

District IX

Chapter of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA)

Wrestling Hall of Fame

1999 District IX Hall of Fame Inductees

HOMER BARR(Wrestler/Coach)

Outstanding wrestler at Clearfield High School and Penn State University. He accomplished something probably no other Pennsylvania wrestler has ever done. He did not participate in wrestling until his senior year and then went undefeated and won a state championship at 185 lbs. Homer went on to win two EIWA titles, going undefeated in dual meets and placed second, third, and fourth in the NCAA tournament. Mr. Barr coached State College High School for 10 years compiling a 99-10 record with five PIAA State Champs before moving to the University of Massachusetts helping to improve wrestling in the New England area.

GARRY BARTON(Wrestler)

Mr. Barton became Clarion State College's first NCAA Division I National Champion in 1972 by defeating five seeded opponents on his way to the 134 pound title. A graduate of Fairview High School, Garry compiled a 22-7 record while wrestling for Hall of Famer, Bob Bubb, at Clarion. Mr. Barton coached at the University of Rhode Island and Clifton, N.J. before moving to Clearfield as head Coach where he coached four state champs, three in 1986 along with the 1986 team title and the Pennsylvania Coach of the Year Award.

ROBERT BUBB(Coach)

Mr. Bubb graduated from Lock Haven High School as a PIAA state runner-up and from Pitt university with a fourth place finish at the NCAA National Tournament. His coaching started at Tyrone High School then to Clarion State College in 1966. In his tenure at Clarion, he became only the fourth NCAA Division I coach to ever reach 300 wins. Mr. Bubb's overall record is an amazing 322-121-14, coached 7 NCAA Division I and 3 college Division National Champions, 27 All-Americans, 29 EWL Champs and 68 PSAC winners. In 1986 he was named NCAA "Coach of the Year" and in 1982 CUP's Distinguished Faculty Award. Now retired >from teaching and coaching, he is is the current Executive Director of the NWCA (National Wrestling Coaches Association).

JIM BUTLER(Contributor)

A native of Clearfield, he has made his presence known to state and national wrestling enthusiasts as a writer and photographer. Jim's Matside column in The Progress contributions to the Pennsylvania Wrestling Round-up as scholastic editor and coordinator and co-founder of the Keystone Wrestling Rankings has earned him many awards. In 1980, he was selected Scholastic Wrestling News Magazine Writer of the Year. In 1984, he picked up the Amateur Wrestling News' Dillinger Award. 1991 saw Jim named Amateur Wrestling News National Wrestling Photographer of the Year and in 1995 the National Wrestling Media Association Photographer of the Year.

RALPH CLARK(Wrestler)

Ralph is a graduate of Clearfield High School where he wrestled for Hall of Famer Art Weiss. While wrestling for the Bisons, Ralph captured four PIAA District IX and Northwest Regional titles and two PIAA State Championships in 1955 and 1956. Ralph attended Lock Haven State College where he wrestled for another Hall of Fame inductee, the late Hubert "Hub" Jack. At Lock Haven, Ralph was a four-time Pennsylvania Conference champ, two-time NAIA champion and placed third in the 1960 NCAA Tournament. For 18 years, he coached Erie McDowell High School where his teams earned a won-loss record of 147-61-4.

JESSE CALDWELL(Coach)

Jesse initiated wrestling at Redbank Valley High School in New Bethlehem, Pa. He coached for 19 years. During that time, he had 110 wins and ten District IX champions, one Regional champion and one State runner-up. He officiated for 18 years and was President of the North Central PIAA Wrestling Officials. He also served on the Rules Interpretation Committee for three years.

GLENN FEGAL(Contributor)

In 1950 Mr. Flegal was a District 6-9 Champion and PIAA runner-up at 120 lbs. Voted to high school All-American Team. Total overall record was 45 wins and 9 losses while wrestling for Clearfield. Captained Millersville State College his senior year and compiled an overall college record of 50 wins, 6 losses and 2 ties. First coaching experience was at Manheim Central High School and then started wrestling at Carlisle High School. After coaching at Carlisle for four years, he moved on to Dickinson College for three years and compiled a 23-7-1 record.

SAM HARRY(Wrestler)

Graduate from Clearfield High School and Penn State University, he was the first PIAA State Wrestling Champion, winning in 1938 in the 85 pound class. He lost one dual meet in three years of wrestling in high school and one dual meet in four years at Penn State. He was the Outstanding Wrestler in the EIWA in 1946. Competed for 17 years, 9 of those for the Harrisburg YMCA winning five Pennsylvania YMCA titles, the Wilkes Open and the National YMCA Tournament.

JOHN K. JOHNSTON(Wrestler)

Wrestled at Clearfield High School where he earned a PIAA State Championship. He started for Pennsylvania State University winning three Eastern Championships and the NCAA Championship with a record of 44-4. Mr. Johnston coached at Stevens Trade School with a record of 49-10 and Princeton University with a record of 105-53-2. He served as President of the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

FRED KAVELAK(Contributor)

Inducted as a contributor. It is, at times, difficult to chronicle the contributions of non-wrestlers and coaches, but such is not the case of Fred Kavelak, a 1958 graduate of Curwensville High School, Curwensville, Pa. Mr. Kavelak covered wrestling for the Clearfield Progress for 25 years beginning in the mid-1960's. He teamed with Hall of Fame sportswriters Doug McDonald and Ron Bracken for the Centre Daily Times to elevate wrestling coverage in central Pennsylvania and throughout the district, regional, and state tournaments. He also provided detailed research into won-loss records for every athlete in the area, district, region, and state and shared this information with fellow writers at the PIAA tournament each year. He has served as a mentor for some widely recognized wrestling writers including Patriot News writer, Rod Frisco, Greensburg Tribune writer, Ron Mussleman, and Pennsylvania Wrestling Round-up editors Jim Butler and Norm Palovcsik.

DON MAUREY(Wrestler)

Don was a three time PIAA State Champion wrestler for Clearfield from 1946-48. As a freshman, he was a PIAA runner-up in 1945. Don was also a four time District 6-9 Champion. His scholastic record while at Clearfield High School was 57 wins and 5 losses. He won the 137 pound EIWA Championships in 1951 and placed third in the NCAA Championship the same year. Don also served as captain of the 1951 Nittany Lion Squad.

DR. JAMES E. MAUREY(Wrestler)

Wrestler and coach. Mr. Maurey is a 1945 graduate of Clearfield High School and a 1950 graduate of Penn State University. He earned further degrees in Educational Administration from Penn State in 1952 and 1965. At Clearfield, Dr. Maurey had a 224-3 record and was twice District 6-9 Champion. In 1944, he was a PIAA State Runner-up at 133 lbs. In 1945, he was a PIAA State Champion at 138 lbs. This was the first of eight state titles that would be won by the Maurey family. Moving on to Penn State, Dr. Maurey had a 41-6 record, placing 3rd in the NCAA Championships. Following his graduation, he competed for the New York Athletic Club. Dr. Maurey began coaching in 1951 at State College High School and two years later moved on to Stevens Trade School in Lancaster. In 1959, he became the head coach at Millersville University where he coached for seven years. In addition, he was a PIAA, EIWA, and NCAA official for 12 years. -

JERRY MAUREY(Wrestler)

Graduate of Clearfield High and Penn State University. Mr. Maurey was Pennsylvania's first four-time Pennsylvania State Champion with a high school record of 67-0. While at Penn State his record was 34-5-1 including two EIWA titles and two NCAA 3rd place finishes. He notched wins over such notables as Tom Evans and Myron Rodrick in 1956. Coached at Clearfield High School from 1959-62 with a record of 52-7.

NORM PALOVCSIK(Contributor)

Norm compiled a 62-3 high school with a PIAA state title while at Clearfield High School. After wrestling for Penn State University he began a coaching and teaching career at Everett and Hazelton High Schools before moving on to the college ranks at Youngstown and later Penn State University/Altoona Campus. His ten year coaching career saw a 113-63-2 overall record. He is the co-author of the Keystone Wrestling Rankings and the History of the PIAA State Wrestling Round-up, as well as, a member of the PWCA Executive Committee where he is the Hall of Fame and Membership Chairman. He was awarded USA's Wrestling Writer of the Year, Dellinger Award.

RONALD M. PARK(Coach)

Mr. Park is a 1951 graduate of Clearfield High School and a 1955 graduate of Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts. He further earned a M.Ed. in 1960 >from Penn State University in Education. Although he was not a wrestler himself, Mr. Park became a student of the sport. He served eight years as an assistant coach at Clearfield under Jerry Maurey and became head coach in 1964 where he remained for nine years. In 1968 he coached two PIAA State Champions, Dave Clark and Norm Palovcsik. In 1973 Coach Park moved to Hempfield High School, Greensburg, Pennsylvania where he coached for the next 13 years. During his 22 years as a head coach his teams compiled a 232-59-12 record. Mr. Park was a PIAA wrestling official for 13 years. he resides in Greensburg having retired from teaching and coaching wrestling in 1986.

DON B. SHOBERT(Coach)

Don B. Shobert - Don's overall coaching record at DuBois High School was an impressive 159 wins, 86 losses, and 0 draws. He coached 48 District champions, eight Regional champions, and one State champion and five State runner-ups. He was very instrumental in organizing Junior Olympic Wrestling programs in the DuBois Area. He was elected State Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association in 1966. He contributed a great deal in the field of physical protection in instituting the headgear program which has evolved in our State.

LES TURNER(Coach)

Wrestler and coach. Mr. Turner is a 1952 graduate of Clearfield High School and a 1956 graduate of Lock Haven University. At Clearfield, he compiled a 24-4 record under the direction of legendary Hall of Fame Coach, Art Weiss. During his senior year in 1952, Mr. Turner defeated a state champ and a state runner-up in route to an undefeated dual meet season. He was a Jr. AAU Champion and a Lake Erie Open Champion. At Lock Haven, Coach Turner toiled under another stellar Hall of Famer Coach, Hubert Jack, where he was a four year letter winner with only five dual meet losses. He was a PSAC Champion in 1955. In 1987, he won the Hollidaysburg Old Timers Tournament at age 54. In 1959, Coach Turner began his coaching career at Moshannon Valley High School in Houtzdale, Pa. In four years his teams compiled a 29-23 record. In 1964, he moved to Brookville High School where in 30 years his charges logged a 246-175-9 mark to bring his overall record to 275-198-9. He produced one PIAA State Champ, Chuck Yale in 1993. In addition to coaching, Mr. Turner was a PIAA wrestling official for five years and was President of the District IX Wrestling Coaches Association for two years.

NEIL TURNER(Coach)

Neil is a 1956 graduate of Clearfield High School and 1961 Penn State University graduate. He is the present Head Coach at Messiah College with an overall record of 87-42-1 since 1991, with three NCAA Division III All-Americans. Mr. Turner started his coaching career at Altoona High School and Stevens Trade School before moving on to assist Bob Bubb at Clarion State College where he became co-founder of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Round-up and assisted in founding the very successful Clarion Wrestling School. His coaching duties then took him to Campus Crusade for Christ and on to his high school alma mater as head coach in 1973. A 65 and 7 record was accumulated with three undefeated seasons and five state place winners at Clearfield. Before moving to his present duties, Neil served 11 years as head coach of Lock Haven University where he coached 25 NCAA qualifiers and four Division I All-Americans. His honors include inductee into the Clearfield County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, EWL and PSA Coach of the Year, Pennsylvania High School Coach of the Year and USA-High School Coach of the Year by Scholastic Wrestling News.

ARTHUR J. WEISS(Coach)

Mr. Weiss started wrestling at Clearfield in 1935 and continued as head coach for 25 years leaving a record of accomplishments unparalleled in high school sports history. Fourteen undefeated seasons, 133-22-2 record from 1937-1954, 184-37-3 overall record, 93 District Champions, 15 Regional Champs and 24 wrestlers combining for 31 State Titles. Mr. Weiss was the first inductee into the PWCA Hall of Fame in 1970. Mr. Weiss, the "Dean of Schoolboy Wrestling", has received many awards including induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He retired from teaching math and biology at Clearfield after 42 years of service. Mr. Weiss and his wife still reside in Clearfield.