

Forty-Third Annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

One of the Largest Conference Tournaments in the United States

**Wheeling Civic Center
Wheeling, West Virginia
Thursday-Friday-Saturday
January 18 - 19 - 20, 1996**

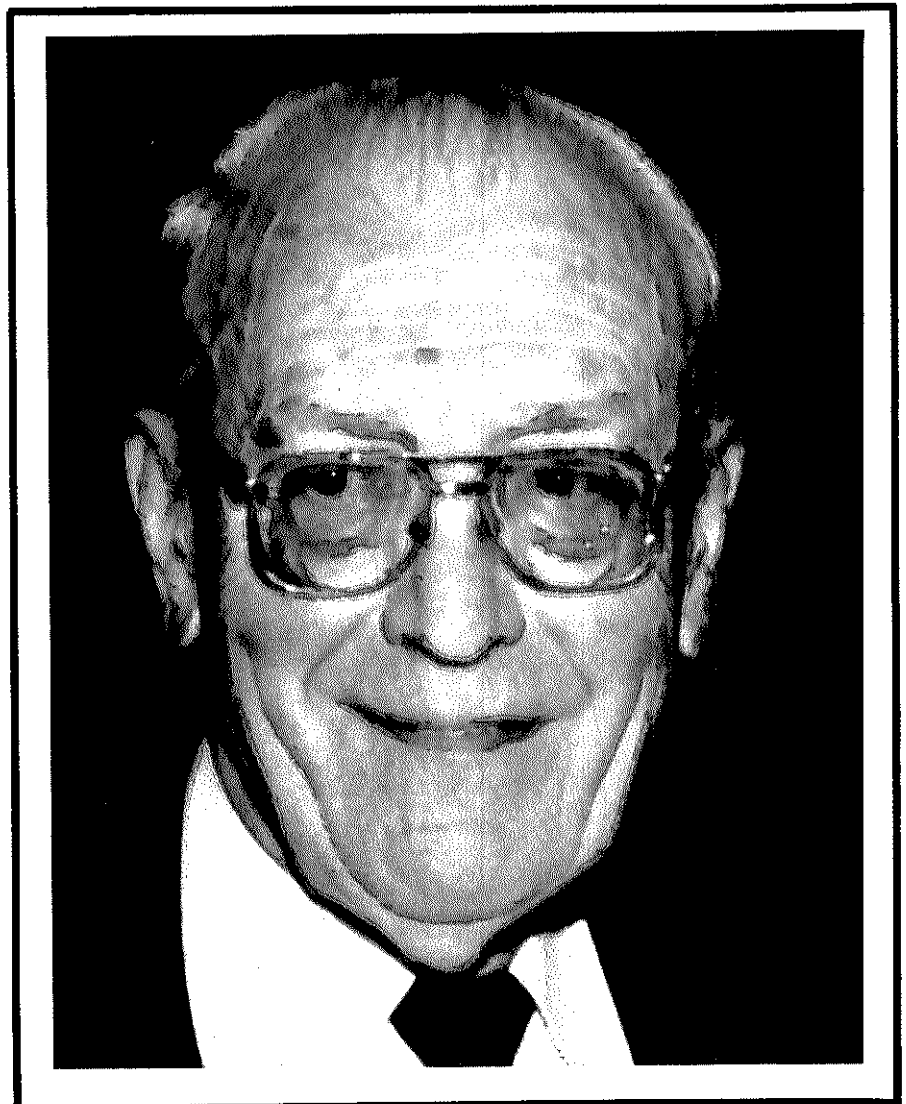
Bill Van Horne

Sports Editor

**Martins Ferry Times Leader
1941 - 1966**

**Wheeling News-Register
1966 - 1995**

**Souvenir Program
\$2.00**



"OVAC WRESTLING'S DEVOTED SCRIBE"

CITY OF WHEELING

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Welcome:

On behalf of the City of Wheeling and Wheeling City Council, we welcome all the wrestlers of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference to the City of Wheeling and to the Wheeling Civic Center for this exciting and important event.

We congratulate all of you for your efforts and hard work which have advanced you this far and wish each and every one of you the very best luck.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to Wheeling and that you will find time to return and visit us again.

Again, congratulations. In our eyes, you are all

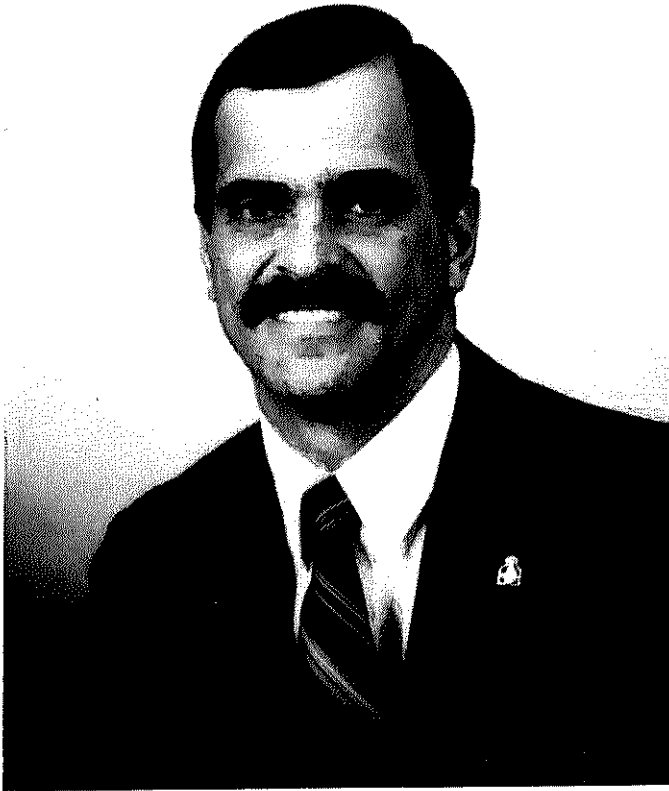
“CHAMPIONS”

Best regards,

Jack Lipphardt, Mayor
Brent Bush
Robert Henry
Vernon Seals
Tim McCormick
Mike Nau
Randy Wharton



A Word of Welcome To All...



On behalf of the OVAC, I want to sincerely welcome each and everyone of you to the Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Our warmest expressions of good luck are extended to each team and its supporters entering the great event.

From its meager and uncertain start in 1943, the OVAC Wrestling Tournament has grown into one of the major sports attractions in the Ohio Valley.

We do not hesitate to say the tournament is actually a demonstration of high character, good conduct, under the rules of the game, and on ethical relationship with one's opponent.

As you cheer for your favorite team, may the highest standards of sportsmanship prevail throughout the tournament.

*Mr. Warren Grace
Paden City High School
1996 OVAC President*

I am proud to act as Director for the Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament. It is our wish that your visit be pleasant and rewarding. Since only a few will reach the pinnacle of total victory, in our hearts you shall all be champions. May I extend a sincere congratulations to all the schools participating and wish you the very best of luck.

In closing, let us all work in the spirit of good sportsmanship and remember the motto of the Conference: "Serving The Youth of the Upper Ohio Valley."

*Mr. Ronald Mauck
Brooke High School
Director*



1995-1996 OVAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



SAMUEL A. MUMLEY
Executive Secretary
St. Clairsville



RON TROWBRIDGE
Past-President
John Marshall



DAN STEPHENS
Vice-President
Buckeye Local



DICK EDGE
Board Member
Switzerland of Ohio



DON DONATELLI
Board Member
Noble County



JIMMY WYATT
Board Member
Tyler Consolidated



NANCY K. MUMLEY
Treasurer
St. Clairsville



DON ZINNI
Football
Commissioner



JOHN HOWELL
Assistant Commissioner
Football & Basketball

OVAC

Wrestling Tournament Schedule

1996

Meet Sessions

8 MATS

First Session, January 18, Thursday, 6:00 PM

8 MATS

Second Session, January 19, Friday, 12:00 PM

8 MATS

Third Session, January 19, Friday, 7:00 PM

8 MATS

Fourth Session, January 20, Saturday, 12:00 PM

Semi-Finals and Quarter/Semi-Final Consolations

4 MATS

Fifth Session, January 20, Saturday, 6:00 PM

Championship Finals First, Second, Third
Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Place.

OFFICIALS

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BOB BENDER | Martins Ferry, OH | JOHN JEFFERIS | Barnesville, OH |
| LOU COFFLAND | Cadiz, OH | CHARLES KEENAN | Steubenville, OH |
| JIM CROSIER | Barnesville, OH | SHANE KILDOW | Bethesda, OH |
| RICK CROSIER | Steubenville, OH | STEVE KISH, Jr. | Martins Ferry, OH |
| SHAWN CROSIER | Steubenville, OH | DAVE LYNN | Barnesville, OH |
| TOBEY DUNLAP | Painesville, OH | RAY MARLING | Martins Ferry, OH |
| DON FERRIS | Brooklyn Heights, OH | TOM WOODS | Mt. Lake Park, MD |
| RICK HARE | Williamsport, MD | TONY VCELKA | Belmont, OH |

(All OVAC Tournament Officials Selected by Our Coaches)

OVAC TOURNAMENT INTERPRETERS

DR. VINCE MATTEUCCI - OHIO RULES INTERPRETER

DR. BILL WELKER - WV RULES INTERPRETER

THE OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL
FACILITIES OF THE WHEELING CIVIC CENTER AND THE UNTIRING EFFORTS OF:

DENNIS MAGRUDER.....WHG. CIVIC CENTER MANAGER

RON OSSER.....TICKET SALES

LEE KRAGES.....FOOD SERVICE

O.V.A.C. Wrestling

Thursday Night

Opening Ceremonies

JANUARY 18, 1996

4:00-5:00
5:35
5:35-6:00

Weigh-ins (Ohio Valley Scales)
Coach's meeting and scratch schedule
Warm up on mats

5:35-5:40

1. Barnesville
2. Beallsville
3. Beaver Local
4. Bellaire
5. Bishop Donahue
6. Bridgeport
7. Brooke
8. Buckeye Local

5:40-5:45

9. Cadiz
10. Caldwell
11. Cambridge
12. Cameron
13. East Liverpool
14. Edison
15. Indian Creek
16. John Marshall

5:45-5:50

17. Linsly
18. Magnolia
19. Martins Ferry
20. Meadowbrook
21. Monroe Central
22. Oak Glen
23. River
24. Shadyside
25. Shenandoah

5:50-5:55

26. St. Clairsville
27. St. John
28. Steubenville
29. Steubenville Catholic
30. Tyler Consolidated
31. Union Local
32. Valley

5:55-6:00

33. Weirton
34. Weirton Madonna
35. Wellsville
36. Wheeling Park

6:05-6:15

Teams will fall in procession with coaches leading their teams and then line up to the right of their teams (Olympic Music)

TEAMS ENTER

6:15

OVAC Wrestling Prayer - Bill Welker, Ed. D. - Dean of Students
Warwood Middle School

6:20

National Anthem performed by Dave Dayton, John Marshall
High School

6:23

Processional exit to Olympic Theme

6:30

Announce on deck wrestlers

1971 OVAC CHAMPIONS

ART JONES

95 pounds

Bellaire High School

Calvin Price

105 pounds

Oak Glen High School

Harry (Skip) Williams

112 pounds

Oak Glen High School

Ken Williams

119 pounds

Steubenville High School

Matt Doyle

126 pounds

Wheeling Central Catholic H. S.

Ross Roskovich

133 pounds

Bridgeport High School

DAVE LAMOTTE

138 pounds

Bridgeport High School

Gary Kosky

145 pounds

Bellaire St. John's High School

Nick Tate

155 pounds

Brooke High School

Val Grundling

167 pounds

Wheeling Central Catholic H.S.

Rick Link

175 pounds

Bellaire St. John's High School

Ed "Buzz" Evans

185 pounds

Bellaire St. John's High School

Don Blum

Heavyweight

Martins Ferry High School

Welcome
Back!!!

CONGRATULATIONS, 1971



Name: Art Jones
 Weight Class: 95 pounds
 Home Address: 804 Howard St.
 Bridgeport, OH 43912
 School: Bellaire High School
 Wife: Carol
 Children: Aric, Marcus
 Occupation: Self Employed
 Owner of A & C Roofing
 Asst. Wrestling Coach at
 Bridgeport High School

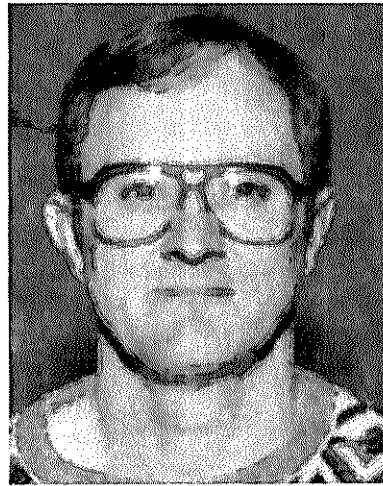


Name: Calvin Price
 Weight Class: 105
 Home Address: 5446 Hardt Road
 Gibsonia, PA 15044
 School: Oak Glen High School
 Wife: Cynthia
 Children: Steve, Michelle
 Occupation: Stagehand in
 Pittsburgh, PA



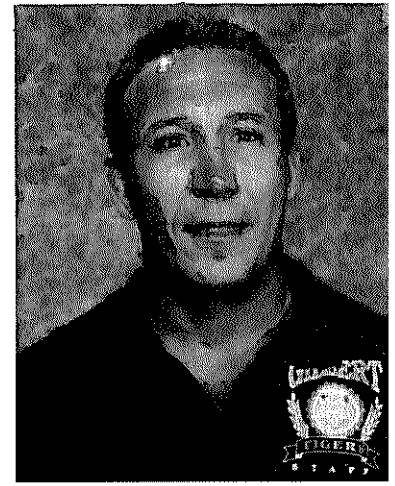
Name: Harry (Skip) Williams
 Weight Class: 112
 Home Address: 1875 Rock Point
 Road
 Powhatan, VA 23139
 School: Oak Glen High School
 Wife: Lee Ann
 Children: Carrie Ann
 Occupation: Maintenance Mgr.
 Alfa Laval Thermal Inc.

Ken Williams
 Weight Class: 119
 School: Steubenville



Name: Matt Doyle
 Weight Class: 126
 Home Address: 3150 Holly Drive
 Brunswick, OH 44212
 School: Wheeling Central
 Wife: Chris
 Children: Lindsay, Bridget,
 Shannon, David
 Occupation: Safety and Security
 Mgr., Nordson Corp.
 Amherst, OH

Name: Ross Roskovich
 Weight Class: 133
 Home Address: 56420 South
 Winnig St.
 Bridgeport, OH 43912
 School: Bridgeport
 Wife: Mella
 Children: Erica, Chad, Brian
 Occupation: Carpenter for
 Monfradi Construction,
 Wheeling, WV
 Head Wrestling Coach for
 Bridgeport High School



Name: Dave Lamotte
 Weight Class: 138
 Home Address: 402 Arabian Wa
 Payson, AZ 85441
 School: Bridgeport
 Wife: Vicki
 Children: Matt, Jeff
 Occupation: Teaching and
 Coaching for Gilbert High
 School, Gilbert, AZ

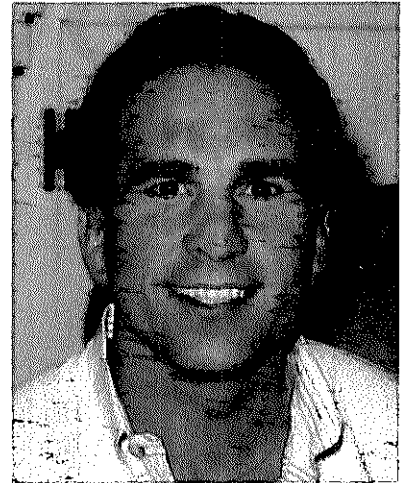
OVAC CHAMPIONS



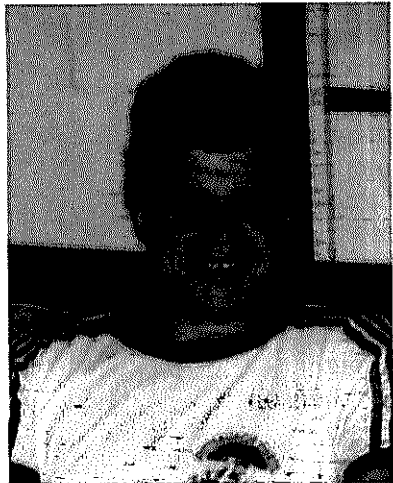
Name: Gary Kosky
Weight Class: 145
Home Address: St. Route 147
Bellaire, OH 43906
School: Bellaire St. John's
Wife: Mary
Children: Andrew, Paul, Douglas,
Thomas, Patricia
Occupation: Business Agent for
Painters Local #91



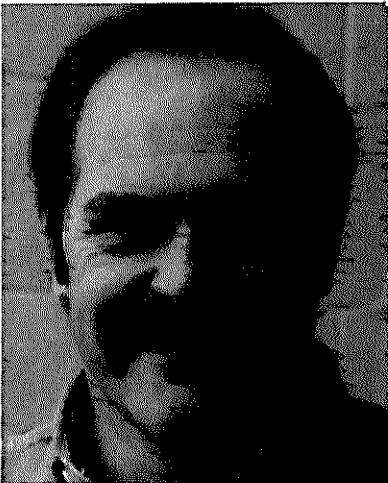
Name: Nick Tate
Weight Class: 155
Home Address: 332 Springdale
Ave.
Wintersville, OH 43952
School: Brooke High School
Wife: Linda
Children: Angela, Alyssa,
Anthony
Occupation: Steel Mill Worker
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel,
Mingo



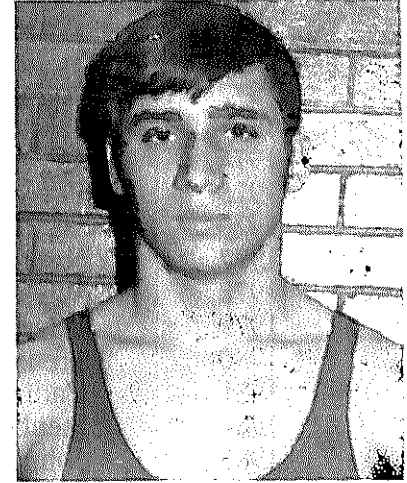
Name: Val Gundling
Weight Class: 167
Home Address: Memminger Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003
School: Wheeling Central
Wife: Auddie
Children: Christie, Ryan, Colin
Occupation: Sales agent in,
Pittsburgh, PA



Name: Rick Link
Weight Class: 175
Home Address: 53205 Poplar
Ave., Bridgeport, OH 43912
School: Bellaire St. John's
Wife: Linda
Children: Pat, Chris
Occupation: Health and Physical
Education Teacher for
Union Local and
Head Wrestling Coach



Name: Ed Evans
Weight Class: 185
Home Address: 113 Fourth St.
Bridgeport, OH 43912
School: Bellaire St. John's
Children: Jessica, Erika
Occupation: Teacher and Head
Wrestling Coach for
Wheeling Park High School



Name: Don Blum
Weight Class: HWT.
Home Address: 109 Sanger Dr.
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
School: Martins Ferry
Wife: Polly
Children: Donald Jr., Jennifer
Occupation: Computer Operator,
Mgr.,
Melling Services, Pittsburgh

OVAC OVERALL Tournament Champions

1954-1995

| | | |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1954 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1955 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1956 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1957 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1958 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1959 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1960 | Bridgeport High School | George Kovalick |
| 1961 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1962 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1963 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1964 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1965 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1966 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1967 | Martins Ferry High School | John "Corky" Vrotsos |
| 1968 | Martins Ferry High School | Art Hehr |
| 1969 | St. John Central High School | Jospeh G. Bates |
| 1970 | Wheeling Central High School | John Hibbert |
| 1971 | St. John Central High School | Dennis Bowman |
| 1972 | John Marshall High School | Bill Hinegardner |
| 1973 | John Marshall High School | Bill Hinegardner |
| 1974 | John Marshall High School | Bill Hinegardner |
| 1975 | Warwood High School | Eric Carder |
| 1976 | Weirton High School | Charles "Skip" Murray |
| 1977 | John Marshall High School | Bill Hinegardner |
| 1978 | Wheeling Park High School | Eric Carder |
| 1979 | Wheeling Park High School | Eric Carder |
| 1980 | Steubenville High School | John Craig |
| 1981 | Cadiz High School | John Stephenson |
| 1982 | Steubenville High Shool | John Craig |
| 1983 | John Marshall High School | Ed Dugas |
| 1984 | Steubenville High School | John Craig |
| 1985 | Barnesville High School | Darrell Davis |
| 1986 | East Liverpool High School | Nick Trombetta |
| 1987 | Steubenville High School | John Craig |
| 1988 | East Liverpool High School | Nick Trombetta |
| 1989 | Steubenville High School | John Craig |
| 1990 | Wheeling Park High School | Buzz Evans |
| 1991 | Oak Geln High School | Larry Shaw |
| 1992 | Steubenville High School | John Craig |
| 1993 | Martins Ferry High School | Jeff Oberdick |
| 1994 | Wheeling Park High School | Buzz Evans |
| 1995 | Steubenville High School | Rick Camellitti |

**1995 OVAC OUTSTANDING WRESTLER and
DAVID BIERKORETTE AWARD WINNER**

JUSTIN EWING

125 POUNDS

ST. CLAIRSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



OUTSTANDING WRESTLER 1995

1995 COACHES OF THE YEAR

- * AAAA - RICK CAMILLETTI, STEUBENVILLE
- AAA - JEFF OBERDICK, MARTINS FERRY
- AA - JEFF CROSIER, BARNESVILLE
- A - JIM POTTS, CAMERON

**DANIEL BURKE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

LUKE UNDERWOOD, WEIRTON

**GEORGE KOVALICK
SCHOLARSHIP**

BRIAN ROSKOVICH, BRIDGEPORT

***1995 OVERALL TEAM CHAMPION
STEUBENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**1995 OVAC TOURNAMENT
DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

**AAA
STEUBENVILLE**

**AAA
MARTINS FERRY**

**AA
BARNESVILLE**

**A
CAMERON**

**1995 DUAL MEET
CHAMPIONS**

**AAAA
WHEELING PARK**

**AAA
ST. CLAIRSVILLE**

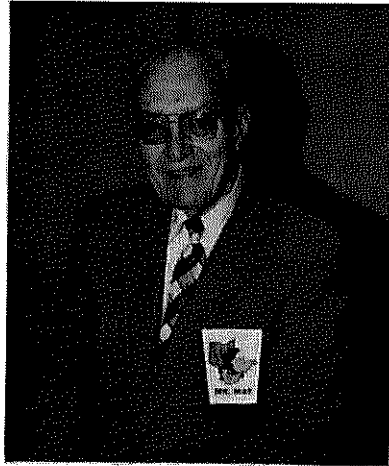
**AA
BARNESVILLE**

**A
CAMERON**

MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1995



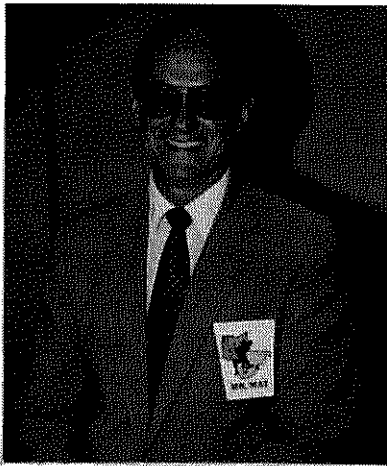
1976: **GEORGE KOVALICK**
Bellaire



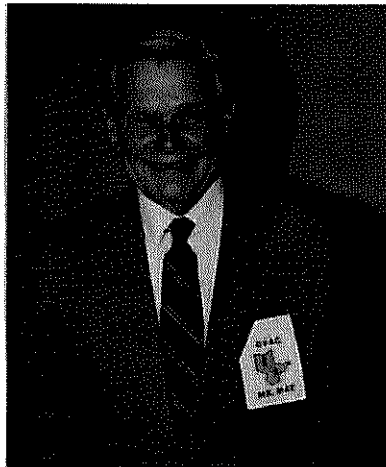
1977: **WILLIAM VAN HORNE**
Sports Editor
Wheeling News-Register



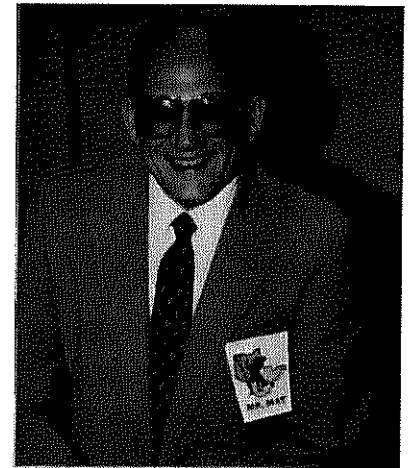
1978: **JOHN VROTSOS**
Martins Ferry



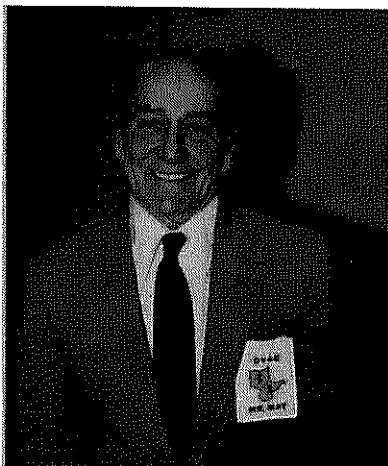
1979: **RICHARD EDGE**
Springfield High School



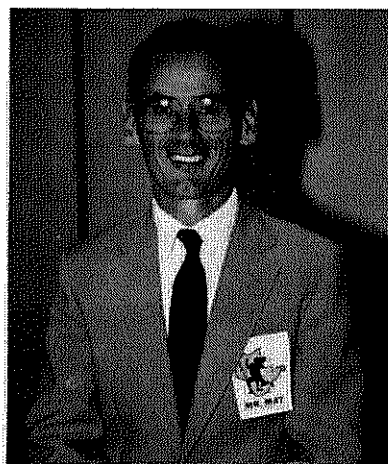
1980: **GEORGE WALLEY**
John Marshall



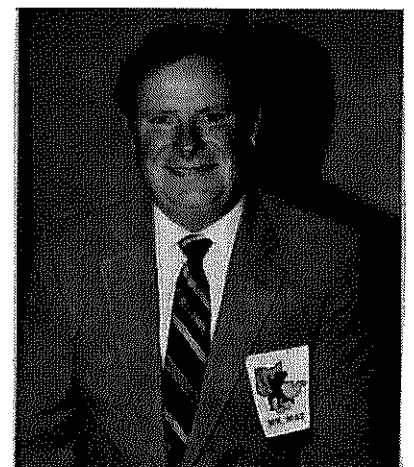
1981: **BOB HEDMOND**
Steubenville



1982: **PAUL CRAGO**
Moundsville High School

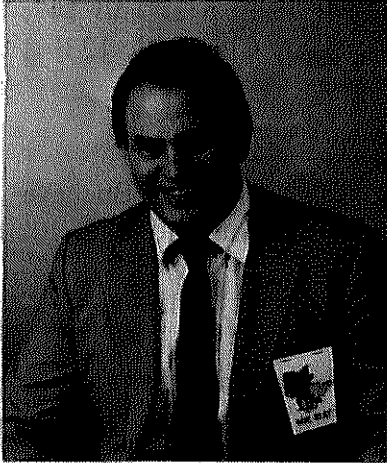


1983: **DR. VINCE MONSEAU**
West Liberty State College

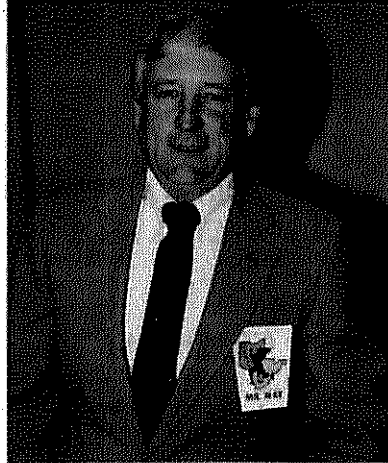


1984: **BILL HINEGARDNER**
John Marshall

MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1995



1985: DENNIS BOWMAN
Bellaire High School



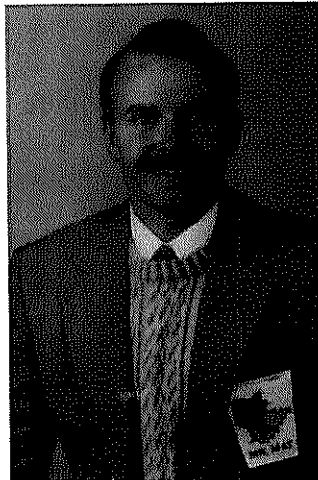
1986: RON MAUCK
Brooke High School



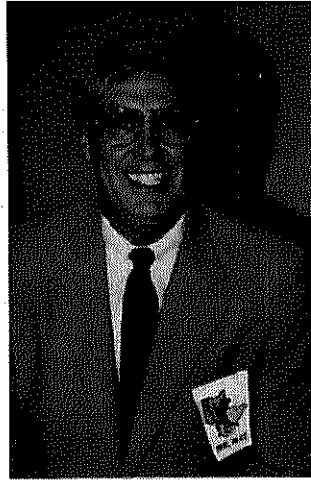
1987: ERIC CARDER
Wheeling Park High School



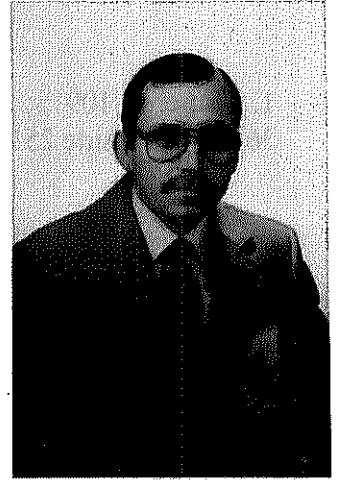
1988: DAVE KOVALICK
Barnesville High School



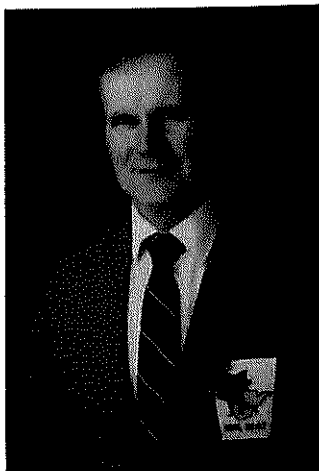
1989: STEVE KISH
Bellaire High School



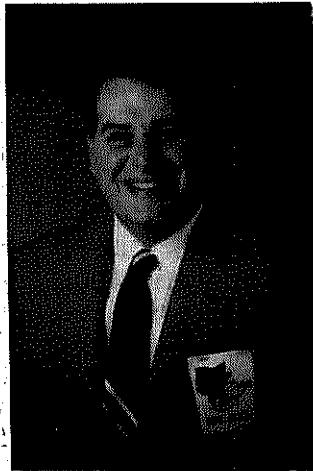
1990: CARL FODOR
Weirton High School



1991: DR. BILL WELKER
Warwood Middle School



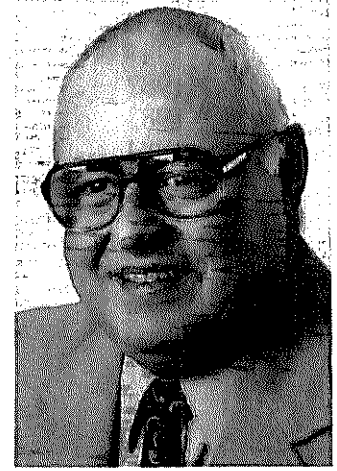
1992: LARRY DEATON
Martins Ferry High School



1993: JOHN STEPHENSON
Cadiz High School



1994: JOE BATES
Woodsfield High School



1995: Bob Bruney
Martins Ferry High School

1995 OVAC Mat Results

OVERALL

1. Steubenville 197;
2. Martins Ferry 195;
3. Wheeling Park 157;
4. John Marshall 147;
5. Beaver Local 139;
6. Buckeye Local 130½
7. East Liverpool 127;
8. St. Clairsville 123½;
9. Cameron 109½;
10. Barnesville 89½

CLASS AAAA

1. Steubenville 197;
2. Wheeling Park 157;
3. John Marshall 147;
4. Beaver Local 139;
5. Buckeye Local 130½;
6. East Liverpool 127;
7. Indian Creek 85;
8. Edison Local 83;
9. Cambridge 57;
10. Weir 46½;
11. Brooke 46½;
12. Oak Glen 46½

CLASS AAA

1. Martins Ferry 185;
2. St. Clairsville 123½;
3. Bellaire 75;
4. River 62;
5. Union Local 54½
6. Meadowbrook 54;
7. Tyler Consolidated 25½;
8. Monroe Central 21;
9. Magnolia 8½

CLASS AA

1. Barnesville 89½;
2. Shenandoah 86;
3. Wellsville 60;
4. Steubenville Catholic 59;
5. Cadiz 41½;
6. Caldwell 19

CLASS A

1. Cameron 109½;
2. Bridgeport 83;
3. Bishop Donahue 61;
4. Bellaire St. John's 53½;
5. Linsly 36;
6. Shadyside 25½;
7. Weirton Madonna 18;
8. Beallsville 11;
9. Valley 3

*The OVAC Wrestling Tournament is now a
"Double Elimination" event.

DAVE BEIRKORETTE WRESTLING AWARDS

| | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1971 | Don Blum | Martins Ferry High School |
| 1972 | Art Jones | Bellaire High School |
| 1973 | Dan Claugus | Barnesville High School |
| 1974 | Sheldon Grace | Weir High School |
| 1975 | Mike Kovalick | Bellaire High School |
| 1976 | Randy Davia | Cadiz High School |
| | Ed Covey | Bridgeport High School |
| 1977 | Rich Davis | Jefferson Union High School |
| 1978 | Carl Stanley | Wheeling Park High School |
| 1979 | Rady Pryor | Weir High School |
| 1980 | Trent Iachini | Steubenville High School |
| 1981 | Mike Tluchowski | Steubenville High School |
| 1982 | Larry Isleman | Toronto High School |
| 1983 | Brian Miller | Barnesville High School |
| 1984 | Heath Beardmore | Cambridge High School |
| 1985 | Tim Moxley | Barnesville High School |
| 1986 | Sean Murray | Oak Glen High School |
| 1987 | Mark Mlynek | Bellaire High School |
| 1988 | Rich Burlenski | Bridgeport High School |
| 1989 | Mark Emmerling | East Liverpool High School |
| 1990 | Babe Sidon | Martins Ferry High School |
| 1991 | Doug Knight | Steubenville High School |
| 1992 | R.C. Anderson | Cameron High School |
| 1993 | Kelly Shields | Edison South High School |
| 1994 | Dustin Harris | Beaver Local High School |
| 1995 | Justin Ewing | St. Clairsville High School |

Presented during the Banquet of Champions by Wheeling Central Boosters Club

1995 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '95

103 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|-----------|------------------|-------|---------------|------|-------|
| Fall 5:34 | Jason Eckles | 11 | E. Liverpool | 4A | 1 |
| | Ronnie LeMasters | 10 | Cameron | 1A | 2 |
| 8-3 | Jon Rossiter | 11 | Buckeye Local | 4A | 3 |
| | Brian Julian | 9 | Whg. Park | 4A | 4 |
| 17-3 | Greg Roby | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 5 |
| | DeWitt Stanley | 10 | Brooke | 4A | 6 |
| 14-6 | Bryn Marsh | 10 | Indian Creek | 4A | 7 |
| | Travis Wilhelm | 9 | Bellaire | 3A | 8 |

112 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|---------|----------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 5-3 | Eric Anderson | 11 | St. John | 1A | 1 |
| | Ryan Muldrew | 10 | John Marshall | 4A | 2 |
| 4-0 | Ken Becker | 10 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 3 |
| | Jeremy Lowe | 10 | Brooke | 4A | 4 |
| 13-6 | Bill Callahan | 12 | Meadowbrook | 3A | 5 |
| | T.J. Cooper | 11 | Steubenville | 4A | 6 |
| 8-7 | Greg Pifer | 12 | St. Clairsville | 3A | 7 |
| | Daryck Beetham | 11 | Cadiz | 2A | 8 |

119 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|----------|-------------------|-------|---------------|------|-------|
| 5-3 | Lamont Tucker | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 1 |
| | Jason Taylor | 12 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 2 |
| 9-2 | Luke Spencer | 9 | Edison Local | 4A | 3 |
| | Jeff McKinnon | 10 | Wellsville | 2A | 4 |
| 4-2 O.T. | Brian Tatgenhorst | 11 | Beaver Local | 4A | 5 |
| | Jason Donahue | 11 | St. John | 1A | 6 |
| 5-3 O.T. | Anthony Hayes | 11 | Cadiz | 2A | 7 |
| | Dan Jones | 9 | Linsly | 1A | 8 |

125 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|-----------|------------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 6-4 O.T. | Justin Ewing | 12 | St. Clairsville | 3A | 1 |
| | Bob Tucker | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 2 |
| Fall 2:51 | Matt Lemley | 12 | Beaver Local | 4A | 3 |
| | Jim Bob Lewis | 12 | Union Local | 3A | 4 |
| 5-4 | Sean Doyle | 10 | Buckeye Local | 4A | 5 |
| | Gino Jerrome | 12 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 6 |
| 17-5 | Ryan Nightingale | 11 | Wellsville | 2A | 7 |
| | Louis Reid | 11 | Steubenville | 4A | 8 |

1995 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '95

130 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|-----------|------------------|-------|---------------|------|-------|
| 2-0 | Brian Roskovick | 12 | Bridgeport | 1A | 1 |
| | Ray Jefferis | 11 | Barnesville | 2A | 2 |
| 2-0 | Jason Porter | 11 | Bellaire | 3A | 3 |
| | Brad Hockenberry | 12 | Cambridge | 4A | 4 |
| Fall 3:29 | Nathan Schehl | 12 | Meadowbrook | 3A | 5 |
| | Tom Kennedy | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 6 |
| 4-2 | Mike Smith | 12 | Oak Glen | 4A | 7 |
| | Tim Long | 11 | Wellsville | 2A | 8 |

135 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|---------|----------------|-------|----------------|------|-------|
| 5-3 O.T | Chad Bowersock | 12 | Beaver Local | 1A | 1 |
| | Chris Ward | 10 | John Marshall | 4A | 2 |
| 8-7 | Jake Partlow | 12 | Shenandoah | 2A | 3 |
| | Josh Giovengo | 11 | Bishop Donahue | 1A | 4 |
| 6-3 | Brian Padgelek | 10 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 5 |
| | Tim Crozier | 12 | Bellaire | 3A | 6 |
| Forfeit | Cornell Birden | 10 | Steubenville | 4A | 7 |

140 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------|------|-------|
| 3-1 | Cory Ellsworth | 12 | Bridgeport | 1A | 1 |
| | Cliff Ward | 12 | John Marshall | 4A | 2 |
| 5-4 | Boogie Holstein | 12 | Shenandoah | 2A | 3 |
| | Quiano Lacy | 11 | River | 3A | 4 |
| 3-2 | Paul Norris | 11 | Cameron | 1A | 5 |
| | Jake Koeppen | 12 | Oak Glen | 4A | 6 |
| 12-4 | John Straus | 11 | Buckeye Local | 4A | 7 |
| | Josh Ferguson | 11 | Weirton | 4A | 8 |

145 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|----------------|------|-------|
| Fall 1:18 | Jim Riser | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 1 |
| | Sam Gray | 12 | Cameron | 1A | 2 |
| 11-3 | Marlon Hill | 12 | Steubenville | 4A | 3 |
| | Jack Klein | 11 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 4 |
| 2-1 | Jim Nickelson | 12 | Shenandoah | 2A | 5 |
| | Eric Koontz | 11 | John Marshall | 4A | 6 |
| 9-4 | Jeremy Cumpston | 12 | Bishop Donahue | 1A | 7 |
| | Bill Lucas | 10 | Beaver Local | 4A | 8 |

1995 OVAC PLACE WINNERS

TOP EIGHT in '95

152 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|----------|----------------|-------|----------------|------|-------|
| 16-10 | Michael Hill | 12 | Steubenville | 4A | 1 |
| | Heath Fitch | 12 | East Liverpool | 4A | 2 |
| 12-3 | Aaron Provance | 12 | John Marshall | 4A | 3 |
| | Matt Smarrella | 12 | Indian Creek | 4A | 4 |
| 3-1 O.T. | Corey Knight | 11 | River | 3A | 5 |
| | Dave Kinnison | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 6 |
| 12-4 | Bryan May | 12 | Union Local | 3A | 7 |
| | Andy Smith | 10 | Bishop Donahue | 1A | 8 |

160 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|----------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 14-3 | T.J. King | 11 | Cambridge | 4A | 1 |
| | Matt Fitch | 11 | East Liverpool | 4A | 2 |
| 2-1 O.T. | Jayson Stephen | 12 | Barnesville | 2A | 3 |
| | Tony Atkins | 12 | Steubenville | 4A | 4 |
| 1-0 | Dave Dyrdek | 11 | St. Clairsville | 3A | 5 |
| | Shane Shaffer | 11 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 6 |
| 6-5 | Tim DiBerardino | 11 | Indian Creek | 4A | 7 |
| | Andy Hager | 11 | Beaver Local | 4A | 8 |

171 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|----------|---------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 12-4 | Aaron Newman | 12 | Steubenville | 4A | 1 |
| | Matt Aldrich | 12 | East Liverpool | 4A | 2 |
| 7-5 O.T. | Brian Crosier | 12 | Barnesville | 2A | 3 |
| | Jeremy Cramer | 12 | Monroe Central | 2A | 4 |
| 9-1 | Scott Cooper | 12 | Union Local | 3A | 5 |
| | Chad Pratz | 9 | Linsly | 1A | 6 |
| 8-4 | Kirk Heath | 11 | St. Clairsville | 3A | 7 |
| | Bill Koehlin | 12 | Edison Local | 4A | 8 |

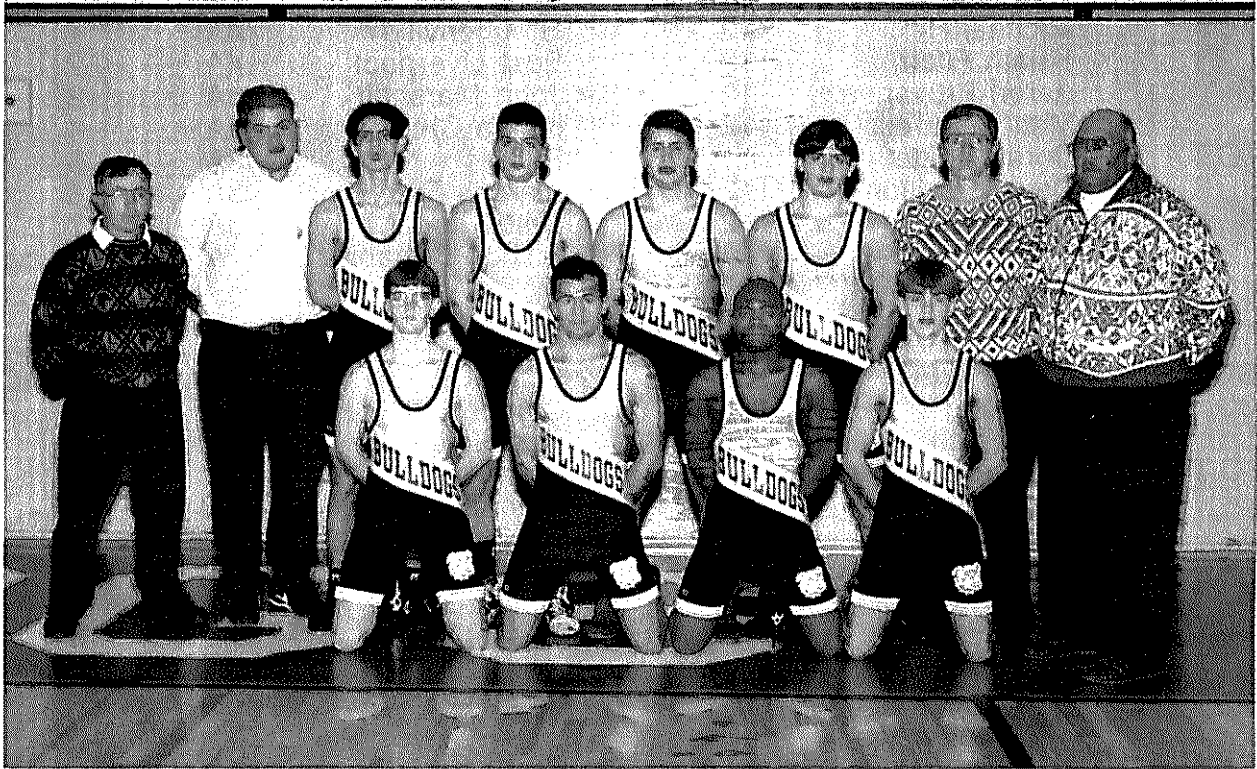
189 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|---------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 4-1 | Cary Heath | 11 | St. Clairsville | 3A | 1 |
| | Mike Mustake | 12 | Beaver Local | 4A | 2 |
| 6-1 | Robert Davidson | 11 | Wheeling Park | 4A | 3 |
| | Divante Spuriel | 11 | Steubenville | 4A | 4 |
| 10-2 | Jeff Dobson | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 5 |
| | Brian Sechrest | 10 | Bellaire | 3A | 6 |
| 8-7 | Brock Beatty | 10 | Oak Glen | 4A | 7 |
| | Scott McLendon | 12 | Bishop Donahue | 1A | 8 |

275 POUNDS

| RESULTS | WRESTLER | GRADE | SCHOOL | DIV. | PLACE |
|----------|----------------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| 4-3 | Chinadu Achebe | 12 | Steubenville Central | 2A | 1 |
| | Luke Underwood | 12 | Weirton | 4A | 2 |
| 3-2 | Joe Cominsky | 12 | Buckeye Local | 4A | 3 |
| | Mike Blackburn | 12 | Indian Creek | 4A | 4 |
| 6-4 O.T. | Zack Holt | 11 | Steubenville | 4A | 5 |
| | Ed Kapras | 12 | Edison Local | 4A | 6 |
| 8-3 | Thi Thomas | 12 | Martins Ferry | 3A | 7 |
| | Jerry Stone | 12 | Meadowbrook | 3A | 8 |

Bridgeport "Bulldogs"



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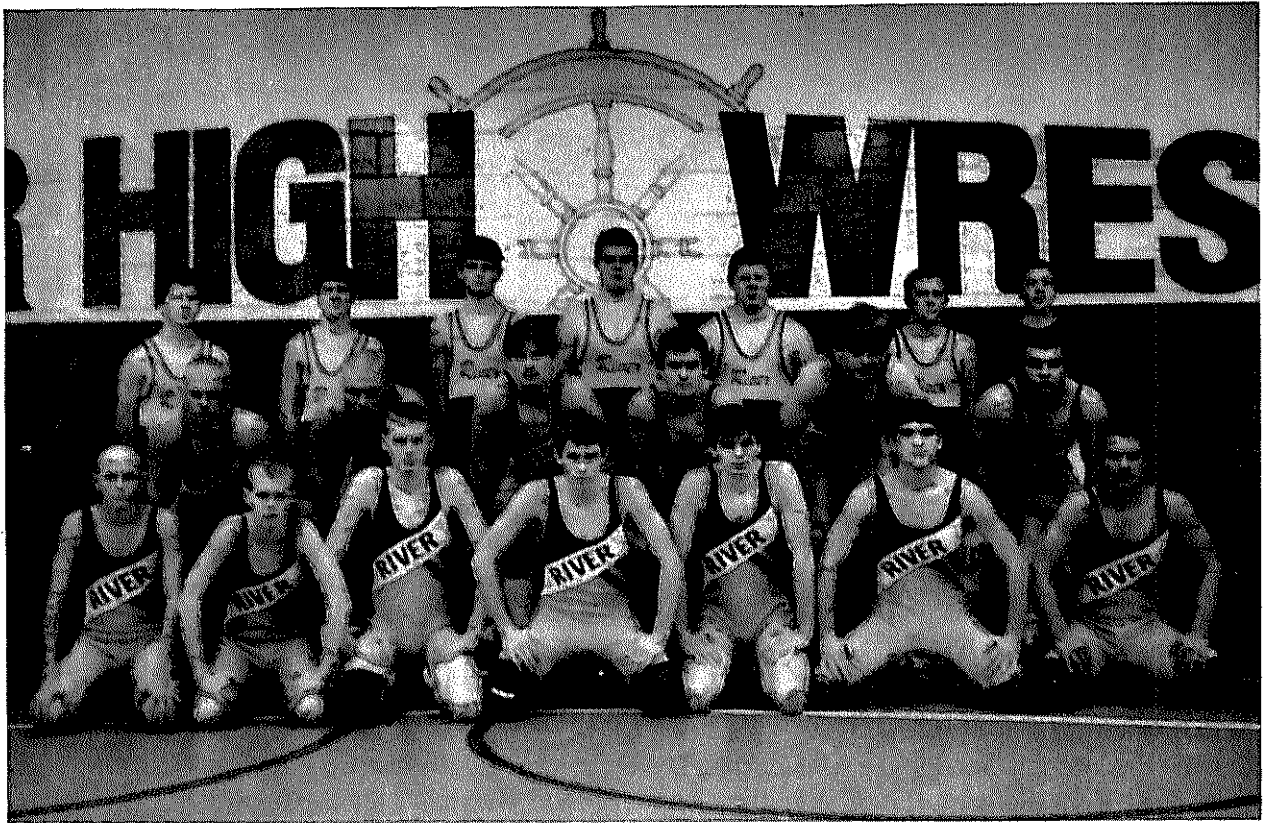
President - **Wayne McCracken**
Vice President - **Jan Mullen**
Secretary - **Debbie Mullen**
Treasurer - **Irv Hardman**
President — (200) Club - **Norman "Ted" Ehni**

**and
Bridgeport Athletic Boosters**



Principal: **Mark Matz**
Athletic Director: **Frank Baxter**
Head Coach: **Ross Roskovlch**
Ass't Coach: **Art Jones and Bill Ellsworth**
Colors: **Blue and Black**
OVAC: **AA**

GOOD LUCK - RIVER WRESTLERS



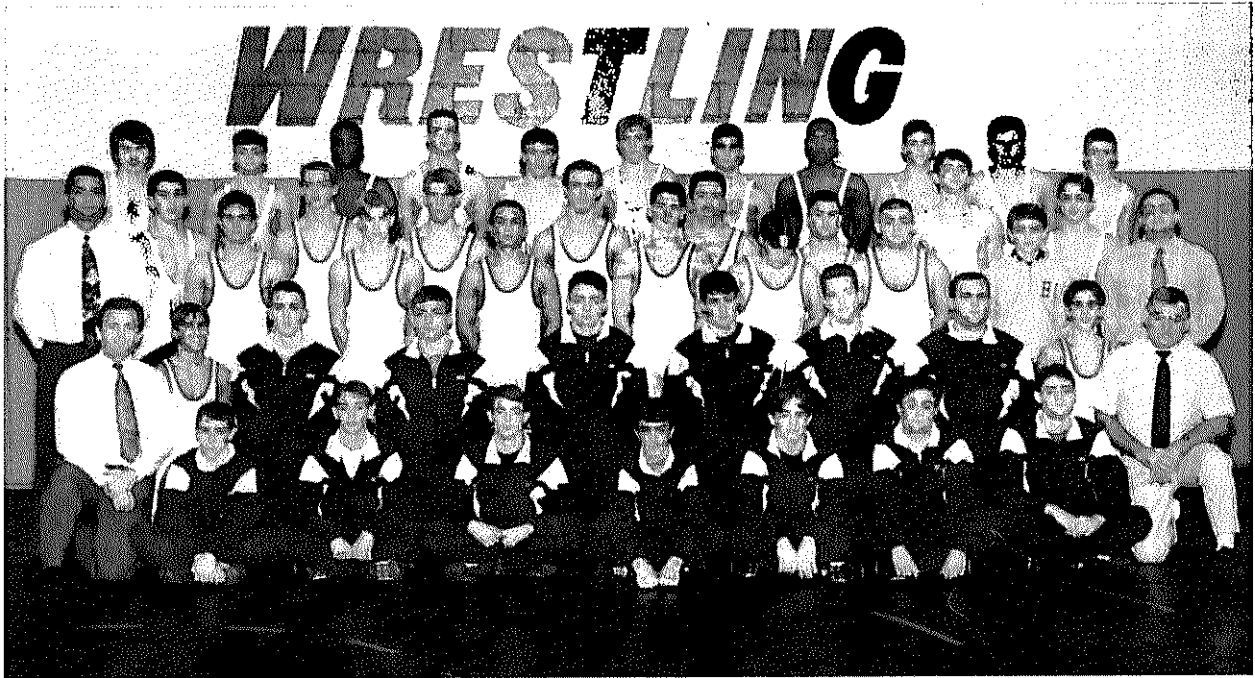
Front Row: Jeff Knight, J. Lude, Jason McCloud, Ed Brown, Bill Moser, Marty Winkler, Quaino Lacy

Middle Row: Ray Fox, Coray Knight, Bryan Mellott, Gary Brandon, Cassie Blattler, Courtney Robey

Third Row: Jason Ramsay, Jason Kocher, Josh Morris, Steve Byers, Ed Yonley, Greg Horn, Manager Nathan Newell

River Boosters
&
200 Club

BUCKEYE LOCAL WRESTLING



1st Row: Jon Rossiter, Hank Kendjorsky, Dave Rinkes, Jeremy DeLuca, Sean Doyle, Josh Straus, Damon Boyle

2nd Row: Head Coach Dan Doyle, Mat Curitti, Dave Cornish, Ed Beraneck, Rob Roe, Courtney Phillips, Mike Wilt, R.C. Fellows, Greg Bigelow, Asnt. Coach Herman Deyarman

3rd Row: Asnt. Varsity Coach Rich McCardle, Ryan Zelent, Mike Cusick, Ryan Conaway, Rich Fetty, Todd Moore, Clint Hepburn, Brad Voiers, Head Freshman Coach Joe Smarella

4th Row: Matt Petrozzi, Brent Toto, Jason Schrader, Alan Stevens, Mike Murphy, Tim Merkel, Mike Bandi, Robert Dunn

5th Row: Spencer Wilson, Brad Glover, Eric Simon, Duayne Wetherall, Bryan Whittaker, Tom Sabota, Andre Monoguidus, Terry Smith, Pat Benton, David Spourll, Brian Vargo

School: Buckeye Local High School

Colors: Navy Blue & Silver Grey

Classification: AAAA

Principal: Dan Stephens

Athletic Director: Ron White

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Vice President: Joe Sustik

Treasurer: Brenda Roski

Secretary: Linda Hosenfeld

Good Luck, Panthers

from the

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BOOSTERS

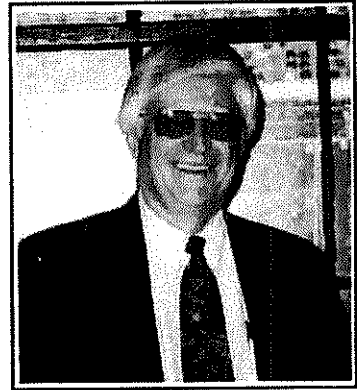
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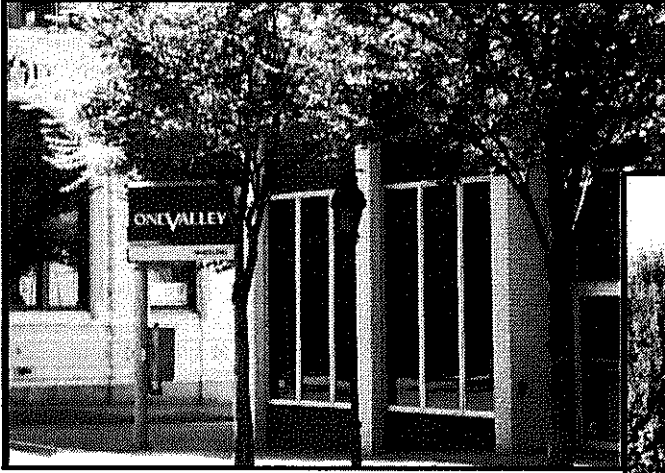
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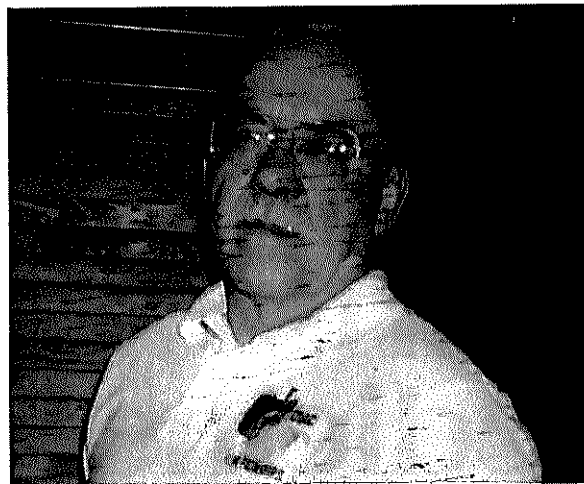
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IN MEMORY OF ROBERT "PEAR" SADLER AND SIDNEY A. "SID" STOLZ



Robert "Pear" Sadler was one of wrestling's biggest supporters throughout the Ohio Valley. Mr. Robert Sadler was also instrumental in promoting OVAC Wrestling in the Wheeling area. As a City of Wheeling Councilman, Pear Sadler helped to open the doors of the Wheeling Civic Center for the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1980. Since then, Mr. Sadler has assisted during all phases of this gigantic event, from the seeding meetings to selling programs. In fact, Tournament Director Ron Mauck has often referred to Sadler as one of his "right hand" men. Indeed, Mr. Robert "Pear" Sadler will be deeply missed by everyone who loves the sport of wrestling.



Sidney A. "Sid" Stolz was a devoted fan of the mat sport. Sid has given much of his time and efforts over the last two decades in helping to make our tournament a dynamic competition. Mr. Stolz's major area of expertise was being a table scorekeeper. Though keeping score is rarely noticed, it is a very important position. A mistake by the scorekeeper could easily cause huge problems for the participants. Sid Stolz was a master scorekeeper and never made a mistake. He realized the significance of his job to the wrestlers who have prepared for the OVAC Tournament. We will definitely miss Mr. Sidney A. "Sid" Stolz's positive personality and matside presence.

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O V A C Wrestling Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Bless our wrestlers that they may perform to their fullest potential;

Bless our coaches that they may stress the highest standards of good sportsmanship;

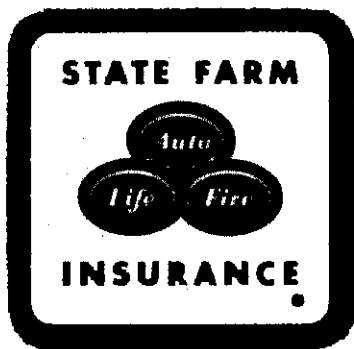
Bless our officials that they may keep wrestler-safety foremost in their thoughts;

Bless our parents that they may understand--win or lose, their sons are learning much about life through wrestling;

And finally, bless the late George Kovalick--the man who made this great event a reality for our wrestlers.

In Jesus' name--we pray,

Amen



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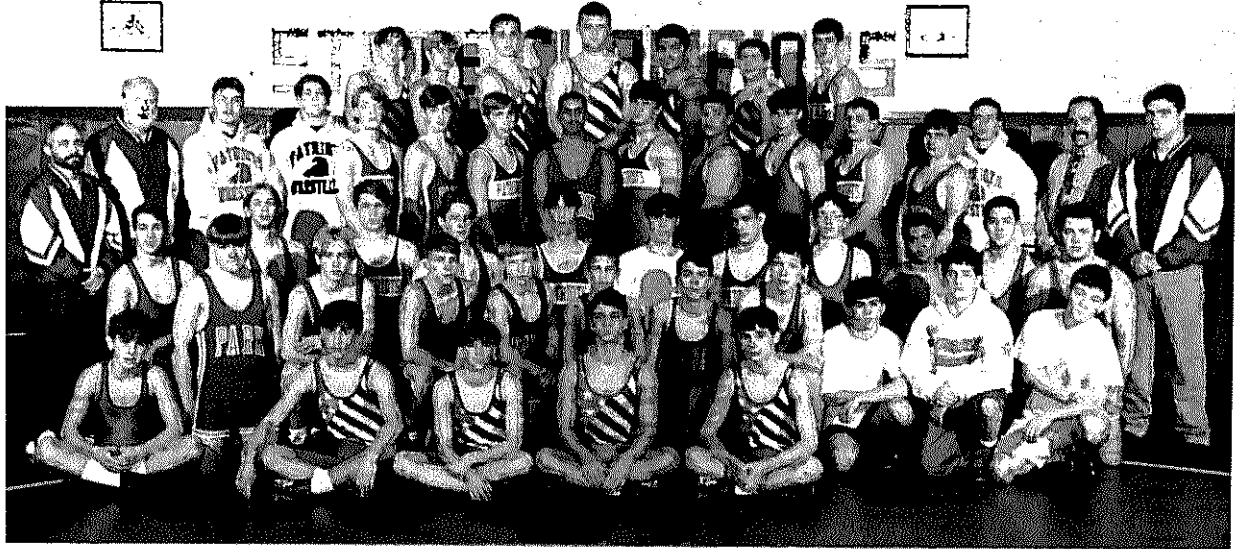
If you live an active life you probably know that nothing can quite match the excitement of team competition, the enjoyment of recreational sports or the fulfillment of an honest day's work. An active lifestyle can also unfortunately mean the possibility of injury due to overexertion, accident or

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3rd Row: Aaron Monseau, Matt Woods, Trigger Walsh, Josh Braunlich, John Treiber, Andy Perry, Kevin King, Ryan McCormick, Billy Brady, Dan Spurlock, Denton Poe
4th Row: Coach Monteleone, Coach Shaffer, Brian Nagy, Marle Nicholsan, Matt Bitner, Eric Hals, Todd Brown, Jermain Wade, Eric Cottrill, Geno Ochap, Steve Bliss, Jason Larue, Daniel Preuss, David Hall, Coach Evans, Coach Jones
5th Row: Jeremy Tominack, Adam Kennen, Shane Shaffer, Ben Kulpa, Robert Davidson, Mike Duke, Brian West
Not Pictured: Justin Boyd, Shaun Tuttle, Gene Traylor, Ben Blowers

HIGH SCHOOL ALL AMERICANS

Vinnie Manseau - 152 - 1987

Jason Taylor - 119 - 1995

He who is only an athlete is too crude, too vulgar, too much a savage.

He who is a scholar only is too soft.

The ideal citizen is the scholar athlete, the man of thought and the man of action.

Plato
(Ancient Greek Philosopher)

Wm. F. VanHorne OVAC Wrestling Devoted Scribe

Mat Talk with Dr. Bill Welker

I have been writing 'Mat Talk' since 1978, but this is the roughest column I have ever had to put into words for public inspection.

I guess it's because Ohio Valley wrestling has lost its best friend in the sportwriting world last June - the late, great Bill Van Horne.

Not since the passing of George Kovalick have we in the mat sport felt so empty. Bill Van Horne represented everything positive in the athletic realm, but we in wrestling can only explain our appreciation of Bill's dedication to our sport.

I had known Mr. Van Horne since 1970. The things he taught me over the years have made me a more compassionate coach, referee, and writer.

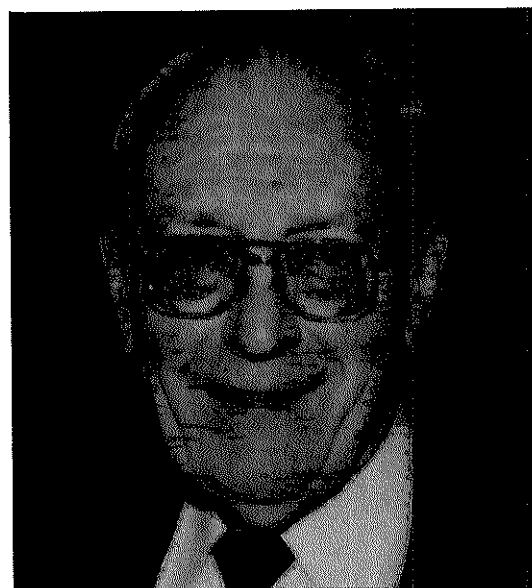
It was Bill Van Horne who opened the door to my writings (Mat Talk) on these pages. And even though it was just an avocation on my part, Bill made it perfectly clear that if I was going to write on his sports pages, it had better be high-quality material.

I have tried to live up to his standards. However, it hasn't been easy. Whenever I wrote a column that I really liked, Bill would show me how I could have done better, or what I forgot to mention. It was always a personal learning experience with Bill.

At times, Bill was unrelenting in his criticism of my writing. "You're preaching, Bill" or "That was corny." And I must admit, it often hurt the pride. But Bill did not care about my pride. Though I didn't always appreciate his candid comments, I did comprehend where he was coming from. His main concern was to make me a better writer. Hopefully, he succeeded.

Bill's basic philosophy as a writing mentor was "You have to be cruel, sometimes, to be kind." I understood this doctrine very well because the best coaches I ever had were made of the same stuff. And note, although Bill never coached a sport in his life, he epitomized all those outstanding qualities that make for coaching greatness. Maybe that's why his penned perceptions of sports over the last 50 years were always on target.

Bill Van Horne was fiery, moody, demanding, uncompromising, and often overbearing. I guess that's why I loved him so. Words can not tell how much I will miss him and his critical comments of my columns. He cared enough to give me heck when it was warranted - just like my father and all the inspirational coaches I have had as an athlete. One last sincere thank you, Bill.



In closing, allow me to share the following poem I wrote about Bill for his 1989 testimonial dinner at the Wheeling Civic Center on the evening of Dec. 10. It sums up his love for sports, a love that will surely be missed by all of us who knew this fantastic human being.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

*Be it summer or winter, he's always there,
In rain, snow and sleet to watch the affair.
Love for the contest is Bill's claim to fame,
Letting us know who's on top of the game.
Valley athletics - from the heart - he supports,
Attempting to spotlight the "Stars" in all sports.
Non can compare in the fourth estate,
His award-winning columns are really great.
Over the years, Bill's witnessed the best,
Reporting on champions being put to the test.
Now everyone knows why this man was born,
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BILL VAN HORNE.*

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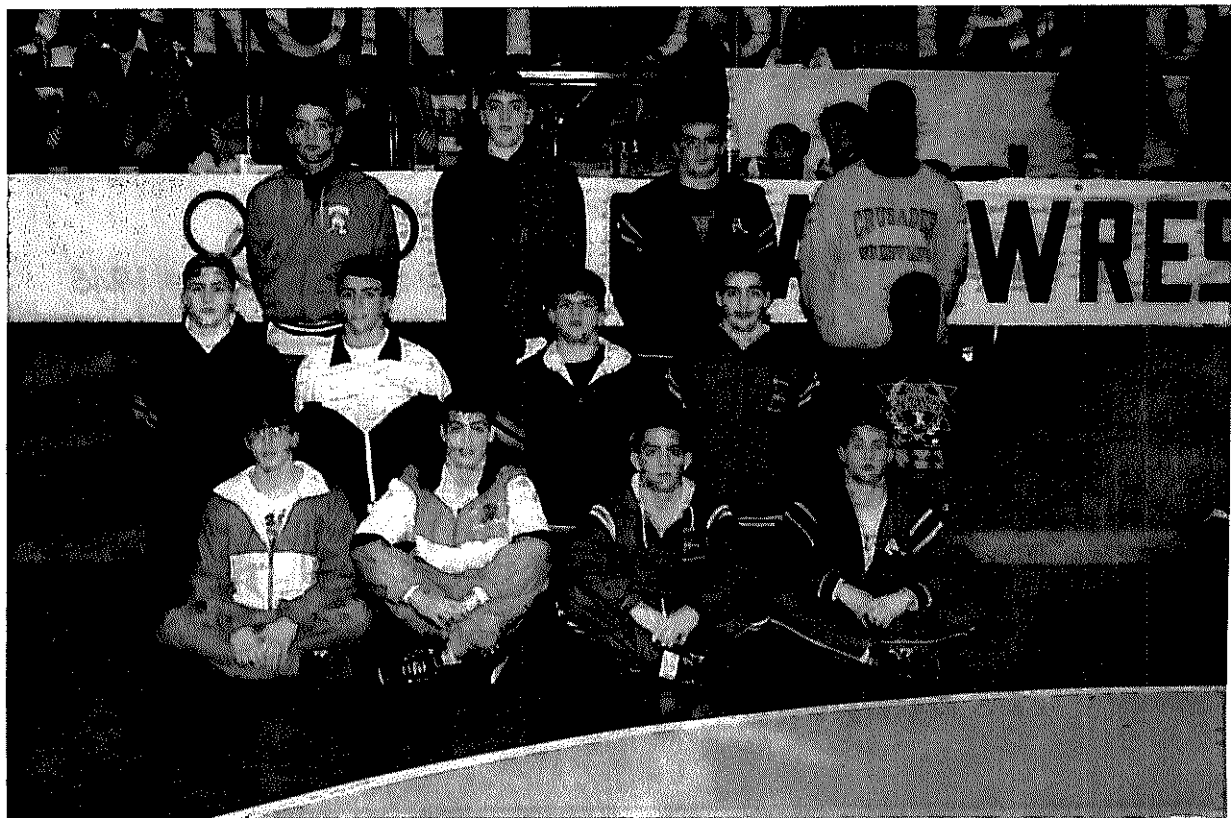
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1995 OVAC FINAL TEAM SCORES

| AAAA | | AAA | | AA | | A | |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| STEUBBR. | 197 | M FERRY | 185 | BARNESV. | 89 1/2 | CAMERON | 109 1/2 |
| W. PARK | 156 | ST. CLAIR | 123 1/2 | SHENANDO | 86 | BRIDGEPO | 83 |
| JOHN.MAR | 147 | BELLAIRE | 75 | WELLS.V. | 60 | BISHOP D. | 61 |
| BEAV. L | 139 | RIVER | 62 | STEUB.CE | 59 | ST. JOHN | 53 1/2 |
| BUCK L | 136 1/2 | ULOCAL | 54 1/2 | CADIZ | 41 1/2 | LINSLEY | 36 |

1995 OVAC INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS



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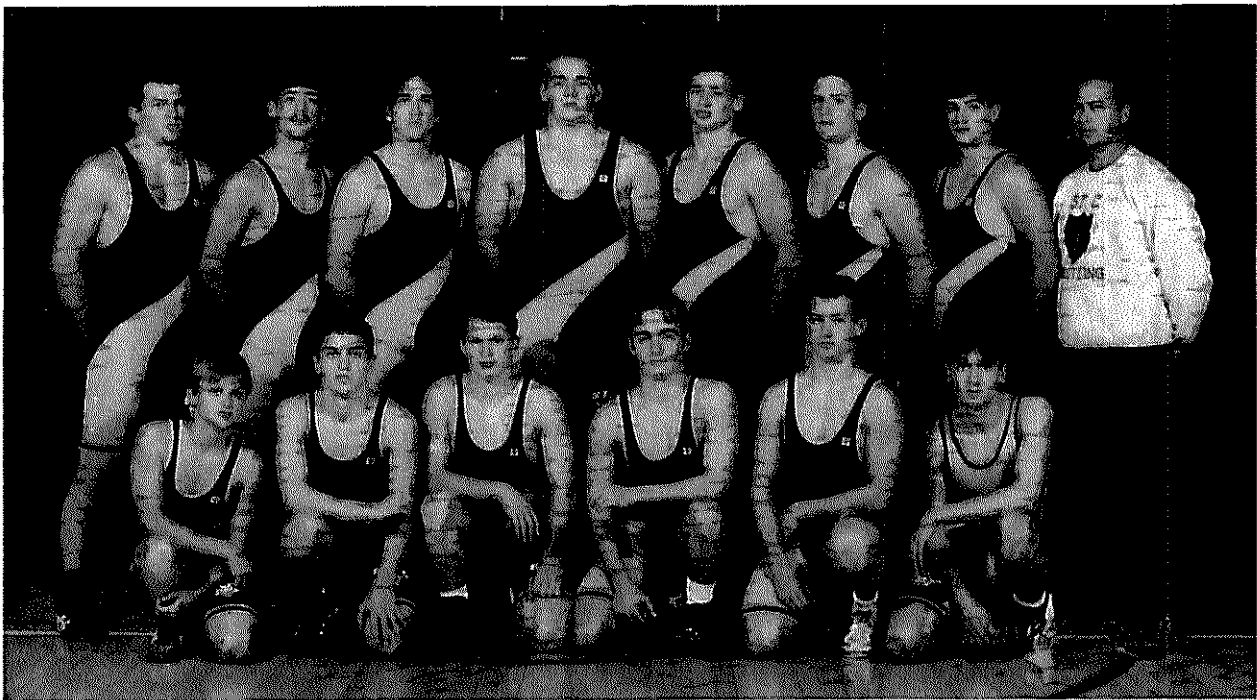
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it's happening at the 'LIGHTS'"*

ST. CLAIRSVILLE WRESTLING



Red Devils



1st Row: Bobby Stoner, David Hinsey, Rick Dillon, Andy Dickerson, Mike Burris, Jeremy DaRe

2nd Row: Cary Heath, Mike Fador, Rick DaRe, Jason Heskett, Kirk Heath, Dave Drydek, Nick Porter, Coach Vrotsos, Assistant Coach John Mitchell

Colors: Red & Gray

Class: 3A

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*Meeting nights - first Wednesday of every month
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First Vice- President: Jack Glasgow

Second Vice-President: Bev Davis

Secretary: Eleanor White

Treasurer: Carla Seals

***Good Luck To All Our
Patriot Wrestlers!***

OAK GLEN HIGH SCHOOL 1995-96 WRESTLING TEAM



1st Row, 1-r: Blank, Jason Jones, Kimmer Cline, Mike Witherow, Matt Smith, Eddie Weible, Andy Wharton. 2nd Row, 1-r: Jimmy McCall, Robbie Lamb, Jerry Crow, Monty Waterhouse, Josh Adkins, Denny Lebec. 3rd Row, 1-r: Beth Zanker, Casey Burch, Trainer Randy Elliott, Jack Hoyt, Pat McGeehan, Shawn Milner, Scott Skinner, Drew Snider, Steve Myers, Frank Crummitt, Mark Wright, Shauna Smith. 4th Row, 1-r: Asst. Coach Rick Brown, Head Coach Larry Shaw, Josh Reed, Duwayne Bland, Alex McClung, Dirk Snider, Jason Gray, Brock Beatty, Robert Wildman, Oscar Hoyt, Asst. Coach Bill Wells, Laura Roberts.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR - JOHN EDWARDS

PRINCIPAL - THOMAS SALVATI

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OVAC Class AAAA

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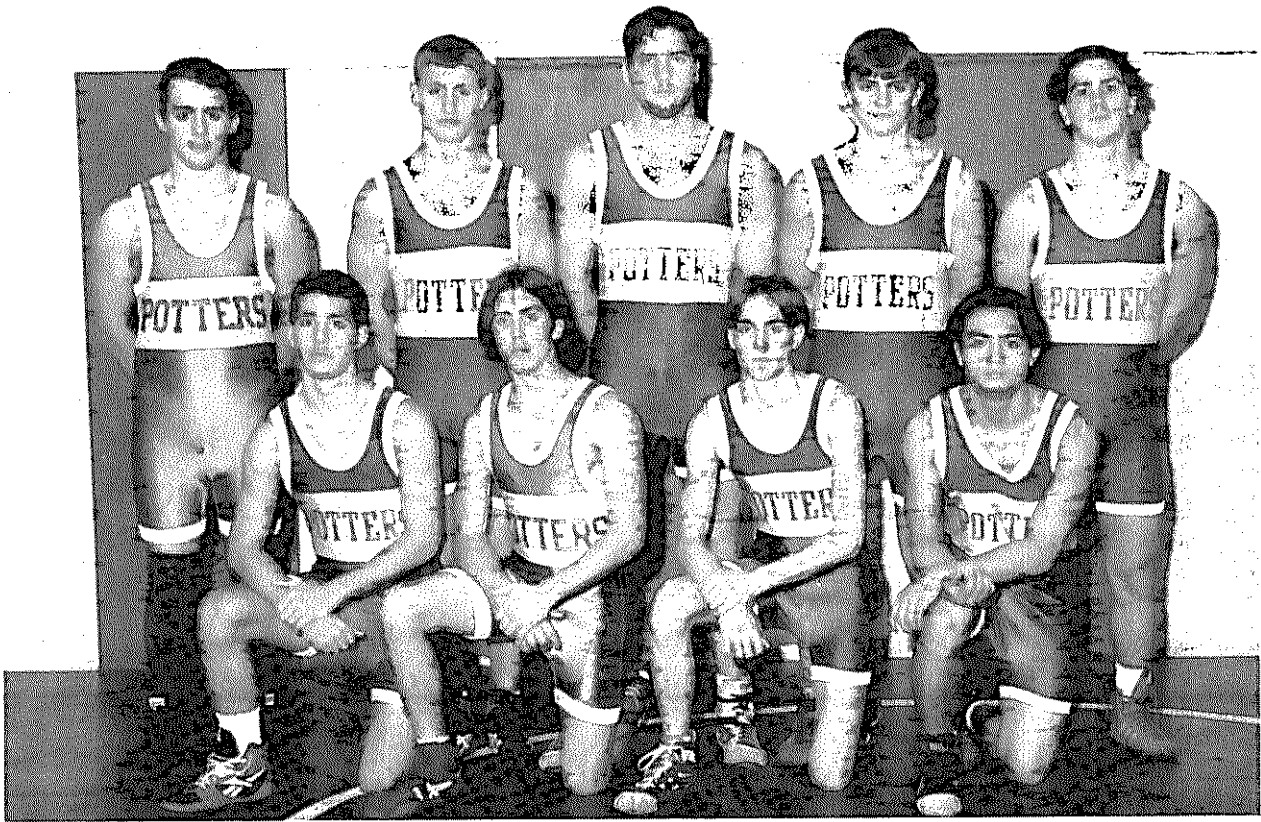
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Front (l to r): Frank C. Dawson, Belinda D. Dunlap, C. James Cooper.
Back (l to r): Timothy W. Martin, James P. Dunlap, Daniel T. Ibbs.

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EAST LIVERPOOL HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING 1995-96



Varsity Lettermen

Front (L - R): Mike Cunningham, Jason Eckles, Aaron Locke, Soungie Sarge
Standing (L - R): Doug Wolfe, Jeff Wright, Matt Fitch, Eric Miller, Jake Ludwig

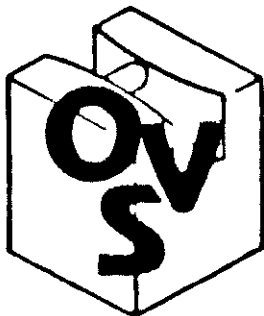
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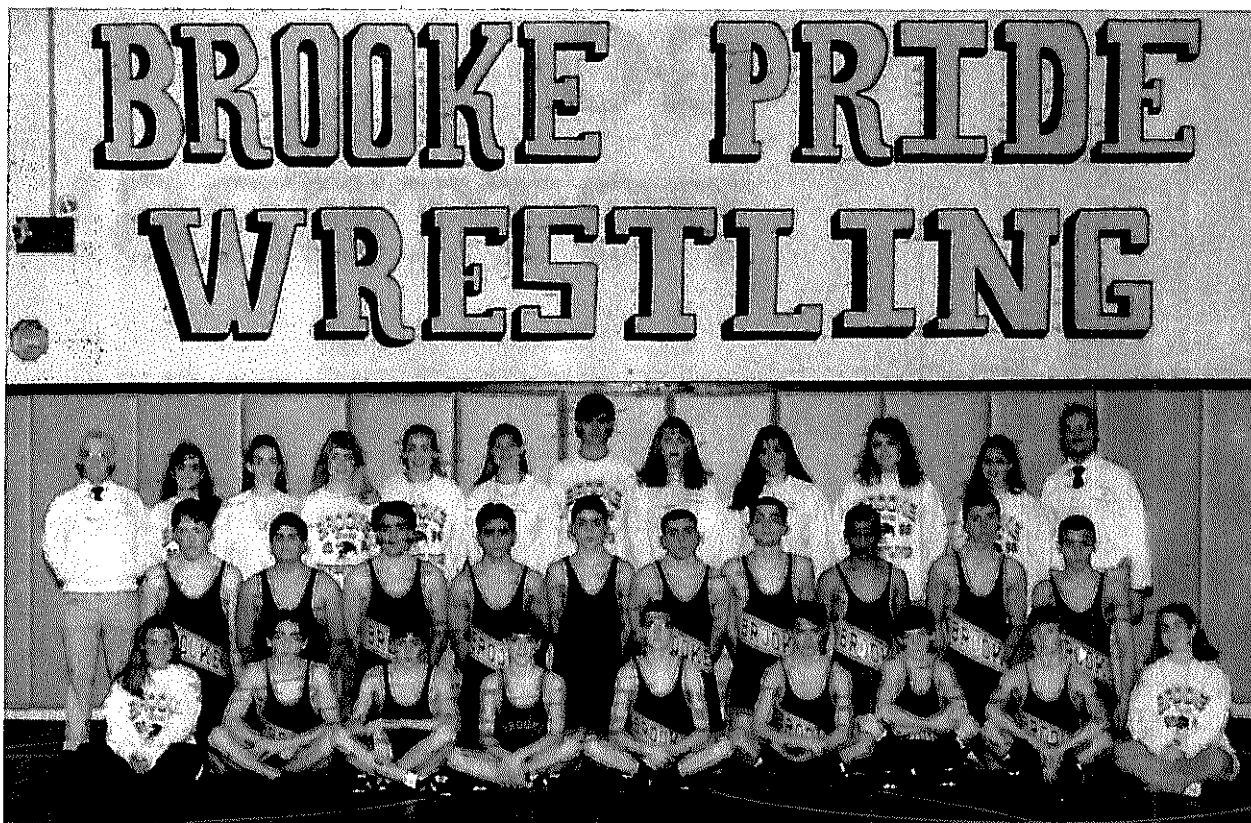
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1995-96 BROOKE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Seated, left to right: Jamie Radvansky, (Mgr.), Joel Rogers, Rick Wallace, Jim Clifton, Ben Kennen, Rick Stanley, Dan Stanley, Dewitt Stanley, Alicia Kelly (Photographer)

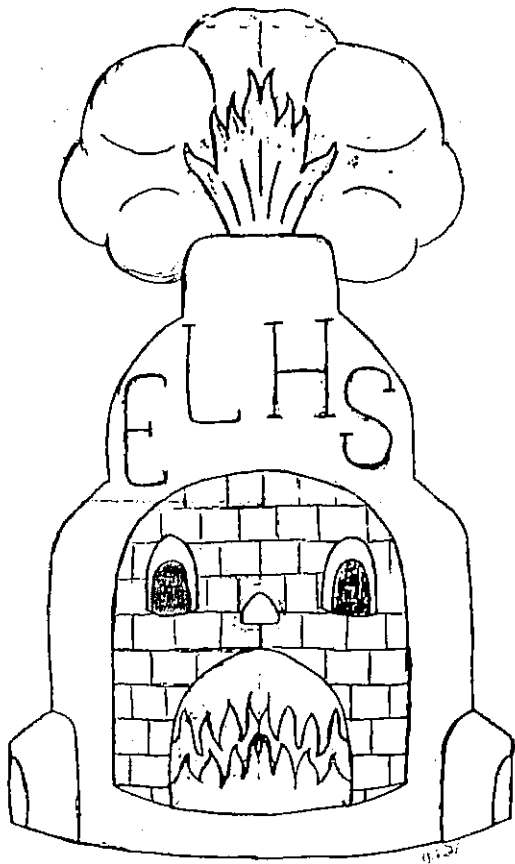
Kneeling, left to right: Bill Spencer, Mike Wilson, Nick Minda, Don Alexander, James Cuffley, Ian Robinson, David Muir, Joey Nichols, John Dean, Jason Gillispie

Standing, left to right: Nolan VanGilder (Head Coach), Kelly Runyan (Mgr.), Jesse Hörnick, (Stats) Mandi Everhart (Mgr.), Betsy Wood (Mgr.), Teri Fowler (Stats), Rich Goodman (Mgr.), Erin Irwin (VCR), Jennifer Turkaly, (VCR), Jessica Wright (Mgr.), Melinda Stock (Mgr.), Joe Erlewine (Asst. Coach)

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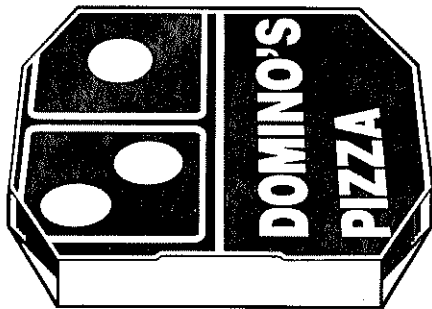
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SATURDAY EVENING OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

PAST CHAMPIONS INTRODUCED

Presenter Steve Kish, Superintendent
Martins Ferry Schools

6:17 PM

Assistant Wrestling Coach
Honored

RAFFLE

Dick Edge, Superintendent
Switzerland of Ohio Schools
(Awards and Sales Coordinator)

6:20 PM

Junior High School Coach
Honored

6:25 PM

Service Award Winners

MR. MAT AWARD

Presenter Ron Mauck, Tournament Director

6:30 PM

Past Champions Introductions

6:40 PM

Olympic Theme

"A" RUNNER-UP

Presenter John Vrotsos
1978 Mr. Mat

6:45 PM

Singing of the National Anthem

"A" CHAMPION

Presenter Dick Edge
1979 Mr. Mat

6:50 PM

Parade of Champions Exit
Olympic Theme

7:00 PM

START TOURNAMENT

"AA" RUNNER-UP

Presenter Bob Hedmond
1981 Mr. Mat

Jerry Alberts, Fox Run Hospital, Will Assist In
Presenting Awards.

"AA" CHAMPION

Presenter Dr. Vince Monseau
1983 Mr. Mat

"AAA" RUNNER-UP

Presenter Dave Kovalick
1988 Mr. Mat

"AAA" CHAMPION

Presenter Steve Kish
1989 Mr. Mat

"AAAA" RUNNER-UP

Presenter Larry Deaton
1992 Mr. Mat

"AAAA" CHAMPION

Presenter Dick Edge
Supt. Switzerland of Ohio Schools

CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER

Presenter Jerry Alberts
Director of Marketing Fox Run Hospital

6:00 PM Open Warm-Up For All Place
Winner Participants

6:15 PM INTRODUCTION

Special Thanks To:
Ron Mauck, Tournament Director
Dennis Magruder, Civic Center Manager
Bill Walter, Cameron Coca-Cola
Jerry Alberts, Fox Run Hospital
Dale Klee, Cameron Coca-Cola

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

LIST OF TROPHY PRESENTERS BY WEIGHT CLASS

103
112
119
125
130
135
140
145
152
160
171
189
215
275

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Presenter Larry Shaw
Oak Glen High School

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Presenter Dr. Bill Welker
1991 Mr. Mat

SERVICE AWARD WINNER

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The Wrestling Parent

*Parents in wrestling are courageous -- it's true,
They feel all the pain that their boy must go through,
At home, when he diets, they wish it could stop,
Yet know he must do it to stay at the top.*

*Excuses for losing they will never endure,
"Don't blame the ref, son, because of the score,
The coach, he will show you the best way to move,
Keep working in practice if you want to improve."*

*At dual meets, you'll see them whispering a prayer,
As their boy must compete with no one else there,
Whatever the outcome - mom cheers with deep pride,
While dad - you will notice - stands right by his side.*

*They'll drive to a tournament many miles away,
To witness a son who's prepared for this day,
Their boy, he has trained, with all of his might,
Having hopes of becoming a champion tonight.*

*But should he fall short, at his corner you'll find,
A mother and father - supportive and kind,
They teach that through wrestling he'll learn about life,
Yes, living is filled with both triumph and strife.*

*Now if you are searching for people who care,
Just look by a mat, they'll always be there,
Such love for a sport is truly inherent,
That's why we salute THE WRESTLING PARENT.*

By Bill Welker, Ed. D.

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WHAT IS WRESTLING AND WHY WRESTLE? ? ? ? ?

Competition is an inherent character trait in all forms of animal life, rooted in a need for preservation of the species, through survival of the fittest.

While evolving, man has perpetuated this innate desire to demonstrate such superiority. However, in a more enlightened society, it has progressed from battles to the death, by creating and refining games and sports, which may determine a winner by scoring systems, thereby eliminating the ultimate barbarism.

It is believed that wrestling and running are the earliest known competitive sports practiced by man, and continued today. Perhaps the single most compelling argument that such is the case, is the fact that all that is required are two competitors with a desire to determine individual superiority.

Today, wrestling has become, if not a science, at the very least, an art form. Strength, speed, and agility are all desirable attributes for any aspiring wrestler, but absent the knowledge and skills, which are constantly being honed and refined, seldom will the untrained and undisciplined ever be victorious.

No athletic endeavor requires as deep a commitment or as much dedication and self-sacrifice as does wrestling. No one who enters the sport of wrestling and labors seriously, to become the best that they can be, will ever be the same person again. The impact of that experience will forever alter perspectives, values, and personal dignity.

To a committed wrestler, a complete metamorphosis transpires,---for as a caterpillar, having wrapped itself in a cocoon, ultimately emerges as a butterfly,---so a boy immerses himself in a wrestling program and emerges as a man!

What a joy it is to see the progress and view the process!

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**All Participants and Workers in the
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January 18-19-20, 1996
Held At The
Wheeling Civic Center**

**Dr. William A. Welker, Souvenir Program Coordinator
Mr. Richard Wolf, Assistant Program Coordinator**

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Bill Van Horne: He Was 'One of a Kind'

(Editor's Note: On Dec. 10, 1989, News-Register Editor Bill Van Horne's family and legions of friends traveled from far and wide to attend a testimonial dinner at the Wheeling Civic Center in honor of the veteran Ohio Valley sports journalist. The program for that dinner included this tribute written by Van Horne's associate sports editor and friend, Nick Bedway. The News-Register reprints that piece, exactly as it was printed for the dinner, with affection.)

**By Nick Bedway
Associate Sports Editor**

Unquestionably, Bill Van Horne is one of a kind.

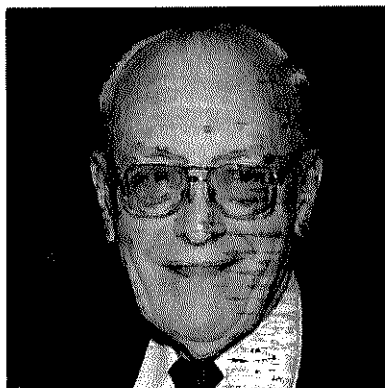
During a memorable newspaper career now approaching five decades, the esteemed sports editor of the Wheeling News-Register has become a giant in his field and a role model for aspiring writers.

Above all, he is a man to be admired and respected for his integrity, dedication, fairness, knowledge and compassion. People from all walks of life - whether they be a baby-faced high school athlete competing in his or her first track meet or a Pro-Football Hall of Famer - can be assured of one thing. Bill Van Horne, our man for all sports seasons, will impartially treat each individual with respect and consideration. Their accomplishments will be chronicled accurately and receive the recognition each one deserves.

There was never an event too small for his time, nor has there been one too big for him to cover.

Elsewhere in the program you will find a resume of Bill's outstanding and ongoing career. Listed are the numerous and very deserved awards his fellow men and women have bestowed upon him. You can also read about the hundreds and, yes, even thousands of sporting events he has covered through the years. And you'll find the names of many of the Ohio Valley's athletic greats, all of whom Bill has followed from their beginnings on the sandlot to the major league arenas.

But in this special tribute to the man and his life, we prefer to focus on the accomplishments of Bill Van Horne and what his work and



what his efforts of love have meant to the thousands of us who have read the fruits of his labors these many years.

His columns have often been masterpiece chronicles of the lives of others. His support of the 13 Elby's Distance Races and the annual West Virginia Tennis Opens have earned him wide acclaim and also permitted these events to reach the prominence they deserve.

Bill's hand also was a factor in the popularity and success enjoyed by the Wheeling Ironmen and Wheeling Blues' professional football and basketball teams during their heydays. The same goes for the Wheeling LPGA Classics, which were a fixture for 11 years at Oglebay Park and the Speidel championship golf course. You could say the same thing about literally hundreds of other events that have surfaced in our grand Ohio Valley during his 25 years as the sports editor of the Times Leader and his (then) 23-year association at the News-Register.

That's one reason why many of you are here tonight: to say thank you to someone who has been so responsive and cooperative in supporting events that have meant so much in your respective communities.

Bill likes to joke about the fact that he's always been a sports editor. He's never been demoted or promoted in all this time. You can bet there have been numerous opportunities for promotions, but leaving the sports scene in his beloved Ohio Valley is something he'd never seriously consider. Of course, you don't demote somebody who is irreplaceable.

Athletes and coaches who have left the area and were successful on the collegiate and professional level

have found that they really are as close to home as the newspaper that is tossed up on the porch of their family's, friends' and fans' residences.

All are kept abreast of these sports figures' career highlights because of Bill's intense interest in them both as athletes and as men or women. When one or more of them reaches the end of a career, Van Horne provides still another fitting tribute to their past and a look at their future plans.

And Bill's remembrances of those who have been called from this earth are journalistic classics. His ability to recall minute details of things that took place decades ago is legendary. His descriptions of those events come from the heart, like the rest of his work, and they provide great comfort to the families at a time when it is most needed.

His knowledge and expertise about the past also have proven valuable as he serves on hall of fame boards for the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, the city of Wheeling and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club.

No one can touch Bill when he's at the microphone either while he's inducting one of his long-time friends in a Hall of Fame; introducing the winner of the News-Register award that goes to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's coach of the year; announcing a track meet on a raw, bone-chilling Saturday afternoon; or serving as a toastmaster as he has done at countless athletic banquets.

It would be easy to go on and on while on the subject of Bill Van Horne the sports editor, humanitarian, concerned citizen, loyal friend, beloved husband of Gladys, father of Linda Van Horne Ellis and grandfather of Chrissy Ellis.

Bill's career is like that of the successful long distance runner. He's running the great race of his life, God willing, his race is far from over.

(Note: Nick Bedway is now the sports editor of The Wheeling News-Register.)



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CHAMPIONS**

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Wrestling

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OVAC 'AA' TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992

OVAC 'AA' DUAL MEET CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992

HEAD COACH: REED CASE
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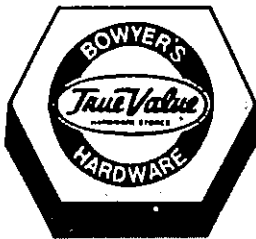
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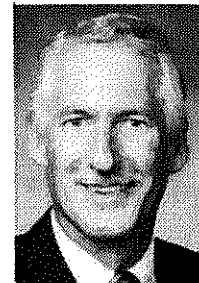
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He puts the champion where he's at,
By making him work to earn his plaque
His name's not found in big headlines,
But he's always there come practice time.

I often wonder — were the champion second team,
Would he keep on trying or lose his gleam,
Would he give his all if there was no fame,
And not give up for the good of the game.

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by Bill Welker

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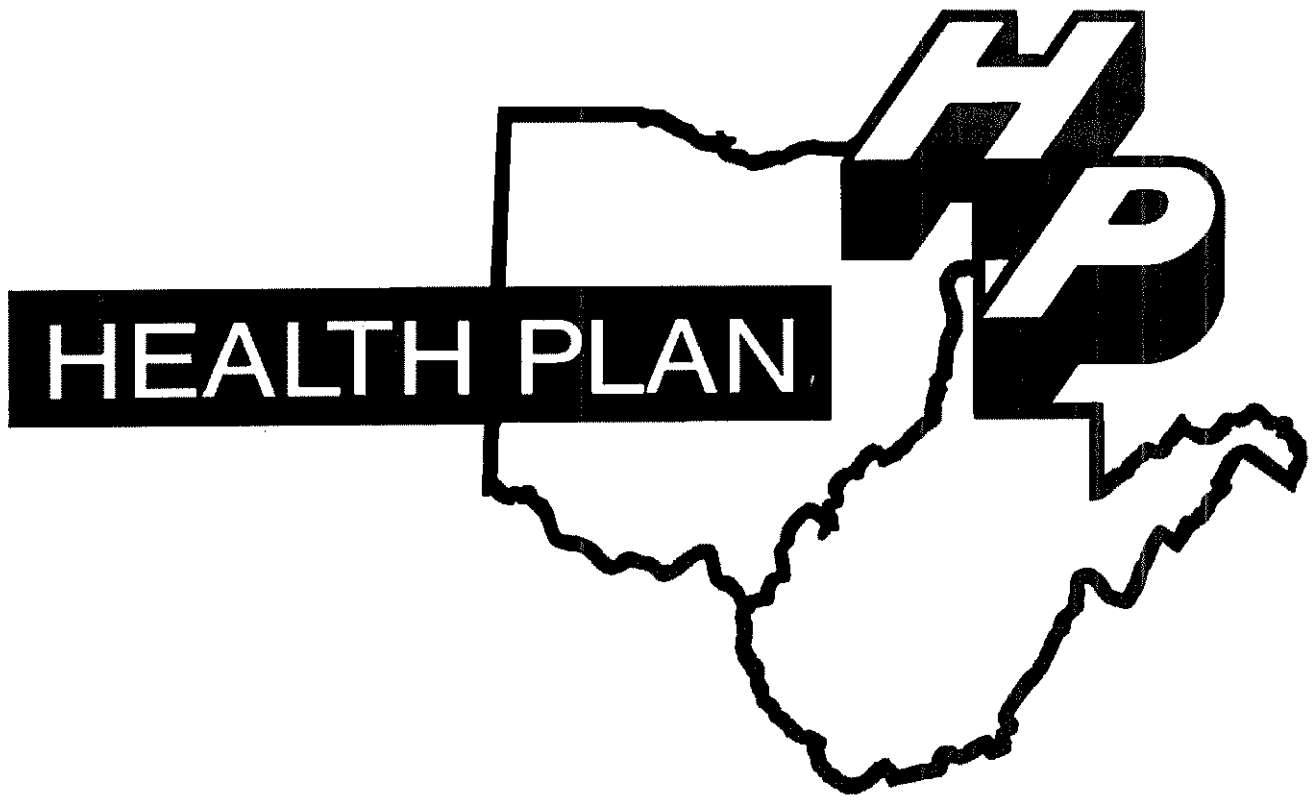
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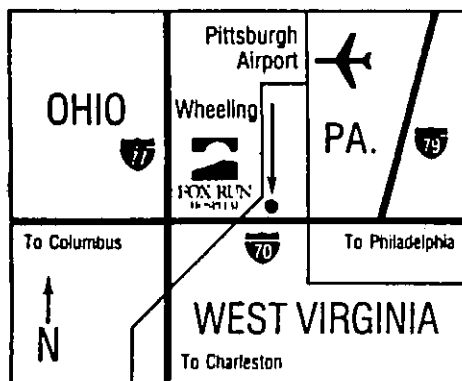
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