

District IX

Chapter of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA)

Wrestling Hall of Fame

2000 District IX Hall of Fame Inductees

SCOTT COLLINS(Wrestler)

Scott is a 1986 graduate of Clearfield Area High School and a 1991 graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Health and Physical Education. He also completed a master's degree in Community Health Promotion from WVU in 1993. At Clearfield, Collins compiled a 112-10-1 record (C.H.S.'s best); along with 4 District IX Championships, 2 Northwest Regional Titles, a 3rd place finish in the 1985 State Tournament and a PIAA State Title in 1986. Scott concluded an outstanding collegiate career in 1991 by being chosen to participate in the National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Star meet, voted EWL Wrestler of the Year, earning academic All-American standing, winning the Eastern Wrestling League Championships, and becoming only the second District IX wrestler to capture a NCAA Division I, National Title. He holds the WVU record for wins at 119 (28-3). In 1994 Scott was inducted into the EWL Hall of Fame and will be inducted into the PWCA Hall of Fame this March at the state tournament. Collins has been employed by his high school alma mater for the past 7 years, leading the Bisons as head coach the last 2 seasons.

LENNY FERRARO(Coach)

Coach Ferraro wrestled and graduated from Brookville Area in 1969 under Hall of Fame Coach, Les Turner. He then graduated in 1973 from Slippery Rock State College where he wrestled under legendary Coach Fred Powell. Lenny started teaching and coaching career solely in District IX as a one year assistant for Ridgway. head coach at Johnsonburg from 1974 to 1984 then back to his alma mater as assistant to Turner, assuming the head position in 1993 for 5 years. Lenny led the Raiders for 5 years until his untimely death. Coach Ferraro has a career record of 151-66-4 with 16 District IX Champions, 2 Regional Champions, and 6 State Place Winners. His team won two District IX titles with Lenny being named AA Coach of the Year on 4 separate occasions. Under Coach Ferraro's leadership his 1996 and 1997 squads were ranked # 1 dual meet teams in the state and as high as 13th nationally. Lenny coached a total of 24 seasons, 15 as head coach as well as countless weeks and months of post season activity. For two decades Coach Ferraro could be found, during the off season, anywhere in the country with his wrestlers. As further proof of the impact Lenny has had on District IX wrestling, 9 of his past wrestlers are now participating in NCAA Division I wrestling programs. Coach Ferraro, Lenny, has been an inspiration to all who knew him and those who will take the time to learn about him.

BENJAMIN KUNDICK(Coach)

Coach Kundick is a 1949 graduate from New Bethlehem High School and after serving in the U.S. Navy, graduated from Clarion State College as a Math major in 1958 and received a master's in Elementary Education in 1968. With no high school or college programs at these schools to participate in, Ben's first exposure to the sport, he would coach for 31 years, was as an assistant to the 1980 PWCA Hall of Fame inductee, Jesse Caldwell, who started the program at Redbank Valley. Following 8 years as an assistant to Caldwell, Ben took over as head coach for the 1969-70 campaign and maintained the program for the next 4 years before stepping down for two seasons. He assumed the head position for the 1975-76 and remained until his retirement in 1992-93. In 22 years as head coach, Kundick compiled a 207-73-1 record for a 73.6 winning percentage, was named District IX Coach of the Year 3 times by his peers, and guided his team to 3 district championships with only 1 losing season during his tenure. Coach Kundick has had over 100 District IX Place Winners, 29 District IX Champions, 8 Regional Champions, 23 PIAA State Qualifiers, 9 PIAA Place Winners and 1 State Champion. Ben returned to the sport he loves as a Jr. High Assistant Coach this past season for Redbank Valley.

RONALD SMITH(Coach/Contributor)

Ron is being inducted as a contributor and coach for 30 plus years of involvement in any and all areas of our great sport. A 1953 Canton Area and 1957 Lock Haven State College graduate in Health and Physical Education. Ron started his 32 year coaching career at West Synder as head coach. He moved to Clearfield Area then Curwensville Area and back to Clearfield for 3 terms as head Coach at each with a total record of 55-64-1 over 9 years. Smith also spent 23 years as a jr. high/elementary coach with a 66-9 jr. high record. In all, Ron has coached 7 Section Champions, 22 District Champions, 4 Regional Champions, and 8 PIAA State Qualifiers with 2 place winners. He was selected District IX Coach of the Year in 1980 by his peers. Ron's additional involvements include officiating for 15 years, 3 as the head rules interpreter for District IX. His guidance has been felt in his 30 year involvement in the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling program as Area V Chairman for 15 years and All Area Chairman for 8 years where he expanded the program to include the entire state. He has been a feature clinician at numerous locations in Pennsylvania. Ron can also be heard as an announcer for wrestling events on WCPA showing he truly is the "Man of Many Hats" in the wrestling world.

TIM WITTMAN(Wrestler)

Tim is a 1987 graduate of St. Mary's Area and a 1992 graduate of Penn State University. He should be considered the most consistent performer at the scholastic and collegiate level in the modern era of District IX wrestling. Wittman was a 4 time PIAA State Qualifier with 3 District IX Titles, 2 Northwest Regional Titles, and a 2 time finalist in the PIAA State Tournament winning the crown in 1986. His collegiate achievements are equally impressive as a 4 time ALL-American placing 4th, 6th, and 7th. Tim was also voted the Outstanding Wrestler of the EWL his senior year and served as team captain of the Lions from 1990-92. Since graduating he has continued in wrestling as assistant to State College High School and now serves as assistant at Bucknell University.