

# District IX

## Chapter of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA)

### Wrestling Hall of Fame

#### 2003 District IX Hall of Fame Inductees

##### JOHN 'FURY' BERNARDO(Wrestler)

Mr. Bernardo is a 1939 graduate of DuBois High School where he was a letter winner in both football and wrestling. The District 6-9 Tournament as well as the PIAA State Tournament first officially began in 1938. Fury helped DuBois claim the first ever District Team title by winning the 185-pound weight class and then taking second in the first official state tournament. He one-bettered himself by going undefeated the following year along with fellow DuBois wrestler, Robert Bader, becoming the school's first state champions. DuBois would capture the unofficial state runner-up title that year. Mr. Bernardo continued his education at Lock Haven where an injury ended his wrestling career. He served in the United States Army (WWII) as a medic and was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism in battle. Fury retired from Rockwell in 1982 after 40 years of service. Accepting tonight is his son John, former Brockway wrestling head coach.

##### DR. GEORGE W. BRETT(Contributor)

Dr. Brett is the only inductee to have been nominated strictly on the merits of his twenty plus years of officiating in the sport of wrestling. As a District IX official, Dr. Brett worked many statewide dual meets, qualifying tournaments and two PIAA State Championships. For many spectators, his 1969 state finals match between Wade Shalles and John Chatman stands out as an all time classic. George officiated collegiate EIWA dual meets and the PSAC Championships. In 1953 Dr. Brett along with legendary coach Art Weiss were assigned by the NCAA to choose and supervise all table workers, timers, and scorers at the NCAA Championships held that year at Penn State. Dr. Brett has served the Clearfield area and beyond with his multiple memberships in state and national Dental Associations. He has served as past President of both the 7th District and State Dental Associations as well as being actively involved in many service organizations.

##### FRANCIS "MUTT" FORCEY(Wrestler)

A 1941 Clearfield graduate, Mr. Forcey amassed a 24-2 career record (92%), two district titles and the 1941 State Championship at 155 pounds. Mr. Forcey was joined in the winner's circle at states by fellow Clearfield grapplers Jim Mohny, Frank Shirey, and Gilbert Johnson along with DuBois champ, Jack Sullivan. This five District IX State Champions ties with 1986, the maximum number ever garnered by our district in a single season. The 1941 tournament saw only ten weight classes opposed to the fourteen we have today. With Mr. Forcey's help, Clearfield captured the unofficial team championship in 1941. Mutt continued wrestling following graduation in AAU and YMCA meets and tournaments and captured the Junior National title in AAU competition.

##### DR. TERRANCE J. HOOVER(Contributor)

Dr. Hoover is being inducted as a contributor in the Hall of Fame tonight for the many roles he has played in wrestling over the last forty years. Terry is a 1964 Curwensville graduate where his school voted him Athlete of the Year for his three letters earned in wrestling, football, and baseball. Dr. Hoover continued his academics and athletics at the University of Pittsburgh where he compiled a 37-14-4 record for the Panthers while also lettering in football two seasons. He was a two time National Division I qualifier through the always tough EIWA tournament. Terry's coaching experience spans 15 years, with an overall record of 101-78-1, 18 district champions, 1 NW Regional champion, and 3 state qualifiers. His additional wrestling contributions have possibly been even more significant and include 31 years as a PIAA official with four state tournaments to his credit. Terry has also served the District IX wrestling officials by being the Rules Interpreter for 19 years. He has and presently does sit on the PIAA Board of Directors, State Wrestling Steering Committee, and the director of this Tournament. Dr. Hoover is also a member of the Clearfield Chapter of the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.