

District IX

Chapter of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA)

Wrestling Hall of Fame

2008 District IX Hall of Fame Inductees

DAVE CLARK(Wrestler)

Dave graduated from Clearfield Area High School in 1969. Dave, a four year starter, was a three time District IX Champ, a two time Central Northwest Regional Champ, a State Champ his Junior year at the 112 lb weight class and the State Runner-up at 120 lbs his senior year. Dave's overall record was 62-13-2 and with that, set a new record for Clearfield for having the most matches in a career at that time.

JAMES RISS(Wrestler)

James was a 1944 graduate from DuBois. In 1943 he was the State Champion at the 154 lb weight class and in 1944 he was the State Runner-up at 165.

RUSS TRIPONEY(Wrestler)

Russ graduated from Clearfield Area High School in 1956, where he was a three time District IX champ, a two time Central Northwest Regional Champ, a Runner-up at States in 1955 at 145 lbs and a State Champion in 1956 at 154 lbs. Russ's overall record was 42-3. After high school Russ went to Lehigh College on an Academic/Athletic Scholarship. He was named the Outstanding Wrestler his Freshman year. During his Sophomore year he injured his knee which ended his wrestling career. After college Russ returned to Clearfield where he started teaching and coaching. From 1965-1974 he became assistant coach under Ron Park. During those 10 years he helped guide the Bison's to four undefeated seasons with an overall record of 93-13-3. He coached 48 District IX Champions, 9 Regional Champions, 3 State Runner-ups and two State Champions. Russ, now retired, enjoys watching his grandsons wrestle.

DOUG MCGRAW(Wrestler)

Doug was a 2000 graduate from Cameron County High School. While in high school he amassed a career record of 137-8, was a three time District IX Class AA champion, four time Northwest Regional Class AA champion, 2000 PIAA State champion at 135 lbs, 1999 PIAA fourth place at 125 lbs and a 2000 National High School Tournament Champion at 135 lbs. Doug furthered his career at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a four year starter with a record of 68-27. In 2003-2004, he was a First Team All-Ivy League, 2005 National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Team, 2005 University of Pennsylvania Team Captain, a three time NCAA Qualifier and a EIWA champion in 2004. He currently resides in Glendale, AZ where he is in his second year attending Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.

LARRY MCGRAW(Coach)

Larry is a 1967 Cameron County High School Graduate and started his coaching career in 1972 at Cameron County as an assistant for 4 years. He then became the Head Coach in 1976 and reigned for 29 years until his retirement after the 2005 season. During this period he amassed a dual meet record of 227-215-2. He coached 26 District IX Champions, 12 Northwest Regional Champions, 24 PIAA State Tournament Qualifiers, 10 of which became place finishers and 4 PIAA State Champions, and 1 NHSCA High School National Champions. In 1999 his Red Raiders finished 4th at the PIAA Individuals State Tournament. Larry also coached 6 years for the Pennsylvania Amateur Wrestling Federation and was the Head Coach of the PA 2001 Cadet National Freestyle Team Champions.

TOM PRECHTL(Referee/Contributor)

Tom was a PIAA referee for 26 years and also refereed 10 years for the Pennsylvania Amateur Wrestling Federation Freestyle tournaments. During that 26 year period he refereed multiple PIAA Sectional, District and Regional Tournaments. As a contributor he was instrumental in starting the Ridgway Wrestling Club and acted as President and Treasurer for several years. He helped to pioneer the Ridgway Junior Wrestling Program and served as chairman, and treasurer for several years. While in these capacities he acted as tournament director for the first US Kids, Junior Wrestling, Jr. High and JV Wrestling Tournaments ever held in Ridgway. It is without a doubt that Ridgway's continued successful wrestling program is directly related to Tom's love and countless hours of dedication to the great sport of wrestling.