincent Cacioppo

Louisiana High School Athletic Association O: (225) 300-4201 | C: (225) 999-3174 12720 Old Hammond Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70816

From: Martin Muller <mgmnet@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:13 PM
To: Vincent Cacioppo <vcacioppo@lhsaa.org>

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Louisiana High School Athletic Association 12720 Old Hammond Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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Director of Communications

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If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at any time at (504) 305-1824.

Sincerely

Martin Muller
10510 Clinton Street
River Ridge, LA 70123
(504) 305-1824
Editor – Louisiana Wrestling News (www.lawrestlingnews.com)
Archivist – Louisiana High School Wrestling Archives (www.lhswa.org)

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From: Sent:

Ryan Romaguera <ryan@romaguera.com> Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:56 AM

To:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Fwd: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship

Attachments:

20180711104234731.pdf; 20180711104312866.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rusty Costanza < rusty@romaguera.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 11:16 AM

Subject: Fwd: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship To: Roch Eshleman < roch@romaguera.com >, Ryan Romaguera < ryan@romaguera.com >

I just got off of the phone with Adam and Tiara at the LHSAA. Martin Muller of Louisiana Wrestling News sent them a request for more access at the state wrestling tournament. It is attached to this email. Please read it and check out his website http://lawrestlingnews.com. While on his website, please read this http://lawrestlingnews.com/Volume%20VI%20-%202017-18/12%20March/2018%20State%20Championships/Index.html

The LHSAA his having a media meeting on July 26th to deal with some media issues of access and what not. I suggested we meet with them on the 25th to go over our issues with media (that includes all the websites that get access like Louisiana Wrestling News) before they meet with them on the 26th. Adam is checking with Eddie to make sure he is available.

Rusty

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Adam MacDowell < AMacDowell@lhsaa.org>

Date: Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 10:49 AM

Subject: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship

To: Rusty Costanza < rusty@romaguera.com>

See attached.

Adam D. MacDowell, Assistant Executive Director

Louisiana High School Athletic Association

Direct: 225-300-4212

Cell: 225-270-1737





Thanks,

Ryan Romaguera Romaguera Photography 2319 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70001 504-828-3064 - Office 504-648-5553 - Direct 504-382-3771 - Cell

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From: Sent:

Ryan Romaguera <ryan@romaguera.com> Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:56 AM

To:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Fwd: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship

Attachments:

RSC_9210.jpg; RSC_9204.jpg; RSC_9184.jpg; RSC_9182.jpg; RSC_9153.jpg; RSC_9147.jpg;

RSC_9098.jpg; DH1_9383.jpg; DH1_9364.jpg; DH1_9361.jpg; DH1_9353.jpg; DH1_

9336.jpg; DH1_9320.jpg

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rusty Costanza < rusty@romaguera.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 12, 2018 at 11:29 AM

Subject: Re: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship To: Roch Eshleman < roch@romaguera.com >, Ryan Romaguera < ryan@romaguera.com >

I know many sports photographers better than me. I don't mind seeing someone's work that is better than mine. I do, however, have an ego. If you are going to compare, do it fairly. Here is our take from the same match Mr. Muller used to compare our work. I think Derick and I did a good job of the match and told the complete story. Keep in mind, they had 5 photographers shooting action on the floor and we had two.

On Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 11:20 AM, Rusty Costanza < rusty@romaguera.com > wrote: Eddie is booked on the 25th and is asking if we can come early on the 26th around 9:30. The media meeting is at 11.

On Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 11:16 AM, Rusty Costanza < rusty@romaguera.com > wrote:

I just got off of the phone with Adam and Tiara at the LHSAA. Martin Muller of Louisiana Wrestling News sent them a request for more access at the state wrestling tournament. It is attached to this email. Please read it and check out his website http://lawrestlingnews.com. While on his website, please read this http://lawrestlingnews.com/Volume%20VI%20-%202017-18/12%20March/2018%20State%20Championships/Index.html

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Rusty

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Adam MacDowell < AMacDowell@lhsaa.org >

Date: Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 10:49 AM

Subject: LA Wrestling News Communication Concerning our State Championship

To: Rusty Costanza <rusty@romaguera.com>

Martin,

The form will be live next week. You can apply then. Please reach out to me if you have any additional questions. Thank you.

All the best.

Kate

Sent from my iPhone



On Jan 23, 2020, at 2:56 PM, Martin Muller < mgmnet@cox.net > wrote:

Dear Kate and Adam,

It appears the form for applying for media credentials has not been uploaded yet, but I just wanted to let you know my intentions and perhaps get a verbal (or email) approval, or learn if there are additional circumstances I need to address.

I would like to add one more photographer. That way I will have six counting myself, and thus we will have two available for each finals mat. Plus we can get more photos of other important rounds, and I can "rest" some of them as they need it. The new one is my daughter, Camille Tyra, who has taken wrestling photographs before and will be with me this weekend at the Ken Cole Memorial. She is 21, if that matters. Mainly she wants the \$1,000 I said I would pay her.

The list is as follows:

Martin Muller – Writer or whatever other title I need as the "head" guy; Martin Muller – photographer – this will be the eighth state tournament I have photographed;

Emily Hamann (or Schmidt) – photographer. This will be Emily's fifth time; Anna Tedesco – photographer. This will be Anna's fourth time; Anthony Benedetto – photographer. This will be Anthony's third time; Jonathan Chapman – photographer. This will be Jonathan's second time; Camille Tyra – photographer. This will be her first state tournament but she has photographed wrestling for me at other events.

Additionally I have attached a t-shirt design for which I want Emily's approval but it probably requires yours, as I would like to include the LHSAA Wrestling logo. The actual shirts will look better than the blank one I found on Google and used as a prototype. And it is free advertising.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martin G. Muller



SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATION

September 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I would like to officially state for the record that Louisiana Wrestling News, published at www.lawrestlingnews.com is a bona fide news outlet covering a niche community of student athletes for the benefit of their classmates, family, and as a historical record.

By any professional, legal, or traditional definition, the work they do qualifies as journalism, and their employees should be granted all rights and privileges afforded any news agency.

Sincerely,

Michael Giusti

Journalism Department Chairman

Director of Student Media

From: Sent:

Ryan Romaguera < ryan@romaguera.com> Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:03 PM

To:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Fwd: State wrestling tournament - please forward to Ryan Romaguerra

This is probably the most helpful.

Ryan Romaguera

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chase Dickey < chase@romaguera.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 12:53 AM

Subject: Fwd: State wrestling tournament - please forward to Ryan Romaguerra

To: Ryan Romaguera < ryan@romaguera.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Martin Muller < mgmnet@cox.net > Date: February 5, 2020 at 12:19:18 AM CST

To: chase@romaguera.com, LHSAA - Kate Adams < kadams@lhsaa.org >

Subject: State wrestling tournament - please forward to Ryan Romaguerra

February 4th, 2020

Dear Mr. Romaguerra,

[We both have plans to make or alter soon so I thought I would email you tonight rather than try to catch you on the phone tomorrow.]

While I appreciate your offer for RomaPics and the *Louisiana Wrestling News* (*LWN*) to work with each other rather than independently of each other, I really do not see anything beneficial to the *LWN* by doing so.

That your interest is of a business nature while mine is more of a service does not concern me at all.

I think you give my website too much credence to believe my coverage is adversely affecting your revenue from the state wrestling championships. My articles have never been published prior to the removal of your wrestling galleries from your website – it simply takes me that long to finish them. Last year the tournament ended on February 9th and my article was not published until 12 weeks later on May 8th.

This year I may only need six weeks as, if I get the LHSAA media credentials, I will only have three photographers.

To my knowledge schools, school boards or individuals have to pay a fee to register for RomaPics to take pictures of the wrestlers whom they would like photographs of, and then purchase them from your galleries. I have no problem with that, and the people who do not register for their kids to be photographed by RomaPics are "rolling the dice" that I will have photos they want. I do not see how I can control that. Additionally, some schools and parents simply do not have the money to spend on photographs. Some just barely have enough money for transportation and lodgings.

It makes little sense to me that I should defray some of your costs to garner publicity for my website via a sign, a t-shirt, a coffee mug or the LHSAA website. My website does not need any more publicity than it already has, nor will more publicity defray any of my costs.

I also do not see a reason to give the photographs the *LWN* takes for RomaPics to sell. Simple logistics make that a nightmare scenario. I do not know who you are contracted to take pictures of, and, if I did, I would have no way of knowing where those photos might be in the thousands stored on each SD card. Additionally, as I do not intend to make money off of the photographs, I do not want others to have to pay for them. And while not inferring that you do not, I employ certain mores of decorum when I edit the photographs.

I appreciate the archive offer, but I save copies of the photographs on two desktops and two external drives, and do not deleted the SD cards until I am through with the article. At that point the photos are also backed-up on my web hosting company's servers. If anyone should want older photos I have published, I have links to each *LWN* Volume on the left-side menu.

I do not want ours to be an adversarial relationship. And I do not possess the clout I am sure you have with the LHSAA, as you told me you had discussed these issues with Ms. Adams before you called me on Monday. If I do not get the media credentials, I will save a few thousand dollars, a lot of physical strain and headaches, and have the time I need to re-sod my back yard. But I fear it would be a disservice to a lot of the Louisiana wrestling community who have depended on me to at least try to publish photos of their kids on the mat in the most important tournament of the year.

I am forwarding this to Ms. Adams as I want to be as transparent as possible with both of you.

Sincerely,

Martin Muller

Editor – Louisiana Wrestling News

www.lawrestlingnews.com

10510 Clinton Street

River Ridge, LA 70123

(504) 305-1824

mgmnet@cox.net

Martin G. Muller

10510 Clinton Street

River Ridge, Louisiana 70123

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Thanks,

Ryan Romaguera Romaguera Photography 2319 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70001 504-828-3064 - Office 504-648-5553 - Direct 504-382-3771 - Cell



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content is safe.]

4

From:

Kate Adams

Sent:

Frîday, January 24, 2020 11:31 AM

To:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Re: State wrestling tournament media credentials...

KETTEX KENICH

The logos are an issue as they are trademarked. I already spoke with him and he was a little rude. He will be allowed the allotted amount for his media outlet

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 24, 2020, at 8:27 AM, Adam MacDowell < AMacDowell@lhsaa.org> wrote:

Kate.

Please ensure that Martin is restricted to the same number of credentials for wrestling that we allow for all other media. Kelly Wells let his whole team of five photographers into the event without consulting me last year and it caused some major issues with Roma Pics. These people are wrestling specific media and post all their pictures for free on their website. Families wait for his pictures to be posted and then instead of buy pictures from Roma Pics, they copy and print Martins pictures. He also put our logos on his website, don't know if that's an issue either...

You can see his website here:

http://www.lawrestlingnews.com/Volume%20VII%20-%202018-19/12%20March%202019/2019%20State/Index.html

Thank you,

Adam D. MacDowell, M.Ed., CIC

Assistant Executive Director

Louisiana High School Athletic Association

Direct: 225-300-4212 Cell: 225-270-1737 <image001.jpg>

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From: Kate Adams

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:27 PM To: Martin Muller <mgmnet@cox.net>

Cc: Adam MacDowell < A MacDowell@Ihsaa.org>

Subject: Re: State wrestling tournament media credentials...





From: Sent:

Ryan Romaguera <ryan@romaguera.com> Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:58 AM

To:

Adam MacDowell

Subject:

Fwd: Louisiana State Wrestling Tournament

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eddie Bonine < EBonine@lhsaa.org>

Date: Sun, Feb 9, 2020 at 9:39 AM

Subject: Louisiana State Wrestling Tournament

To: Kelly Wells < kwells@sbsports.org >, Ryan Romaguera < ryan@romaguera.com >, Adam MacDowell

<<u>AMacDowell@lhsaa.org</u>>, Kate Adams <<u>kadams@lhsaa.org</u>>

For your review only ... lets chat next week ... do not reply to this email ... I will do so with your input ...

Eddie Bonine Executive Director LHSAA

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike <<u>millers.consulting@yahoo.com</u>> Date: February 9, 2020 at 7:34:03 AM CST

To: Eddie Bonine < EBonine@lhsaa.org >, Adam MacDowell < AMacDowell@lhsaa.org >, Kate

Adams < kadams@lhsaa.org>

Subject: Louisiana State Wrestling Tournament

Eddie, Adam, Kate, as well as whom it may concern,

Recently the Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission found my phone number online and reached out to me. They were looking for sponsors, and wanted to know if I would be interested, or knew others that might be. I was intending on sponsoring, as I try my best to help the sport of wrestling, and most importantly the kids involved in it.

It has been a blessing for the state tournament to be in Bossier the past years. Both for our local economy, as well as the convenience. I will still be going, even though my son is hurt and out for the rest of his senior year. I would like to add however, that I am blown away by the arrogance of the LHSAA and their handling of the State Tournament. It has progressively gotten worse year by year. The pictures they offer, provided by Romapics are a joke to say the least. Not only do you have to search through thousands of photos to find one of your wrestler to buy, due to them not being categorized, but also you're lucky if after all that searching, it even yields a picture of your wrestler. They are extremely overpriced, of very poor quality, and due to what I assume is a lack of knowledge of the sport, aren't even good action shots. In addition, you have to contract them ahead of time, lets just say before a finals match, to even assure they take pictures of that match. YES, that means paying in advance. In my mind, this almost guarantees that the LHSAA is getting a good kick back from them, given they are the sole provider for photo service. This

year, it looks as though even Martin Muller will not get media passes, as he has in the past. This is ludicrous to witness. This man travels the state, all year long, to take pictures at duals, tri's, and tournaments, of kids from every team. He knows what he is doing, when to shoot, and is apparently being blackballed this year, so Romapics and the LHSAA can increase profit off of proud parents and coaches. Of all the matches he attends through the year, and all that I have attended, guess how many the LHSAA is at, providing this Romapics picture service, or any service for that matter. Its going to be somewhere around the 0 mark. To most local parents, including myself at the helm, it appears the LHSAA has turned this event, the championship of the purest sport of all time, into a money grab. More about filling their pockets, than about our kids, these boys and girls that work twice as hard as anyone else, all year.

Given my opinions, I will NOT be purchasing a sponsorship at the State tournament. I will NOT recommend that anyone I know purchase one either. I really hope you've taken the time to read this, and consider my opinions, as they are the same as many. I hope it doesn't fall on deaf ears, and I hope you consider reshaping the way that photos are handled. For the parent who spend thousands all year long traveling, who sponsor high school teams and absorb even more cost. For the kids, who work their tails off on and off the mat, and for those that are less fortunate than others. That cant afford to pay Romapics, ridiculous amounts of money, yet still deserve good pictures of their wrestler. Shame on you LHSAA, shame on you.

Proud yet concerned parent Mike Miller Miller's Consulting, LLC 318-317-8989 millers.consulting@yahoo.com

REISTAKREVIEW

Thanks,

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