

District IX

Chapter of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA)

Wrestling Hall of Fame

2006 District IX Hall of Fame Inductees

JOE QUETHERA(Wrestler)

Joe was recruited out of the halls of Clearfield High school in 1935 by Coach Art Weiss to become that school's first 85 pound wrestler. He was also the first Bison to compete in a dual meet bout. "Jumping Joe" kept pace with the quickly improving program in Clearfield and became the school's first four-year letter winner. He competed in two Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Wrestling Association tournaments before joining teammates Sam Harry and Sheridan Bannon on the winner's stand at the first Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association State Tournament in 1938 as the only District 6-9 wrestlers to claim gold medals. Quethera picked up the only pin in the finals to cap a 13-0 season at 125 pounds for a career record of 28-9. Weiss tagged Quethera with the nickname "Jumping Joe" because of his aggressive style of jumping from one move to another. Quethera served nearly four years in the United States Army during World War II, much of the time as an engineer in the European Theater.

FRANK SHIREY(Wrestler)

When Frank graduated from Clearfield High School in 1941 the State Champion set the standard for future Bison wrestlers with a 24-1 dual meet record, 37-4 overall record and a 92.4 winning percentage. He was the school's second mat man to letter four years and was victorious in his last 22 dual meets. He helped the Bisons win three consecutive District 6-9 team titles and their second Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Championship. Frank, a three-time District Champ, was the victim of what was considered a very questionable referee's decision in the 135 pound semi-final match at the State Tournament as a junior, the year before rule changes awarded points for takedowns, reversals, escapes and near falls. Shirey would not be denied as a Senior, winning the PIAA 145 pound gold medal with two solid decisions and a come-from-behind 7-5 victory over a District 4 Champ for a 12-0 record. Shirey joined teammates Jim Mohny, Francis Forcey and Gib Johnson to become the first team to have four State Champions in one year. Shirey earned his freshman letter at Lehigh University and then enlisted in the Army Air Corps to become a pilot. He was assigned to the European Theater and flew B-24 bombers on 50 missions, many over Germany, Austria, and Northern Italy.

BRUNO IORFIDO(Wrestler)

In his four years of varsity wrestling at Ridgway, Bruno compiled a 135-18 record, breaking the record for most wins that had held for 18 years. He compiled a 44-0 record in Junior High and suffered only one dual meet loss at the Varsity level. Bruno was a four-time District IX Champion, two-time Northwest Regional Champ, Regional runner-up, and qualified for the State Tournament three times with 4th and 5th place finishes. Bruno wrestled for the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for three years, claiming 3rd place at NCAA Eastern Regionals, and was 2003 NCAA Athletic All-American, and three time NWCA Academic All-American. Bruno placed 8th at the 2003 NCAA National Tournament. Also competing in PWAFF Freestyle, he was a two-time Pennsylvania State Champion, one time Northeast Regional Champion and a two time National qualifier.

SHERIDAN BANNON(Wrestler)

A two time District 6-9 Champion for Clearfield, Mr. Bannon won the 105-pound State Wrestling Championship in 1938. The next year he lost in the quarterfinals to George Custer of Cannonsburg in a dual of returning State Champions. Bannon's career record was 28-8-1, including 19-3-1 in dual matches. He was named Out-standing Wrestler for the Districts 6-9 Tournament after becoming the first wrestler to pin his way through the tourney. At 8-0, he was a National Prep School Champion at 121-pounds for Franklin & Marshall Academy in 1940. At Lehigh University the next two seasons, he was 7-6 in duals and was EIWA runner-up at 121. He coached at Gilman Prep in Baltimore for two years and at Abington High School in District 1 for three years where he coached four PIAA State Qualifiers. During World War II Sheridan received a Silver Star in the European Theater and was a Colonel when he retired from the U.S. Army Reserves.

RALPH BOYER(Contributor)

Ralph Boyer wrestled for DuBois High School until he quit school in his junior year to join the U.S. Navy. He started helping with the Wrestling program during the mid 1950's and was a founder of the Junior Olympic Wrestling Program in western Pennsylvania during the early 1960's. He was the General Chairman for the tournaments held in DuBois and was instrumental in raising \$50,000 during that time to purchase many items including team blazers, a wrestling mat and flu shots for the team. Mr. Boyer was the head scorer for the team and spent many evenings scouting teams for the coaching staff. Ralph helped pioneer a more descriptive style of announcing wrestling on WDBA, so descriptive, in fact, that coaches could use it as a reliable scouting report. Ralph was also a PIAA official for more than 20 years, officiating from the elementary to college levels. Mr. Boyer loved the sport of wrestling and welcomed wrestlers into his home on many occasions.

BARRY DIXON(Contributor)

Barry Dixon is a 1969 graduate of DuBois Area High School. He competed in the 1968-69 season, ending the season as a District Champion with a record of 26-7-2. He attended Lehigh University, wrestling from 1970-1975. He served as Assistant Coach at DuBois Area for six years. Barry's most notable contribution to the sport of Wrestling was his 17 years of service as a PIAA official. Mr. Dixon currently lives in DuBois where he is employed by the United States Postal Service.

GILBERT JOHNSON(Wrestler)

Mr. Johnson wrestled for Clearfield Area High School and participated on three undefeated teams (22-0) for the Bisons. During Gib's senior year, the Bisons outscored their opponents 222-37 and never scored under 28 points in a match. Gilbert had a dual meet record of 14-0 and a career record of 24-1. He was a two time District 6-9 Champion and, in 1941, was crowned the PIAA State Champion at 165 pounds. He, along with teammates Jim Mohney, Francis Forcey, and Frank Shirey, became the first team to crown four State Champions in the one year and also earned the unofficial PIAA Team Championship.

CHARLES McMULLEN(Wrestler)

Mr. McMullen wrestled for the "Thundering Herd" of Clearfield High School from 1940-1942. He participated on some of the most dominating teams that Clearfield put together, helping his team record their fifth undefeated season, extend their win streak to 43, and win their 4th straight District 6-9 Title. Charles had a dual meet record of 11-1 and a career record of 18-2. During his senior year, Clearfield captured the unofficial PIAA Team Championship, with Charles claiming the State Title at 154 pounds.

DAVE IRWIN(Wrestler)

Mr. Irwin attended Curwensville High School and graduated in 1980. He was a three time District IX Champion, a two time Regional Champion and a two time PIAA State Champion for the Golden Tide. He compiled a career record of 81 wins with only two losses. Dave's other accomplishments include National AAU Greco-Roman Champion, National Freestyle Runner-up, three years on the Pennsylvania Freestyle All-Star team, and two time Junior Olympic State Champ.