

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
Mary-Margaret Kleeh
Mike Nau
Larry “Babe” Smith
Vernon Seals
Cliff Sligar
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.

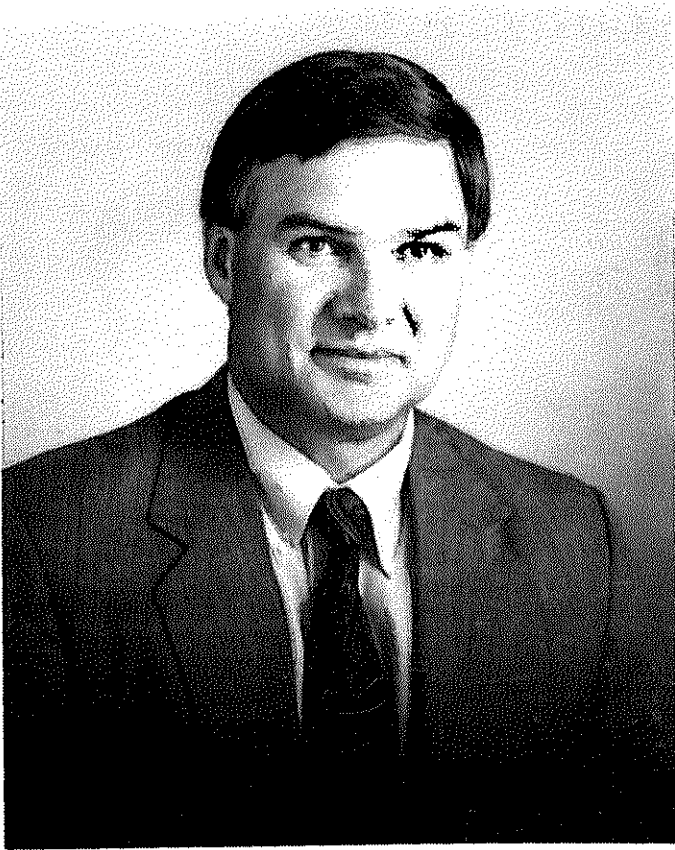
From its meager and uncertain start in 1954, the OVAC Wrestling Tournament has grown into one of the major sports attractions in the Ohio Valley.

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. Dan Stephens

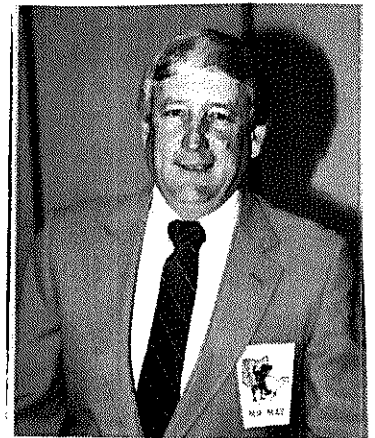
*Principal - Martins Ferry High School
1997 OVAC President*



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."

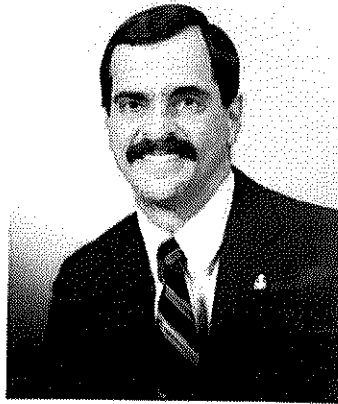
*Mr. Ronald Mauck
Brooke High School
Director*



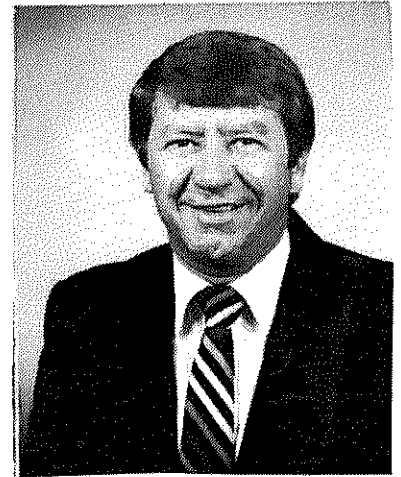
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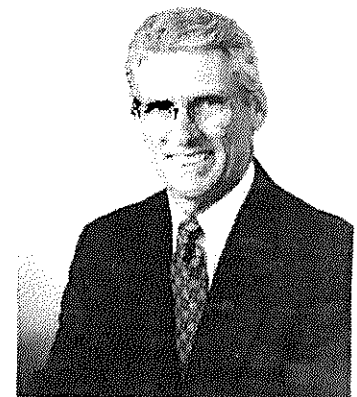
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January 23, 1997

Dear Wrestling Fans,

We have long appreciated and recognized the excellent service the O.V.A.C. has provided the youth of this area. For over 50 years, the O.V.A.C. has distinguished itself as the premier athletic conference in Ohio and West Virginia. Few may realize that, in a very small but very significant way, the O.V.A.C. has also expanded its influence into Pennsylvania. Due to a unique tuition arrangement, students from Midland, Pennsylvania now attend East Liverpool High School.

As superintendent of this tiny district with a rich and proud history, I am very happy that our students will enjoy the many outstanding programs conducted through the auspices of the O.V.A.C.. Through the hard work and dedication of many unselfish individuals, the O.V.A.C. continues to promote scholarship and sportsmanship while sponsoring first class sporting events.

The O.V.A.C. Wrestling Tournament is indicative of the commitment to this high level of excellence. This tournament has it all. The beauty of the opening ceremonies and the excitement of the individual matches, to the seesaw team races and the awarding of trophies and prestigious accolades are truly impressive. The gut wrenching overtimes and last second victories produce memories that last a lifetime while the quality and dedication of the athletes and their coaches is a source of pride for all fans.

For twelve years I was privileged to coach in this conference and in this tournament. I enjoyed the tough competition, the camaraderie with my fellow coaches and the joy of preparing our wrestlers for this grueling yet rewarding three day event. My appreciation and admiration of the tournament directors Ron Mauck and Bill Hinegardner and their army of volunteers, has grown through the years. Their efforts are unequalled in high school athletics.

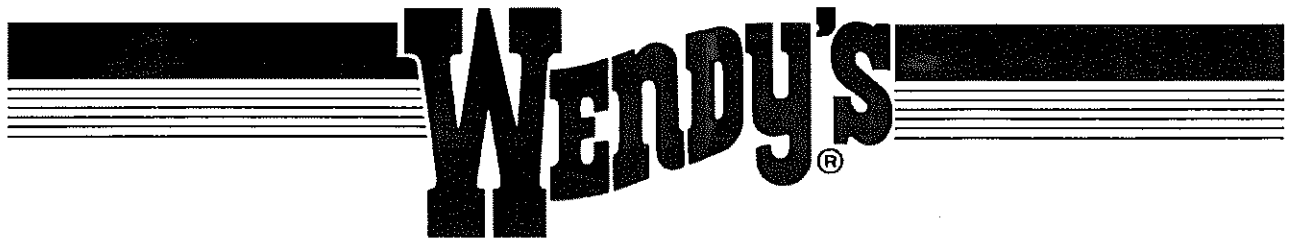
Words cannot adequately express my feelings of how pleased and proud I am that our students will enjoy the many benefits provided to them by the O.V.A.C..

My sincere best wishes to all for a successful and enjoyable tournament.

Very Truly Yours,



Nick P. Trombetta
Superintendent



Welcomes You to Wheeling and
The OVAC Wrestling Tournament

Proudly
Serving the Youth
of the Ohio Valley in
Academics and Athletics



and
the



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Bridgeport, Ohio • St. Clairsville, Ohio • Barnesville, Ohio
Moundsville, West Virginia • Benwood, West Virginia
Wellsburg, West Virginia • Elm Grove, West Virginia

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HOPPEL

Synonymous With Success

Rising sharply from the river valley and nestled in the lush rolling hills of southern Columbiana County, lies the Hoppel homestead. A meticulous and productive farm, it is obviously the work of proud and industrious individuals. And so it was, that into this hardy environment, the five sons of Lee and Everett Hoppel; [Herm, Darryl, Jim, Dave and Carl] were born.

Wrestling at East Liverpool was introduced as an inter-scholastic sport in 1947 with the renowned Bob Dutton as the first coach.

Dutton's successor, after two years, was the venerable Lou Venditti. Coach Venditti, recognized in the Hoppel's the inherent character trait of aggressive competitiveness, steeped in a work ethic of commitment and dedication, which he saw not only as individual successes, but more importantly as the catalysts for team success.

Motivated and inspired by enthusiastic supportive parents and an innate desire to excel, predictable success on the mat was assured.

The stories told and retold by teammates, of the farmhouse living-room gatherings, where furniture was moved and carpets were rolled up to accommodate the latest challenge, are legend.

Everett Hoppel, the patriarch, of what has made the family name Hoppel synonymous with greatness in Ohio schoolboy wrestling annals, brought an energy and enthusiasm to this new sport which spread far beyond the effect on his sons. For his enthusiasm was such that it was contagious, and all

who fell within his sphere of influence were positively impacted. For some he was a father figure, to others a confidante, to many a motivator, and to all an inspiration.

Tragically, Everett, wrestling's good-will ambassador, lost his life in an accident in 1977. Knowing what wrestling meant to him and what he meant to wrestling, it was both fitting and proper that his memory and legacy live on. And so, this year we celebrate the 20th Everett Hoppel Memorial Wrestling Tournament at Beaver Local High School.

The four oldest brothers wrestled for East Liverpool, but when the Beaver Local School District was established, the Hoppel farm fell within its geographic boundaries. Therefore, Carl, the youngest brother, attended and competed for the "Fighting Beavers".

It is not enough simply to acknowledge their accomplishments. Additionally, all were dynamic leaders by example. They motivated and inspired both teammates and competitors to attain greater levels of performance, and in so doing they brought a rare enthusiasm to this sport, that continues to this day. The mere presence of the brothers, at any match, assures the maximum in competitive performance by the participants, evidence of the continuing influence they have on wrestling. It is not strange that every wrestler's desire is to do his best before his idols.

Richard Keith Wolf

THE HOPPEL BROTHERS' RECORDS

Herman ELHS '53
'53-State runner-up

Darryl ELHS '55
'54-State Champion
'55-State Champion
ELHS
Hall of Fame

Jim ELHS '56
'55-State Champion
'56-3rd State
ELHS
Hall of Fame
Bowling Green
State University
Hall of Fame

10 Consecutive years with a brother competing in the Ohio State Tournament and 12 State Placers.

Dave ELHS '58
'56-State Runner-up
'57-State Runner-up
'58-4th State
ELHS
Hall of Fame

Carl BLHS '62
'59-State Champion
'60-State Runner-up
'61-State Champion
'62-State Champion
BLHS
Hall of Fame

THE LEGACY LIVES ON

Dave's Sons
— — — —

Randy BLHS
MVP Hoppel Tourney
'78-5th State
'79-6th State
West Liberty State
3 time NAIA Qualifier

Mark BLHS
MVP Hoppel Tourney
'78-State qualifier
'79-3rd State
'80-State qualifier
NAIA Champion
& Muskingum College
Individual Match
Record Holder

John BLHS
'87-State qualifier

Carl's Son
— — — —

Doug BLHS
MVP Hoppel Tourney

Herm's Grandson
— — — —
Dustin Harris BLHS '94
'93-'94-OVAC Champion
'93-State Champion
'94-Bierkorte Award
(OVAC MVP)

1996

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

TEAM SCORING

OVER ALL

1. Buckeye Local -----	200
2. Wheeling Park -----	181.5
3. East Liverpool -----	179
4. John Marshall -----	171
5. Steubenville -----	130.5
6. Barnesville -----	129
7. River Local -----	125
8. Bellaire -----	123.5
9. St. Clairsville -----	120.5
10. Cadiz -----	119
11. Beaver Local -----	112
12. Wellsville -----	102
13. Martins Ferry -----	99.5
14. Edison Local -----	96
15. Indian Creek -----	94
16. Brooke -----	92
17. Cameron -----	78
18. Cambridge -----	72
19. St. John's Central -----	72
20. Bridgeport -----	67
21. Oak Glen -----	63
22. Bishop Donahue -----	63
23. Union Local -----	52
24. Linsly Institute -----	42
25. Caldwell -----	38
26. Beallsville -----	37
27. Shadyside -----	36.5
28. Shenandoah -----	34
29. Tyler Consolidated -----	33.5
30. Meadowbrook -----	24
31. Magnolia -----	19
32. Weirton Madonna -----	19
33. Steubenville Central -----	17.5
34. Monroe Central -----	13
35. Valley -----	3

AAAA

1. Buckeye Local
2. Wheeling Park
3. East Liverpool
4. John Marshall
5. Steubenville
6. Beaver Local
7. Edison Local
8. Indian Creek
9. Brooke
10. Cambridge
11. Oak Glen
12. Weirton

AAA

1. River Local
2. Bellaire
3. St. Clairsville
4. Martins Ferry
5. Union Local
6. Tyler Consolidated
7. Meadowbrook
8. Magnolia
9. Monroe Central

AA

1. Barnesville
2. Cadiz
3. Wellsville
4. Caldwell
5. Shenandoah
6. Steubenville Central

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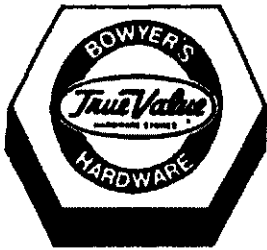
1. Cameron
2. St. John Central
3. Bridgeport
4. Bishop Donahue
5. Linsly Institute
6. Beallsville
7. Shadyside
8. Weirton Madonna
9. Valley

Athletics are built on a foundation of teamwork
an object lesson for success in society.

PAT HADLEY

COLUMBIANA COUNTY AUDITOR

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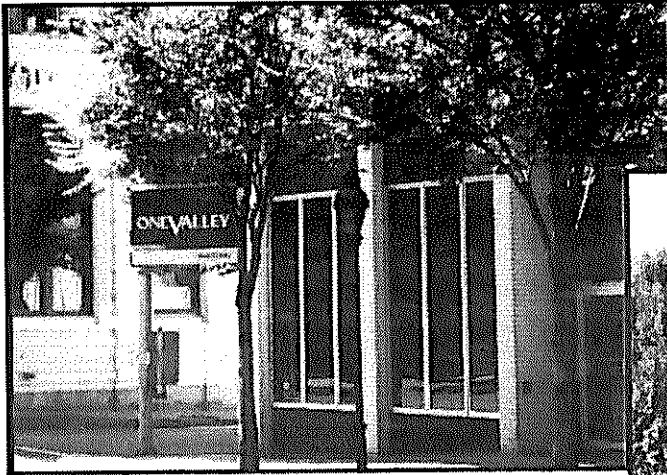
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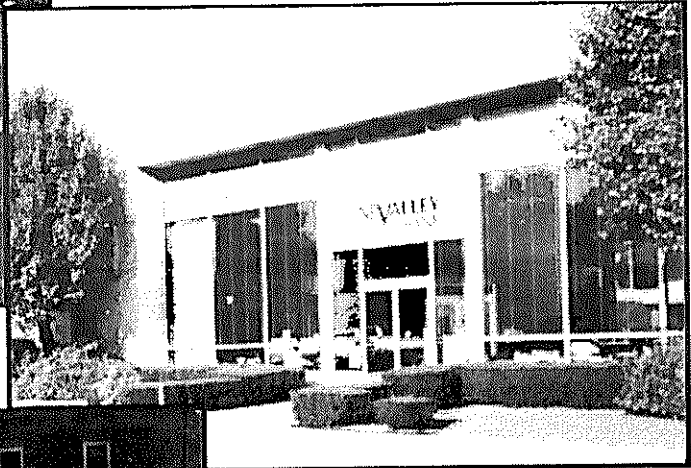
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Cameron

Good Luck To All OVAC Wrestlers.

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WRESTLING

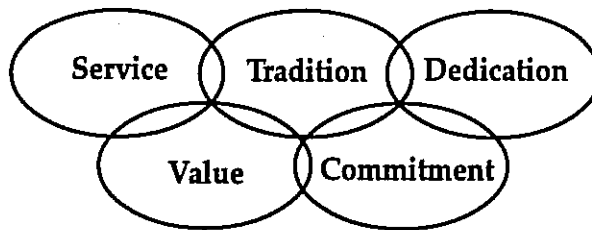
Good Luck To All OVAC Teams



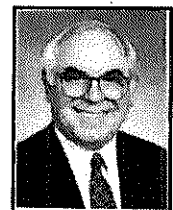
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OVAC
Wrestling Tournament Schedule
1997

Meet Sessions

8 MATS

First Session, January 23, Thursday, 6:00 PM

8 MATS

Second Session, January 24, Friday, 12:00 PM

8 MATS

Third Session, January 24, Friday, 7:00 PM

8 MATS

Fourth Session, January 25, Saturday, 12:00 PM

Semi-Finals and Quarter/Semi-Final Consolations

8 MATS

Fifth Session, January 25, Saturday, 6:00 PM

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

OFFICIALS

ANTHONY, RAY	Columbia Station, OH	KEENAN, CHARLIE	Steubenville, OH
BENDER, BOB	Martins Ferry, OH	KILDOW, SHANE	Bethesda, OH
COFFLAND, LOU	Cadiz, OH	KISH, STEVE, JR.	Martins Ferry, OH
CROSIER, JAMES	Barnesville, OH	LONG, STEVE	Centerville, OH
CROSIER, RICK	Steubenville, OH	LYNN, DAVE	Barnesville, OH
CROSIER, SHAWN	Steubenville, OH	MARLING, RAY	Martins Ferry, OH
HARE, RICK	Williamsport, MD	VCELKA, TONY	Belmont, OH
JEFFERIS, JOHN	Barnesville, OH	WOODS, TOM	Mt. Lake Park, MD

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

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LEE KRAGES..... FOOD SERVICE

O.V.A.C. Wrestling

Thursday Night

Opening Ceremonies

JANUARY 23, 1997

4:00-5:00 Weigh-ins (Ohio Valley Scales)
5:35 Coach's meeting and scratch schedule
5:35-6:00 Warm up on mats

<p style="text-align: center;">5:35-5:40</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barnesville 2. Beallsville 3. Beaver Local 4. Bellaire 5. Bishop Donahue 6. Bridgeport 7. Brooke 8. Buckeye Local 	<p style="text-align: center;">5:40-5:45</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Cadiz 10. Caldwell 11. Cambridge 12. Cameron 13. East Liverpool 14. Edison 15. Indian Creek 16. John Marshall 	<p style="text-align: center;">5:45-5:50</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Linsly 18. Magnolia 19. Martins Ferry 20. Meadowbrook 21. Monroe Central 22. Oak Glen 23. River 24. Shadyside 25. Shenandoah
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<p style="text-align: center;">5:50-5:55</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. St. Clairsville 27. St. John 28. Steubenville 29. Steubenville Catholic 30. Tyler Consolidated 31. Union Local 	<p style="text-align: center;">5:55-6:00</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Weirton 33. Weirton Madonna 34. Wellsville 35. 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 - Dr. Vince Monseau, Head Wrestling Coach
West Liberty State College

6:20 National Anthem performed by Dave Dayton, West Liberty State College

6:23 Bill Van Horne Memorial

6:25 Processional exit to Olympic Theme

6:30 Announce on deck wrestlers

“Stick With The Best!”

WHEELING TROPHY



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Joe Thomas, Manager

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25th ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1972 O V A C CHAMPIONS

- 98 - Robbie Stephens ----- Barnesville
105 - Art Jones ----- Bellaire
112 - Harry "Skip" Williams ----- Oak Glen
119 - Dan Doyle ----- Wheeling Central
126 - Doug Mason ----- Brooke
132 - Mike Mavromatis ----- Steubenville
138 - Dick Nichols ----- Brooke
145 - John Vdovjak ----- Warwood
155 - Rick Spencer ----- Steubenville
167 - Frank Ferguson ----- Barnesville
175 - Rick Link ----- St. John Central
185 - Jim Meeker ----- John Marshall
HWT - Wally Pesuit ----- Wintersville

WELCOME BACK !!!!

OVAC 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

DAVID BIERKORTTE AWARD



Dave BIERKORTTE was an outstanding student/athlete at Wheeling Central High School.

He was crowned the 165# Champion of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1970 and finished the season undefeated.

He was fatally injured in an auto accident that Spring, during his Junior year in high school.

The Wheeling Central Catholic Booster Club decided that the best way to pay tribute and honor the memory of their fallen hero was to create, in his name, a perpetual memorial, thus was established **The David Bierkortte Award**.

The recipient of this award is to be announced during the awards ceremony following the conclusion of the Tournament. The honoree, as selected by a panel of judges, is deemed to be the **Most Valuable Wrestler** in the tournament. Formal presentation of the award will take place at The OVAC Annual Spring Awards Banquet.

Each successive recipient brings greater stature and prestige to this coveted award as envisioned by the Booster Club.

DAVE BIERKORTTE WRESTLING AWARD WINNERS

1971	Don Blum	Martins Ferry High School
1972	Art Jones	Bellaire High School
1973	Dan Claugus	Barnesville High School
1974	Shelden Grace	Weirton 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	Randy Pryor	Weirton High School
1980	Trent Iachini	Steubenville High School
1981	Mike Thuchowski	Steubenville High School
1982	Larry Isleman	Toronto High School
1983	Brian Miller	Barnesville High School
1984	Heath Beadmore	Cambridge High School
1985	Tim Moxley	Barnesville High School
1986	Sean Murray	Oak Glen High School
1987	Mark Mlynek	Bellaire High School
1988	Rick Burlenski	Bridgeport High School
1989	Mark Emmerling	East Liverpool High School
1990	Babe Sidon	Martins Ferry High School
1991	Douglas 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
1996	Eric Anderson	St. John's High School

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ERIC ANDERSON
130 POUNDS
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1996 COACHES OF THE YEAR

- * AAAA — DAN DOYLE
- AAA — MARK HOLENKA
- AA — JEFF CROSIER
- A — EMIL NARDONE

**DANIEL BURKE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

DAVID CORNISH, BUCKEYE LOCAL

**GEORGE KOVALICK
SCHOLARSHIP**

ERIC ANDERSON, BELLAIRE ST. JOHN

*** 1996 OVERALL TEAM CHAMPION
BUCKEYE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**1996 OVAC TOURNAMENT
DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

AAA
BUCKEYE LOCAL

AA
RIVER LOCAL

AA
BARNESVILLE

A
CAMERON

**1996 DUAL MEET
CHAMPIONS**

AAAA
BUCKEYE LOCAL

AAA
RIVER LOCAL

AA
BARNESVILLE

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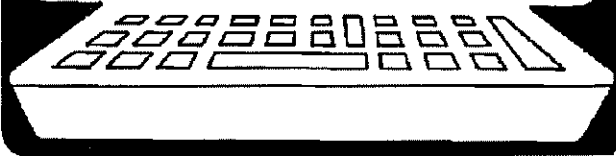
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Bobby Douglas	Bridgeport	1961
Mark Emmerling	East Liverpool	1989
Kelly Shields	Edison South	1993

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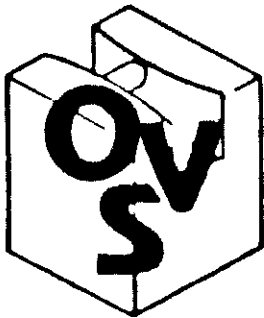
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~~ IN MEMORIAM ~~

DON FERRIS

[1937 - 1996]

Five years ago, when the OVAC voted to include out-of-conference referees in the Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament, Don Ferris' reputation as a top-flite arbiter made him a logical choice to add variety and stature to the officiating ranks.

While refereeing the 125-pound match at the Cleveland St. Edwards/Stowe Walsh Jesuit High School wrestling meet on Friday Feb. 9, 1996, Don went into full cardiac arrest, and was pronounced dead at the Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital.

His sudden and unexpected death sent shock waves throughout the wrestling community. He was considered one of the finest wrestling referees in the State of Ohio. He had gained wide-ranging respect and admiration for his work in officiating several state tournaments and major college meets.

Dr. Bill Welker, 1993 Mr. Mat and West Virginia Wrestling Rules Interpreter said, "As a former Cleveland (homicide) detective, Don fully understood human nature. I only knew Don for a short while, but he epitomized the best in officiating - - - honesty, ability, and an uncanny understanding of the sport of wrestling. This 'referee's referee' will be deeply missed by his colleagues at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament."

Vince Matteucci, the state wrestling rules interpreter and head of Ohio mat officials, (who has also added his prestige to the OVAC Tournament) said Mr. Ferris found being a referee was easy compared to the homicide cases he handled. Matteucci added, "Don had the gift of being able to control a heated match." "I think (Walsh Jesuit wrestling coach) Bill Barger said it best - - - ' He had that piercing look that made you feel guilty you would even question his judgment'. And no one really did, because everybody knew Don was totally honest and fair"

Don's stern demeanor on the mat was silent testimony to the importance he felt for every match and the combatants, which was best demonstrated by the joviality he created and the camaraderie he established with his officiating colleagues when off the mat.

Steve Kish, referee and 1993 Mr. Mat, when asked to offer his comments, expressed the sentiments of the entire OVAC Wrestling family, when he said, "Don characterized the ultimate in professionalism, sincerity and keeping the perspective that we, as officials, must always do our best to insure the safety of wrestlers and the following of established rules of the sport, he truly loved."

"I will miss his sense of humor, knowledge of and commitment to wrestling and his true friendship to all who knew and respected him."

"We, as officials and friends, will never forget Don and by doing our best to perpetuate wrestling and the caring of others, the legacy and memories of Don Ferris, a true friend, will remain forever."

DANIEL M. BURKE MEMORIAL WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP



Dedicated to a sincere belief that the loss of their young son, Danny, should not end with that tragic auto accident on February 8 of 1982, Bob and Dolores Burke wished to establish a living tribute to perpetuate his memory.

Since he was such a dynamic individual, who as a Wheeling Park wrestler, had yet to reach his full potential in this sport that he loved, how fitting and appropriate that they decided to help a gifted student/athlete attain his full potential in the career of his choice.

Therefore, in 1983 the first Daniel M. Burke Memorial Wrestling Scholarship was presented.

The qualifying criteria require the recipient to be a senior with outstanding records in both wrestling and academic performance.


The award, in the amount of \$1,000, is to be applied to college expenses.

1997 marks the 15th Annual presentation of this prestigious award. As each recipient is added to the list, it reads like a veritable "Who's Who Among Outstanding Young Men in the Upper Ohio Valley".

It is our fond hope that the accomplishments of each successive recipient has helped to honor and perpetuate Danny's memory in a manner fulfilling the wishes of his parents.

YEAR	NAME	SCHOOL	COLLEGE
1983	John Witzberger	Wheeling Central	West Virginia Univ. * West Liberty
1984	Todd Rowe	Wheeling Park	Mount Union * West Liberty
1985	Todd Hibbs	Jefferson Union	* Mount Union ** Michigan State
1986	Paul Ice	East Liverpool	* Muskingum
1987	Jeff Sobel	Oak Glen	* Syracuse ** Univ. of Texas (San Antonio)
1988	Steve Woods	Wellsville	* Univ. of Maryland *** Baltimore Med. School
1989	David Woods	Cameron	* Capital University
1990	David Heath	St. Clairsville	* Washington & Jefferson
1991	Larry Sams	Wellsville	
1992	Rick Mokros	Shadyside	* Ohio Northern
1993	Dwayne Patterson	Oak Glen	W. Virginia Northern # Wheeling Jesuit
1994	Ryan Slack	Shadyside	
1995	Luke Underwood	Weirton	Fairmont State
1996	David Cornish	Buckeye Local	Waynesburg

* Undergraduate Degree ** Graduate Degree *** Attending Graduate School # Will graduate May '97



GEORGE E. KOVALICK
(4/8/23 - 4/8/84)

“Founding father of OVAC wrestling”

Teacher exceptional . . . competitive coach . . . gracious mentor . . . visionary, endowed with boundless energy and enthusiasm.

His accomplishments are legend, his influence unparalleled.

A man whose profound influence on coaches and athletes is a legacy which will continue to have impact on generations yet to come.

Standing as tangible proof of all that he epitomized are his enshrinements in four (4) separate and distinct Athletic Halls of Fame; Kent State University, West Liberty State College, Ohio Wrestling Coaches Association, and Ohio High School Athletic Director’s Association.

In 1980 a scholarship was established in Coach Kovalick’s honor, by the OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association, to recognize a college-bound scholar/wrestler, in the amount of \$1,000 to be awarded annually.

During opening ceremonies of the 1985 Tournament a bronze plaque was unveiled, and now hangs in the lobby of the Wheeling Civic Center, inscribed in fitting tribute:

“THE OHIO VALLEY WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION HONORS THE MEMORY OF GEORGE KOVALICK . . . A MAN MARVELOUSLY COMPETITIVE, METICULOUS IN ORGANIZATION AND ENDOWED WITH AN ENORMOUS CAPACITY FOR WORK.

HE PRODUCED AN UNPARALLELED RECORD, WITH MORE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS IN MORE SPORTS THAN ANY OTHER MAN WHO EVER COACHED IN THIS VALLEY.

HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF OUR WRESTLING PROGRAM.

TEACHER, STRATEGIST AND FUNDAMENTALIST, HE WAS AN INSPIRATION AND A FRIEND.”

The George Kovalick Memorial Wrestling Scholarship
List of Honorees

1980	Mike Patone, Magnolia	1988	Dan Keenan, Steubenville
1981	Bob Furr, Beallsville	1989	Reed Case, Cadiz
1982	Dave Delande, St Clairsville	1990	Ed Neely, Weirton
1983	Scott Mills, Steubenville	1991	Eric Potts, Cameron
1984	Tim Ward, Beallsville	1992	John Gibeaut, Union Local
1985	Charlie Keenan, Steubenville	1993	Dave Norris, Cameron
	Darrin Heavilin, Cadiz	1994	Chad Burge, Cameron
1986	Mike Imbroscio, Bellaire	1995	Brian Roskovich, Bridgeport
1987	Vinnie Monseau, Wheeling Park	1996	Eric Anderson, St. John’s

~~ IN MEMORIAM ~~

James H. Morris
[1934 - 1996]

As all wrestling fans know, once you get involved in this sport, you are permanently "addicted".

James "Dead Eye" Morris fell captive to the sport in the early '60's when his sons, Jeff and Gregg, became involved.

We are certain that any success in wrestling they enjoyed, (both former OVAC Champions, Jeff in '77 and Gregg in '78 and '79) they will attribute to the support and encouragement of their loving and devoted father.

His involvement with wrestling at John Marshall High School and the OVAC continued, long after his sons' wrestling careers had ended, up until the time of his death in 1996.

"Dead Eye's" presence and participation, although not readily evident, at the OVAC Wrestling Tournaments, was vital for he worked tirelessly in virtual obscurity at the "bull pen" area where wrestlers prepare for their up-coming matches.

He thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of all his co-workers, but especially the opportunity for personal contact with young people, where he could support, encourage, and praise their efforts.

He looked eagerly forward with unwavering enthusiasm to each successive OVAC Tournament.

Paul "Bud" Billiard, outstanding and widely respected football coach at Brooke High, had a life-long relationship with Morris. His earliest memories were of his childhood adulation of "Dead Eye", as a schoolboy athlete, at Wellsburg High. As he grew older, "Bud" came to realize that that boyhood "hero worship" was not misplaced, for "Dead Eye" was exactly as he was perceived to be; talented yet humble, personable, both honest and forthright, possessed of boundless enthusiasm and a zest for life nurtured by a sincere love of fellow man. "Bud" in admiration emphasized, "For as long as I knew him, he never changed. He was always talking about his next project. In recent years, I did not get to see him very much and so I looked forward to the OVAC knowing we would be working together. I'll miss those reunions."

In recognition of his long and abiding love for wrestling and his fervent commitment to the OVAC, the Morris family has determined that a perpetual tribute to his memory should be in the form of an annual award and recognition.



In loving memory, the Morris family is establishing:

The James H. Morris OVAC Wrestling Sportsmanship Award and Scholarship

The inaugural **Sportsmanship Award** will be presented during opening ceremonies of the Finals on Sat. Jan. 25, 1996.

This is a unique award in that a plaque will be presented to "a non-coach supporter of OVAC Wrestling" - "to say thank you for your support through the years." The recipient of this award will then have the privilege and distinction of "presenting a \$1,000 Scholarship to the wrestler recipient at the Annual OVAC Spring Awards Banquet."

An OVAC wrestler must apply to be selected and recognized as the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award. This award will include a \$1,000 one-time scholarship. The criteria used to determine the recipient will place great emphasis on his **Good Sportsmanship** and a favorable evaluation of his academic and wrestling achievements.

A plaque, allowing for the recognition of subsequent co-recipients, is to be prominently displayed, along with other OVAC awards, in the Wheeling Civic Center.

It is obvious that much prayerful thought went into the decision to honor "Dead Eye" in this memorable fashion. It could only have been the product of individuals with an appreciation for and the experience of what this tournament is all about.

From the **OVAC Family** to the **Morris Family**, "In sharing your loss, we further acknowledge and appreciate your generous contribution in a manner reflective of HIS compelling desire to give."

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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,
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By Bill Welker, Ed. D.

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THE OVAC

Wrestling Tournament

Its birth . . . growth . . . and perpetuation



It began as all ideas . . . the dream of one man . . . the late George Kovalick.

In March of 1954, Wheeling, Bridgeport, Barnesville, and Linsley Institute competed in the inaugural OVAC Wrestling Tournament at Bridgeport.

The following year Weirton was added as the Tournament moved to Barnesville.

The tournament returned to Bridgeport in 1956, where it remained through 1958, while growing to 7 participating schools.

After 5 years as Tournament Director, Coach Kovalick relinquished the reins to John "Corky" Vrotsos when the tournament moved to Martins Ferry.

Over the next 9 years, the tournament grew to 18 teams, as schools, sometimes reluctantly, added wrestling to their inter-scholastic programs as fan interest blossomed.

There was a concern expressed by participating coaches that the OVAC had never been held in West Virginia.

A decision was made to move the tournament to Moundsville and thereafter to alternate between Ohio and West Virginia.

And so it was, that in 1968, under Co-Directors, George Walley and George Kovalick, the tournament opened with 20 participating schools.

Ironically, no significant mention of alternating tournament sites occurred for the next 8 years, as the tournament grew in both participant and fan numbers.

Several landmark events occurred during the Moundsville Era . . . With 23 schools competing in 1970, the OVAC crowned its first West Virginia team Champion, Wheeling Central Catholic . . . In 1971, following the tragic death of Dave Beirkorette, former OVAC Tournament Champion, the Wheeling Central Catholic Boosters Club established the Dave Beirkorette Wrestling Award to be presented annually

to the Most Valuable Wrestler in the Tournament. The first recipient was Don Blum of Martins ferry . . . In 1974, with 32 schools competing, the OVAC became a 3 day event and 6 mats were used for the preliminary rounds . . . In 1975 with 34 schools competing, and as a result of recent large school district consolidations, it was decided that the smaller schools should be competing for team championships against schools of equal or near equal enrollment. Therefore, classifications were established and in addition to the Overall Team Champion, three (3) Division Champions were also crowned . . . Finally, little Warwood became the first school to win the Overall Team Title without an individual champion.

In 1976, the tournament moved to the Steubenville Diocesan Arena with Bob Hedmond as Director.

It was during this year that the most prestigious honor in OVAC wrestling, "MR. MAT" was established and bestowed. How fitting and appropriate that George Kovalick, affectionately known as, Coach "K", should be the initial recipient of an award earned for "a lifetime of dedication to the sport of wrestling". For this was his idea . . . his dream . . . his energy . . . and his enthusiasm that had made it a reality.

In 1977, school classifications were expanded to four (4) divisions, as paid attendance to the three day event soared to 9,465.

The OVAC Wrestling Tournament and foul weather seem to arrive as distinct, yet inseparable, entities. And so it was, that in 1978, when faced with treacherous highway conditions, resulting from an accumulation of ice and snow, it was deemed necessary to postpone the Friday session until Saturday.

In 1979, the Tournament moved to the Wheeling Civic Center with Ron Mauck as Director. Two (2) major improvements took place that year, (1) the massive floor area of the Civic Center now made it possible to wrestle on eight (8) mats, and (2) eight (8) individual and independent electronic match scoreboard/clocks were purchased.

In 1980, recognition of individual weight-class competitors was expanded to include the top eight (8) places.

The OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association created, to honor Coach "K", the George E. Kovalick Scholarship, to be presented annually to assist a college-bound scholar/wrestler.

Following the tragic 1982 death of Wheeling Park High School wrestler, Danny Burke, his parents established a living tribute to his memory. In 1983, the first annual Daniel M. Burke Memorial Wrestling Scholarship was awarded to John Witzberger of Wheeling Central.

The threatening flood was more a probability than a possibility when the 43rd Annual Tournament opened on Thursday, January 19, 1996. When it became evident that we had to deal with the certainty, a prudent, yet difficult and unpopular, decision was made to discontinue wrestling at 6:00 PM on Friday, January 19, 1996 and to resume at that point on Sat. January 27, 1996.

To accomplish this monumental task would require the complete cooperation of everyone involved, including, but not limited to, wrestlers, coaches, athletic directors, tournament workers, referees, and

the re-scheduling or dropping of other meets and/or tournaments, and a host of individual problems faced by each and everyone associated with an undertaking of this magnitude.

An indication of the level of cooperation and commitment to the OVAC was never more evident than when the Tournament reconvened one week later, just as though it were a part of the original plan.

However, none of this could have taken place without the cooperation, understanding, and participation of the Civic Center Staff, under the supervision of its congenial and tireless Director, Dennis Magruder.

It is our found wish that this tournament will continue to grow . . . if not in size, hopefully in stature . . . as a symbol of all that is good and decent. For there is no greater satisfaction than that which one receives from the investment of time and energy devoted to youth.

As you witness the pomp and pageantry, from the opening ceremonies on Thursday, through to the Parade of Champions on Saturday night, only then will you realize that this is true a labor of love and a living tribute to all those, both past and present, who have striven to make it possible and memorable.

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Wife: Jeannine
Children: Stephanie & Kim
Occupation: Construction Project
Manager



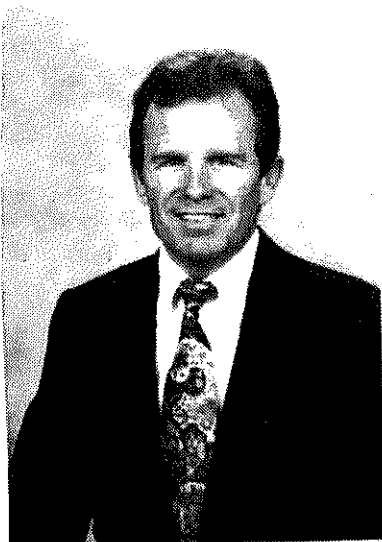
105

Name: Art Jones
Home Address: 804 Howard St.
Bridgeport, OH 43912
School: Bellaire
Wife: Carol
Children: Aric & Marcus
Occupation: Owner A & C Roofing
Asst. Wrestling Coach
Bridgeport High School



112

Name: Harry (Skip) Williams
Home Address: 1875 Rock Point Rd
Powhatan, VA 23139
School: Oak Glen
Wife: LeeAnn
Children: Carrie Ann
Occupation: Maintenance Manager
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119

Name: Dan Doyle
Home Address: 304 Washington Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003
School: Wheeling Central
Wife: Cindy
Children: Erin, Sean, & Megan
Occupation: Buckeye Local High
School Principal & Head
Wrestling Coach

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126

Name: Doug Mason
Home Address: Route #2 Box 259B
Colliers, WV 26035
Wife: Joyce
Children: Christine & Doug
Occupation: Electrical Engineer
Supervisor - Calgon Corp.-
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132

Name: Mike Mavromatis
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South Haven, Mississippi 38671
School: Steubenville
Wife: Jay
Children: Mariah Lynn & George
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WRESTLING . . . A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

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 continue 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 required 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!

**CHAMPIONS CHERISH NOT CONQUEST
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Richard Keith Wolf**

MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1996



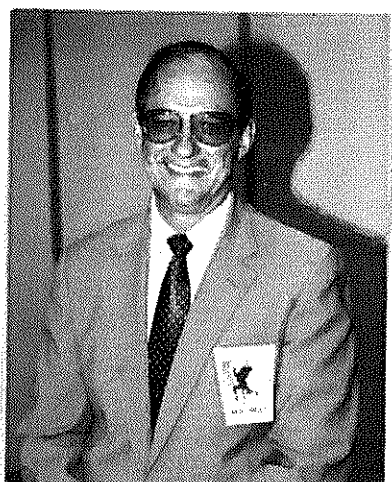
1976: GEORGE KOVALICK
Bellaire Athletic Director



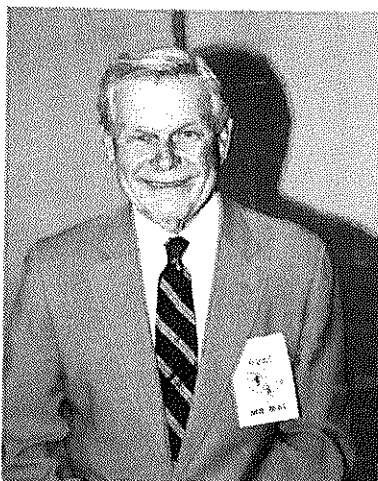
1977: BILL VAN HORNE
Sports Editor, Wheeling New Register



1978: JOHN VROTSOS
Martins Ferry High School



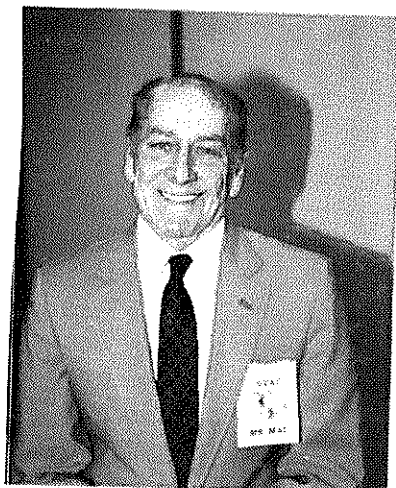
1979: Richard Edge
Principal, Springfield High



1980: George Wally
John Marshall Athletic Director



1981: Bob Hedmond
Steubenville Athletic Director



1982: Paul Crago
Marshall County Schools



1983: Dr. Vincent Monseau
West Liberty State College



1984: Bill Hinegardner
John Marshall High School

MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1996



1985: DENNIS BOWMAN
Bellaire High School



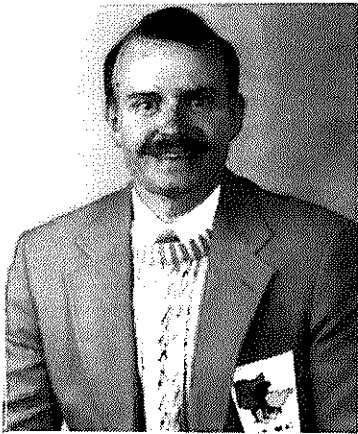
1986: RONALD MAUCK
Brooke High School



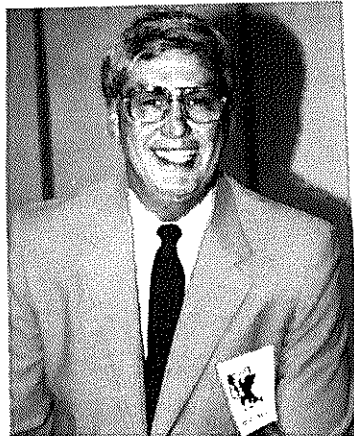
1987: ERIC CARDER
Wheeling Park Athletic Director



1988: DAVE KOVALICK
Barnesville High School



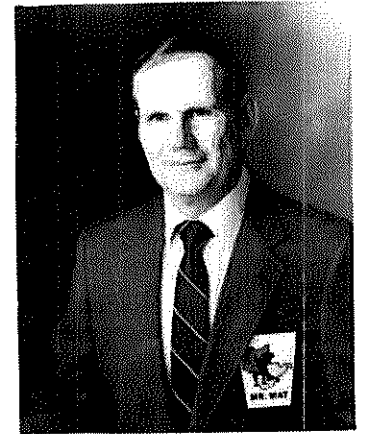
1989: STEVE KISH
Principal, Bellaire High School



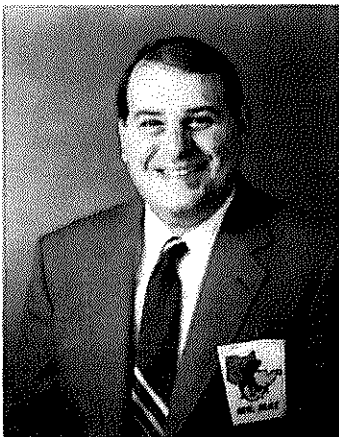
1990: CARL FODOR
Hancock County Schools



1991: DR. WILLIAM WELKER
Warwood Middle School



1992: LARRY DEATON
Martins Ferry



1993: JOHN STEPHENSON
Cadiz High School



1994: JOE BATES
Woodsfield High School



1995: BOB BRUNEY
Martins Ferry High School



1996: LARRY CHAMBERS
Moundsville Jr. High School

The OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association

salutes

All Participants and Workers in the

44th Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament

**January 23, 24, 25, 1997
Wheeling Civic Center**

Dr. William A. Welker, Assistant Program Coordinator

OVAC Wrestling would like to thank the following professionals for donating their time and expertise to make the tournament as safe as possible for each competitor.

MEDICAL COORDINATORS

John F. DeBlasis, MS, PT, ATC - Physical Therapy Services

James W. Watson - West Liberty State College - Trainer/Athletic Director

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Pete Chocolas - Wheeling Park High School

Randy Elliott - Weirton High School

Todd Fullerton - A.T. Coordinator

TRAINER

Herb Minch, PT Wheeling College

Rich Flowers, PT Brooke High School

Randy Elliott, PT Weir High School

SUPPLIES

Cameron Coca-Cola Company

Wheeling Civic Center

Wheeling Linen

AMBULANCE SERVICE

MEDICAL

EMERGENCY

TRANSPORT

SERVICE

1996 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '96

103 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
13-4	Stanley Dewitt	11	Brooke	AAAA	1
	Jon Rossiter	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
10-4	Jeremy McElroy	9	Barnesville	AA	3
	Jason Sefsick	10	Cadiz	AA	4
Fall: 4:54	Mike Smith	10	East Liverpool	AAAA	5
	Ryan Donahue	9	St. John's	A	6
6-0	Craig Conway	10	Wheeling Park	AAAA	7
	Jose Smith	9	Cambridge	AAAA	8

112 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
8-4	Jason Eckles	12	East Liverpool	AAAA	1
	Hank Kendjorsky	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
5-4	Chris Ward	10	Martins Ferry	AAA	3
	Jeremy Bullock	10	Cambridge	AAAA	4
9-6	John McCombs	12	John Marshall	AAAA	5
	Brian Flanegin	9	Wheeling Park	AAAA	6
5-3	Damian Dixon	12	Steubenville	AAAA	7
	Dan Stanley	9	Brooke	AAAA	8

119 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
16-3	Jeff McKinnon	11	Wellsville	AA	1
	Brian Tatgenhorst	12	Beaver Local	AAAA	2
4-2	Ken Becker	11	Wheeling Park	AAAA	3
	Dan Jones	10	Martins Ferry	AAA	4
6-4	Rick Stanley	10	Brooke	AAAA	5
	Ryan Pfeffer	12	Shenandoah	AA	6
10-9	T.J. Cooper	12	Steubenville	AAAA	7
	Dave Rinkes	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	8

125 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
3-1	Luke Spencer	10	Edison Local	AAAA	1
	Ryan Muldrew	11	John Marshall	AAAA	2
Fall: 2:41	Ryan Nightengale	12	Wellsville	AA	3
	Derek Beetham	12	Cadiz	AA	4
4-2	Matt Kennedy	11	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
	Andy Dobson	10	Martins Ferry	AAA	6
9-4	Jeremy Stacy	10	Indian Creek	AAAA	7
	Jeff Jefferies	11	Barnesville	AA	8

1996 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '96

130 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
6-2	Eric Anderson	12	St. John	A	1
	Sean Doyle	11	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
5-3	Louis Reid	12	Steubenville	AAAA	3
	Brad Robb	12	Barnesville	AA	4
3-2	A.J. Monseau	10	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
	Jason Donahue	12	Bellaire	AAA	6
3-1	Shane Riggle	10	John Marshall	AAAA	7
	Brad Blake	12	Bishop Donahue	A	8

135 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
10-3	Ray Jefferies	12	Barnesville	AA	1
	Brian Padgelik	11	Martins Ferry	AAA	2
4-2	Jason Porter	12	Bellaire	AAA	3
	Tim Long	12	Wellsville	AA	4
	Josh Braunlich	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
Fall :41	Josh Straus	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	6
	Jake Ludwig	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	7
Default	P.J. Cain	12	Steubenville	AAAA	8

140 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
5-2	Chris Ward	11	John Marshall	AAAA	1
	Jeff Wright	10	East Liverpool	AAAA	2
6-4	Tony DeMarco	12	Cadiz	AA	3
	Rick DaRe	12	St. Clairsville	AAA	4
6-4	Cornell Birden	11	Steubenville	AAAA	5
	Quiano Lacy	12	River	AAA	6
9-3	Matt Bostian	12	Beaver Local	AAAA	7
	Jeff Boggs	11	Cameron	A	8

1996 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '96

145 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
9-1	Josh Giovengo	12	Bishop Donahue	A	1
	Eric Koontz	12	John Marshall	AAAA	2
3-1	Bill Lucas	11	Beaver Local	AAAA	3
	David Cornish	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	4
Fall 4:03	Aric Jones	12	Bridgeport	A	5
	Dustin Corder	10	Cadiz	AA	6
	Doug Wolfe	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	7
	Adam Kennen	11	Wheeling Park	AAAA	8

152 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
Fall 4:18	Corey Knight	12	River	AAA	1
	Travis Clark	10	Union Local	AAA	2
4-3	Casey Yurkovitch	12	Bridgeport	AA	3
	Dave Dyrdek	12	St. Clairsville	AAA	4
Default	Andy Hager	12	Beaver Local	AAAA	5
	Travis Ross	11	John Marshall	AAAA	6
2-1	Mark Wright	10	Oak Glen	AAA	7
	Ed Beranek	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	8

160 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
15-5	Matt Fitch	12	East Liverpool	AAAA	1
	Tom Miller	11	Caldwell	AA	2
4-1	John Keller	11	Bellaire	AAA	3
	Ben McFarland	11	Union Local	AAA	4
4-3	Bill Bryant	11	Cadiz	AA	5
	Oscar Hoit	11	Oak Glen	AAAA	6
Fall 2:21	Bryan Mellot	12	River	AAA	7
	Bouge Parrish	10	Cameron	A	

171 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
14-8	T.J. King	12	Cambridge	AAAA	1
	Chad Roskovich	11	Bridgeport	A	2
4-2 OT	Kirk Heath	12	St. Clairsville	AAA	3
	Shane Shaffer	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	4
Fall 2:54	Terry Smith	9	Buckeye Local	AAAA	5
	Randy Culbertson	11	Cadiz	AA	6
6-4	Nick Minda	11	Brooke	AAAA	7
	Dave Dozier	10	Beaver Local	AAAA	8

1996 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '96

189 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
18-0	Cory Heath	12	St. Clairsville	AAA	1
	Chad Pratz	10	Linsly	A	2
5-1	Robert Davidson	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	3
	Dan Fleming	12	Steubenville	AAAA	4
5-2	Matt O'Neil	12	John Marshall	AAAA	5
	John Schumacher	9	Monroe Central	AAA	6
8-4	Jeremy Chirpas	12	Bellaire	AAA	7
	Gary Brandon	11	River	AAA	8

215 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
6-5	Bubba Sechrist	11	Bellaire	AAA	1
	Dave Boyrik	10	Indian Creek	AAAA	2
12-1	Klye Carreon	11	Edison Local	AAAA	3
	Matt Sallsberry	9	East Liverpool	AAAA	4
3-2	Cassie Blattler	12	River	AAA	5
	Alan Ward	12	Barnesville	AA	6
4-2	Duke Forte	10	Steubenville Cen	AA	7
	Jim McKinney	12	John Marshall	AAAA	8

275 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
Fall: 1:50	Zack Holt	12	Steubenville	AAAA	1
	Ty Wilson	11	St. John	A	2
Default	K.C. Fellows	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	3
	Ben Kulpa	11	Wheeling Park	AAAA	4
3-1 OT	Jason Heskette	10	St. Clairsville	AAA	5
	Courtney Robey	12	River	AAA	6
Fall 2:04	Scott Estep	12	Tyler Consol	AAA	7
	Alex McClung	9	Oak Glen	AAAA	8

Charles W. McCoy II
Account Representative



C9608SJ(exp1199)MLIC•LD

The Champion's Champion

He's the one loved by his peers,
 Though on the bench — he always cheers,
He keeps the first man on his toes,
 And never quits — why, no one knows.

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.

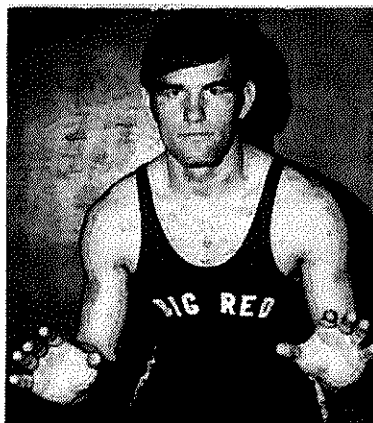
There are no questions in this man's mind,
 The Champion's Champion — in life — will do just fine.

by Bill Welker

OVAC CHAMPIONS

PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE

PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE



138

Name: Dick Nichols
School: Brooke

145

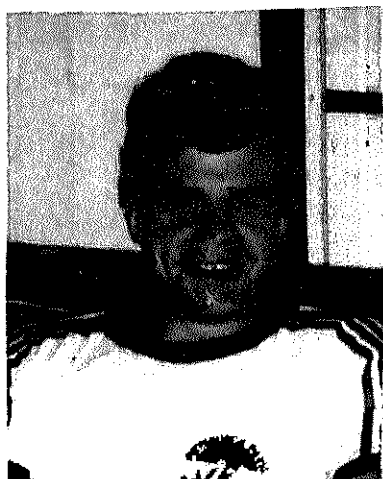
Name: John V. Dovjak
Home Address: 9520 Jomar
Drive,
Fairfax, VA 22032
School: Warwood
Wife: Elizabeth
Children: Kate & Natalie
Occupation: Teacher -
Burke Center

155

Name: Rick Spencer
Home Address: 812 Oakland
Blvd.
Cambridge, OH 43275
School: Steubenville
Wife: Donna
Children: Kristin & Jason
Occupation: P.E. teacher,
Administrative Aide,
Head Football Coach -
Cambridge High School

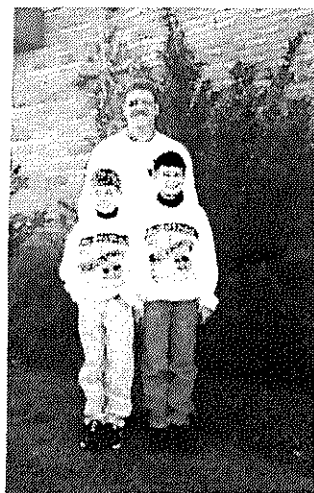
167

Name: Frank Ferguson
Home Address: P.O. Box 204
West Liberty, WV 26074
School: Barnesville
Wife: Peggy Lee
Occupation: Chemistry
teacher Brooke High
School



175

Name: Rick Link
Home Address: 56302 Stobbs
Estates
Bridgeport, OH 43912
School: Bellaire St. John's
Wife: Linda
Children: Pat & Chris
Occupation: H.P.E. teacher,
Head Wrestling Coach -
Union Local H.S.



185

Name: Jim Meeker
Home Address: 2114 Sunrise
Estates
Glen Dale, WV 26038
School: John Marshall
Wife: Joann
Children: Lance & Cory
Occupation: Driver/
Salesman -Pepsi Cola

PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE

HWT

Name: Wally Pesuit
School: Wintersville



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

1971 - 138# Champion

Name: Dave LaMotte
Home Address: RD #2 Box 61
Dillonvale, OH 43917
School: Bridgeport
Wife: Vicki
Children: Matt & Jeff
Occupation: Teacher & Asst.
wrestling coach Buckeye
Local

(Dave & his family flew from
their home in Arizona to be
with us last year, but were
unable to remain for the
recognition ceremonies
scheduled in conjunction with
the flood postponed finals.)
Belated Congratulations &
Welcome Home!

Wrestling with memories of victories long since passed.

By Fred Miller

"Reprinted With Permission Of The East Liverpool Review As Originally Published January 29, 1993"

I tell myself it doesn't really matter, not in the big scheme of things. It doesn't compare with having a successful career, or a happy marriage, or fine children. Those are big things, important things.

"It" is the fact I was an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC) wrestling champion 25 years ago. That's about the only proof I have that I was a pretty good wrestler in high school, because it's the only wrestling tournament I ever won. I was runner-up twice in the regional tournament, never making it to state.

After 25 years I'm still kicking myself for losing in the state regional finals to a wrestler I should have beaten. I told that to a friend of mine who played football in high school. He replied he still thinks about a block he could have made, but missed, that might have produced a winning touchdown. The fact that it doesn't do any good to think about such things doesn't stop a fellow from thinking about them.

Last Saturday I was accorded the great honor of being introduced along with other 1968 OVAC champions prior to the finals of the 1993 tournament in the Wheeling Civic Center. We were given commemorative plaques and a book of Ohio Valley wrestling history. Steve Kish and his committee escorted us to the best seats in the house, right in front of the mat where the championship matches were wrestled.

After the tournament, we and our families were hosted at a reception. Most of us were a little embarrassed by the royal treatment, but we enjoyed it nevertheless and were very appreciative.

It was a treat to see Vince Monseau, my high school coach who went on to greatness as wrestling coach at West Liberty State College, and Rick Price, another Oak Glen grad, who was an OVAC and West Virginia Champion wrestler. It also was a pleasure to see my friends Richard K. Wolf, who was working at a scorer's table, and Nick Trombetta, who was one of the referees.

My most pleasant surprise of the evening was when a man walked up to me and introduced himself as Rick Lipinski - the wrestler I had defeated for the 140-pound title a quarter-century ago. Although his blond hair is being taken over by gray, Rick is trim and muscular, and looks like he could still go a round or two. A coal miner and sheep rancher down near Moundsville, he has four kids aged 2 to 21 - "All with the same wife, too," he told me with a grin.

Rick remembered a lot more of that 1968 tournament than I did. More than that, he was genuinely gracious and complimentary of my victory - much nicer than I would have been, had our roles been reversed. For all his graciousness, I could tell his memories held a trace of the bittersweet. He had, after all, been an outstanding wrestler, unbeaten to that point in the season and the No. 2 seed, and was denied the championship by an unseeded wrestler on the only sustained hot streak of his career.

As I watched the OVAC finals that night, I saw some wrestlers who were clearly dominant, such as four-time champion Kelly Shields. But there were others, who were like me - a good wrestler who made it to the victor's stand through determination and a share of luck.

Being an OVAC wrestling champion doesn't guarantee you'll go on to great achievements. It doesn't mean you can provide for your family, that you're a good person, or that you'll be happy.

But to a 42-year-old man who is fighting middle-age spread, denying he needs bifocals, creaking in the joints instead of drinking in them, and realizing he may never get any zip into his racquetball serve, that OVAC 25th anniversary reunion was a tonic.

It reminded me that for one shining moment long ago, I had what it took to be a champion.

*Fred Miller is community relations
director at City Hospital.*

1996 OVAC FINAL TEAM SCORES

AAAA	AAA	AA	A
BUCK L 200	RIVER 125	BARNSV. 129	CAMERON 78
WHG. PARK I 81 ½	BELLAIRE 123 ½	CADIZ 119	ST. JOHN 72
E LIVER P 179	ST. CLAIR I 20 ½	WELLS V. 102	BRIDGE PD 67
JOHN MAR. 171	M FERRY 99 ½	CALDWELL 38	BISHOP D. 63
STEU BR 130 ½	UNION L. 52	SHENANDO 34	LINSLY 42

1996 OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS



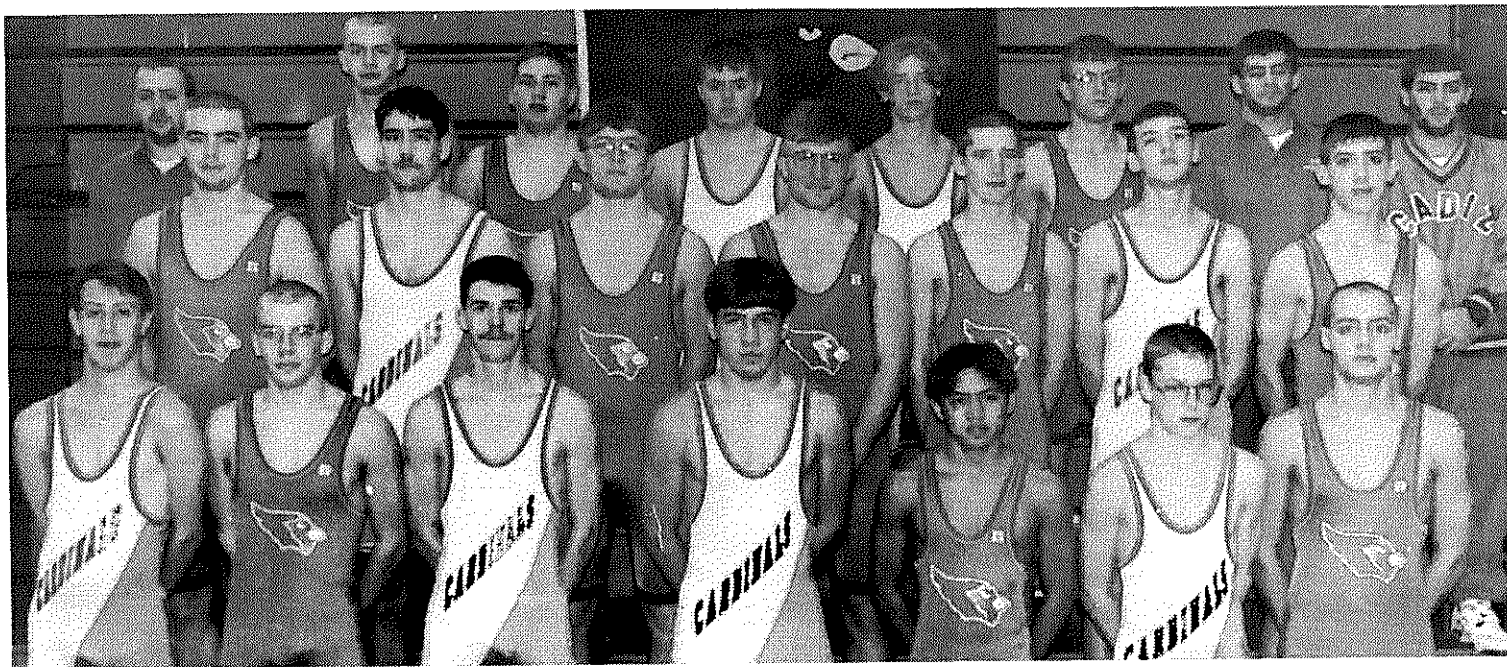
Front: 103-DeWitt Stanley, Brooke; 112-Jason Eckles, East Liverpool; 119-Jeff McKinnon, Wellsville; 125-Luke Spencer, Edison Local; 130-Eric Anderson, Bellaire St. John's.
Middle: 135-Ray Jefferies, Barnesville; 140-Chris Ward, John Marshall; 145-Josh Giovengo, Bishop Donahue; 152-Corey Knight, River Local; 160-Matt Fitch, East Liverpool.
Back: 171-T.J. King, Cambridge; 189-Carey Heath, St. Clairsville; 215-Brian Sechrest, 275-Zack Holt, Steubenville.

OVAC OVERALL Tournament Champions

1954-1996

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	John "Corky" Vrotsos
1969	St. John Central High School	Art Hehr
1970	Wheeling Central High School	Jospeh G. Bates
1971	St. John Central High School	John Hibbert
1972	John Marshall High School	Dennis Bowman
1973	John Marshall High School	Bill Hinegardner
1974	John Marshall High School	Bill Hinegardner
1975	Warwood High School	Bill Hinegardner
1976	Weirton High School	Eric Carder
1977	John Marshall High School	Charles "Skip" Murray
1978	Wheeling Park High School	Bill Hinegardner
1979	Wheeling Park High School	Eric Carder
1980	Steubenville High School	Eric Carder
1981	Cadiz High School	John Craig
1982	Steubenville High School	John Stephenson
1983	John Marshall High School	John Craig
1984	Steubenville High School	Ed Dugas
1985	Barnesville High School	John Craig
1986	East Liverpool High School	Darrell Davis
1987	Steubenville High School	Nick Trombetta
1988	East Liverpool High School	John Craig
1989	Steubenville High School	Nick Trombetta
1990	Wheeling Park High School	John Craig
1991	Oak Geln High School	Buzz Evans
1992	Steubenville High School	Larry Shaw
1993	Martins Ferry High School	John Craig
1994	Wheeling Park High School	Jeff Oberdick
1995	Steubenville High School	Buzz Evans
1996	Buckeye Local High School	Rick Camellitti
		Dan Doyle

CADIZ CARDINAL



WRESTLING 1997

1987 OHIO 'A' STATE CHAMPIONS
1992 OHIO 'III' STATE RUNNERS-UP

OVAC OVERALL CHAMPIONS: 1981

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 1996 OVAC 'AA' Coach of The Year

ASSISTANT COACHES: DREW CASE & JIM ROCCHI

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: FRANK MAYS

PRINCIPAL: DON HYDE

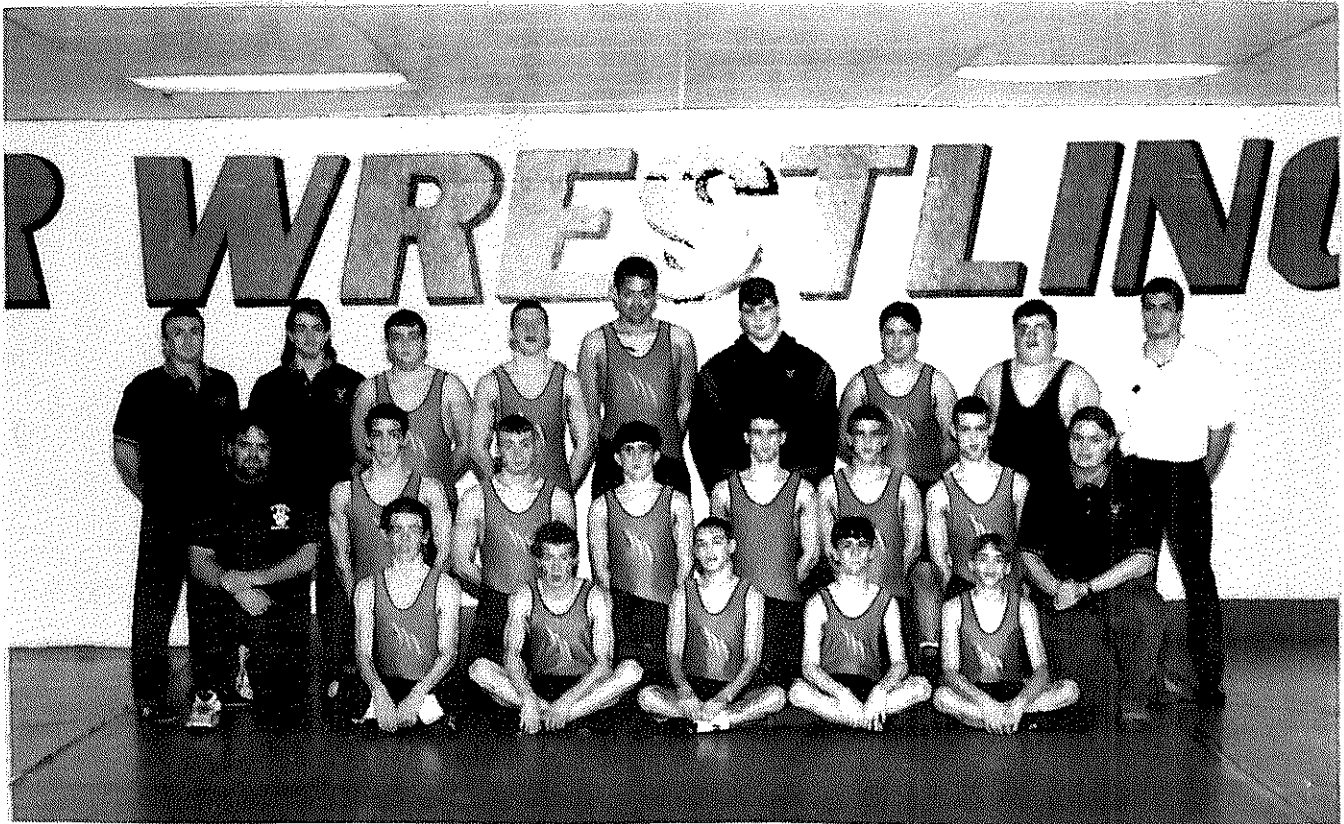
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: JOHN STEPHENSON

OVAC CLASSIFICATION: 'AA'

SCHOOL COLORS: RED, ROYAL, WHITE

Sponsored by CADIZ WRESTLING PARENTS CLUB

WELLSVILLE WRESTLING



Front Row: Josh Hackney, Jeff McKinnon, Mike Lascola, Roy Miller, and Aaron Smith.

2nd Row: Coach Brian Little, Josh Arnette, Steve Althiser, Rob Long, Joe Stewart, Brian Frame, Marcuis Drysdale, and Mgr. Gary Althiser.

3rd Row: Coach Paul Ice, Head Coach Sean Smith, John McClelland, Doug Jackson, Ryan Oliver, Charles Fisher, Mark Daniels, Jim Porter, and Coach Gary Ice.

Not pictured: Eric Wiley.

Proudly sponsored by

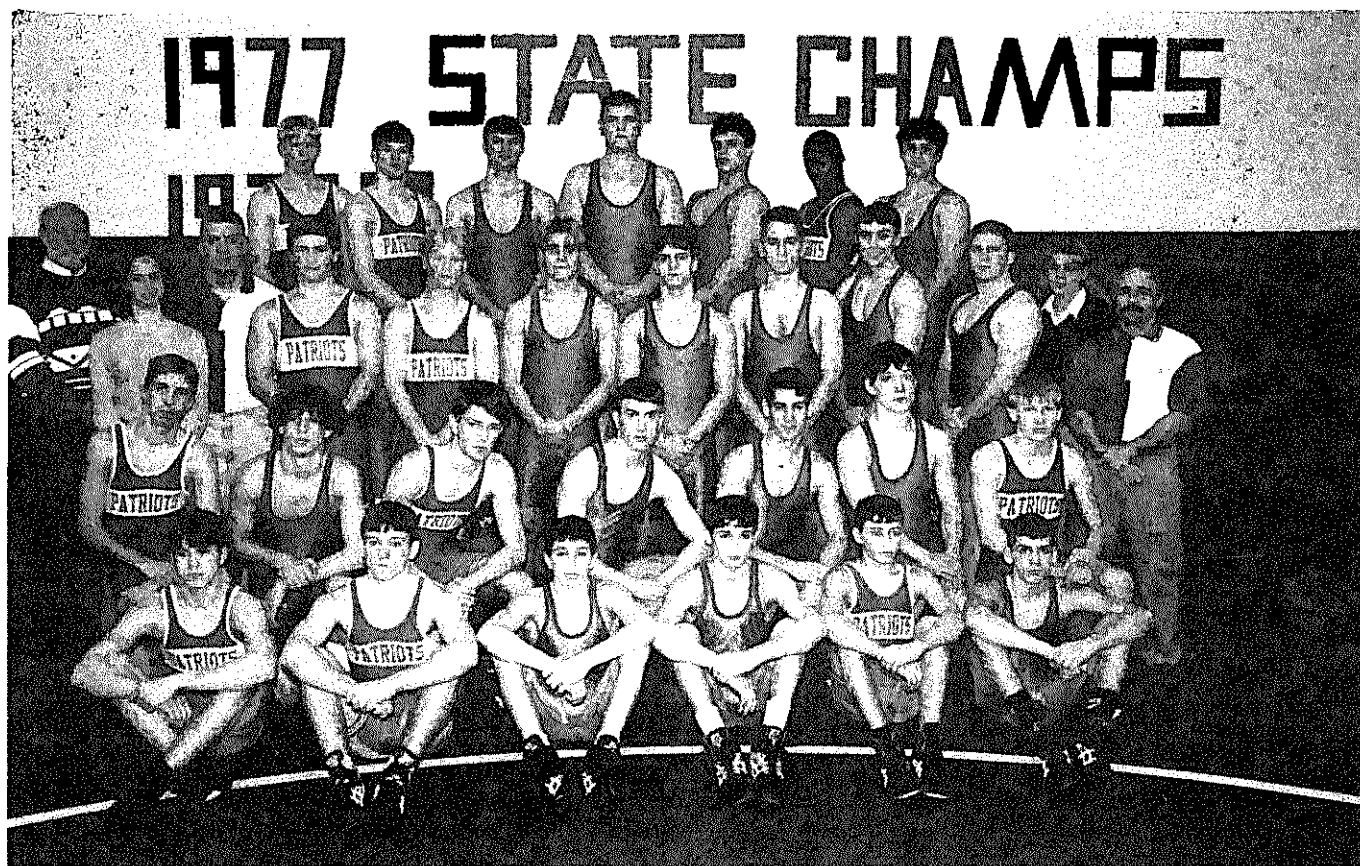
Smith Auto Parts Co.

329 Broadway

East Liverpool, Ohio



WHEELING PARK



Sitting: Gene Traylor, Derrick Iverson, Mark Evans, Brian Flanigen, Troy Baldaugh, and B.J. Salem.

Kneeling: Todd Brown, Shane Wilden, Trigger Walsh, Ken Becker, A.J. Monseau, Brian Julian, and Matt Gayda.

Standing (1): Coach Shaffer, Michelle Samol, Coach Schennerlein, Same Amos, Justin Boyd, Adam Kennen, Matt Kennedy, Jeremy Harrison, Steve Bliss, Mike Duke, Coach Montoleone, and Shannon Shaffer.

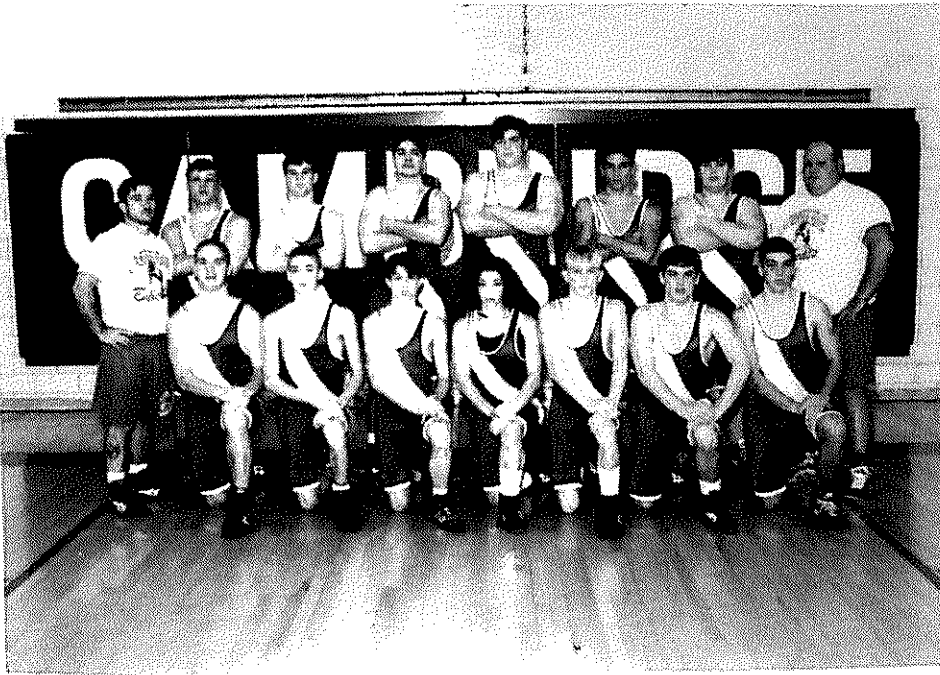
Standing (2): Jim Boyd, Brian West, Eric Cottrill, Ben Kulpa, Geno Ochap, Jay Riggs, and Steve Ochap.

Not pictured: Shawn Tuttle, Ben Blower, Mgr. Bill Gooch, Joe Klug, and Loren Heldreth.

**GOOD LUCK !
WHEELING PARK WRESTLERS**



CAMBRIDGE "BOBCATS"



Front: Matt Berg, Adam Tolbert, Jose Smith, Shannon Faithful, Justin Wheatley, Mike Evans, and Chris Shinn.

Back: Cach White, Rick Stewart, John Lohman, Josh Weaver, Ben Beres, Corey Moore, Chris Dennis, and Coach Moore.

GOOD LUCK! "BOBCATS"
from
Cambridge High School Boosters

Principal - Bill Lee
Asst. Prin. - Rod Johnson
Ath. Dir. - Dave Gray
Head Coach - Tom "Tank" Moore
Ass't. - Jon Roe
Paul White
Jr. High - Tony Hockenberry
School Colors - Royal Blue & White



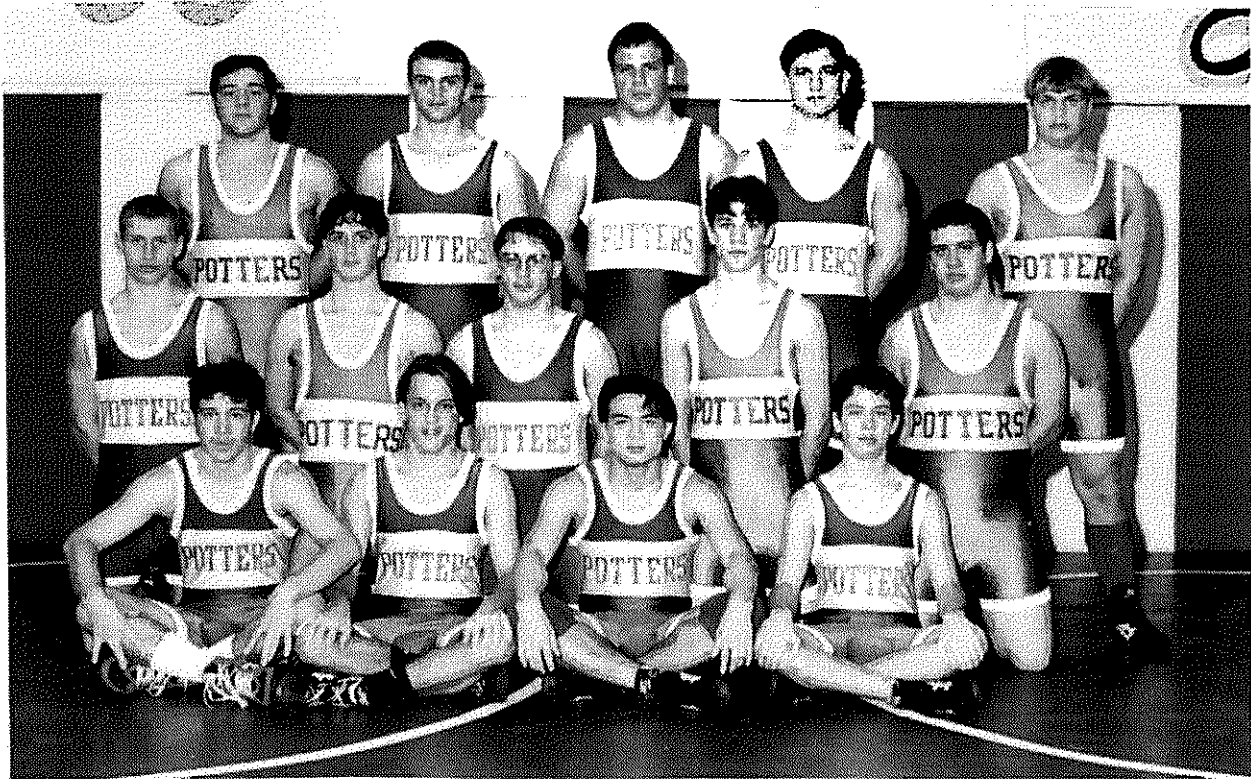
Past OVAC Champions

'81 - Brian Duff - 155
'82 - Brian Duff - 155
'83 - Jamie Price - HWT
'84 - Dennis Daugherty - 119
'84 - Heath Beardmore - 126
'84 - Tim Pontius - 132
'88 - Tom "Tank" Moore - HWT
'92 - Kelly Stevens - 171
'93 - Jeremy Wilkinson - 152
'94 - T.J. King - 160
'95 - T.J. King - 171

'96 OVAC Placers

Jose Smith - 8th - 103
Jeremy Bullock - 4th - 112
T.J. King - 1st - 171

EAST LIVERPOOL HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM 1996-1997

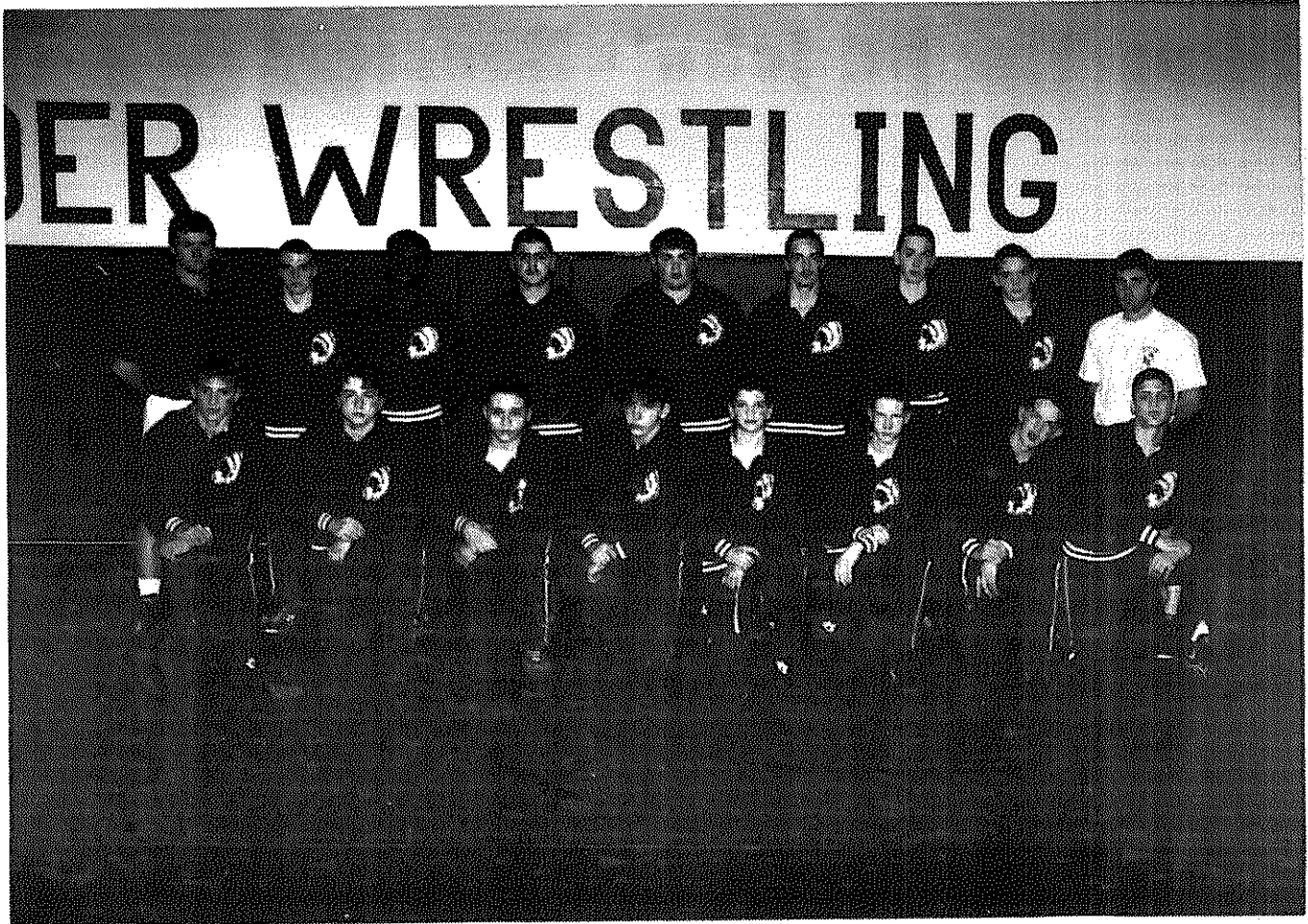


Front Row: *Mike Cunningham, *Robert Peppel, *Soungie Sarge, & *Mike Smith.
2nd Row: *Jeff Wright, *Jake Ludwig, *Doug Wolfe, * Danny Earich, & *Fred Thorne.
Back Row: *Jeremy Ross, *Eric Miller, *Andy Durk, *Matt Hurst, & *Matt Salsburry.
Not pictured: *Aaron Locke, Sheاون Wechter, Micah Jordan, & Jason Bogart.
* Returning Letterman

***YESTERDAY IS A MEMORY
TOMORROW IS A DREAM
TODAY IS REALITY
GIVE IT YOUR BEST***

**“POTTERS”
TAKEDOWN CLUB**

Weir Red Riders

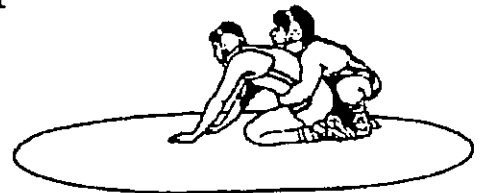


Front Row: Brent Zuccolotto, David Guthrie, Mike McAllister, Justin Cain, Anthony Ianni, Bo Barker, Tim Noel, Matthew Valles

Back Row: Assistant Coach Ray Pernell, Chuck Varner, Dewayne Smith, Robert Busick, Ben Manypenny, Luke Szczepanski, Anthony Henderson, Brad Wagner, Head Coach Randy Pryor

Not Pictured: Ryan Metz; **Statistician:** Kim Tingler

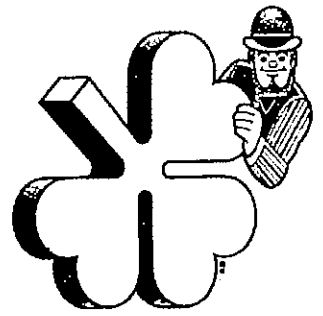
Principal:	George Kohelis
Athletic Director:	Dan McGrew
Head Coach:	Randy Pryor
Assistant Coach:	Ray Pernell



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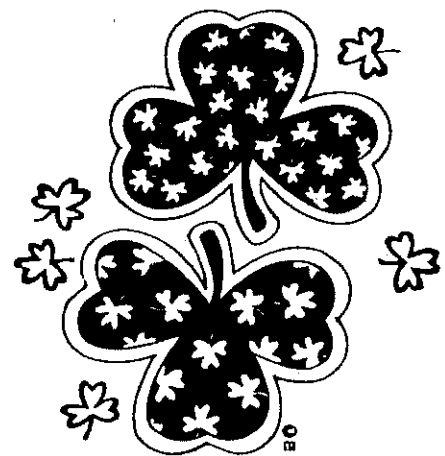
Good Luck, Irish Wrestlers!!

From: The St. John's Boosters



Front Row: Ty Wilson, Matt Aderson, Tom Scheele, Doug Kosky, and Joe Fillipovich
Back Row: Coach Donahue, Ryan Donahue, Brady Ruthers, Roger Peters, Derek Koch, Daniel Koch, and Coach Degenova

Head Coach: Mike Donahue
Ass't. Coach: Chris Degenova
Athletic Director: Harold "Buzz" Donahue
Principal: Roger Macnamara
Trainer: Mike Balwanz
Stats: Kathleen Peters and Christina Snyder



EDISON WRESTLING



Row 1: Dustin Myers, Kyle Carreon, Luke Spencer, Ryan Ramsey, Justin Board, Jeremy Best, Mike Scholl, Frank Swick, _____, Damien Baughman, and _____.

Row 2: Brad Ramsey, Justin Walker, Carl Bernhart, John Gates, Dave Saus, Isac Evans, Mike Swick, Jason Hibbits, Jason Alloggia, and Mike Larkins.

Row 3: _____, Steve Henry, Steve Moore, John Payne, Justin Bernhart, Jim Smith, Ryan Dennis, Travis Taylor, and Mgr. Charlie Henry.

Row 4: Coach Len Carreon, Coach Ed Chanoski, Coach Chuck Spencer, Head Coach Doug Knight.

Not Pictured: Corey Miller, Kris Haught, and Coach J.O. Henry.

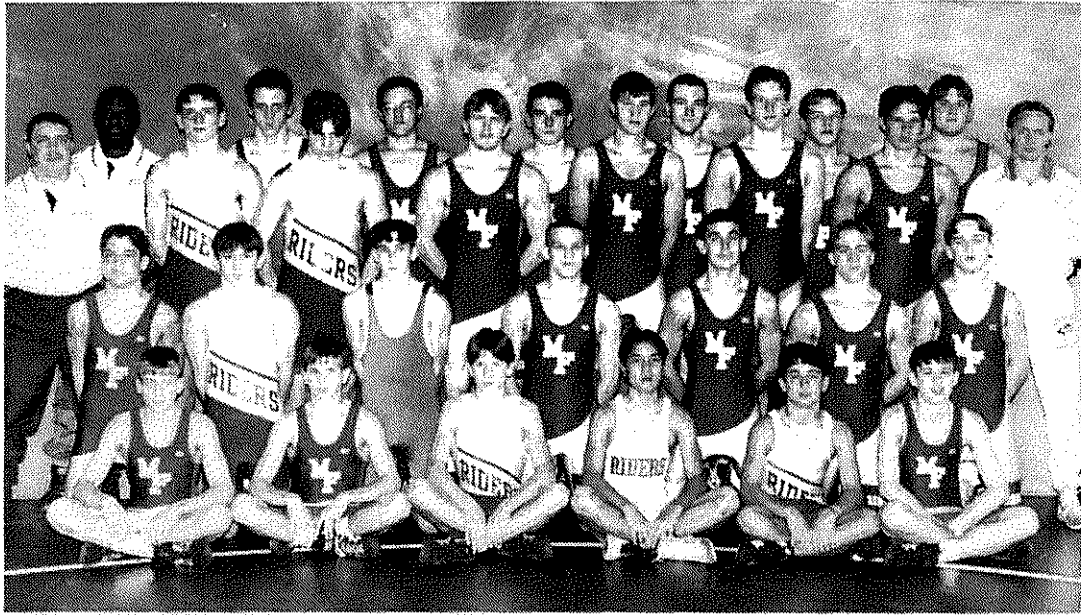
School: Edison High
Colors: Black & Silver
Class: AAAA
Principal: Rich Wilinski
A. D.: Fritz Tulencik

Booster Officers
President - Vladimir Repella
Vice Pres. - Theo Maragos
Treasurer - Derek Siragusano
Secretary - Mike Abdalla

Good Luck, Wildcats !
from
THE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Supporters of ALL Edison Athletics

Martins Ferry High School



First Row: Greg Ware, Doug Curnes, Shane Brost, Prit Patarasuk, Jason Schaal, David Proctor. **Second Row:** Scott Roth, B.J. Hedger, Mark Hughes, Chris Ward, Andy Dobson, Dan Jones, Kirk Roth. **Third Row:** Coach Sidon, J.T. Stenger, Tom Bumbico, Brian Padgelek, Tim Weaver, Rob Duncan, Shawn Zackey, Coach Oberdick. **Fourth Row:** Coach Coleman, Jason Wensyel, Casey Berisford, Craig Bruney, Tony Cruz, George Shreve, Shane Bolon.

Superintendent..... Steve Kish
 Principal..... Daniel Stephens
 Athletic Director..... Warren Hood
 Head Coach..... Jeff Oberdick
 Assistant Coaches..... Babe Sidon
 Mark Roth
 Bubba Coleman

COMPLIMENTS OF

**DAN
 JONES
 & SON**

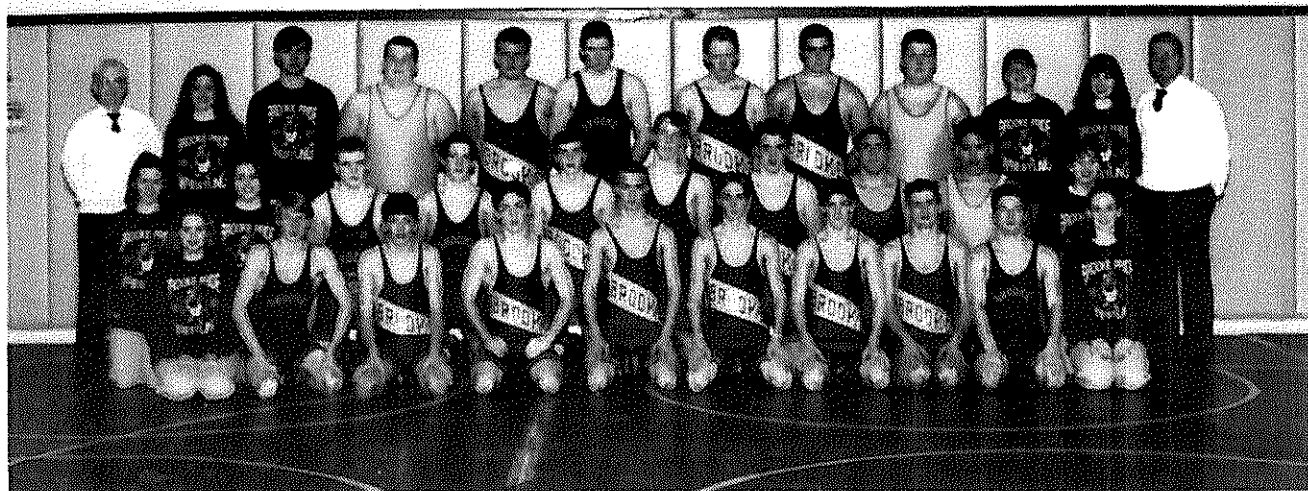
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BROOKE PRIDE WRESTLING



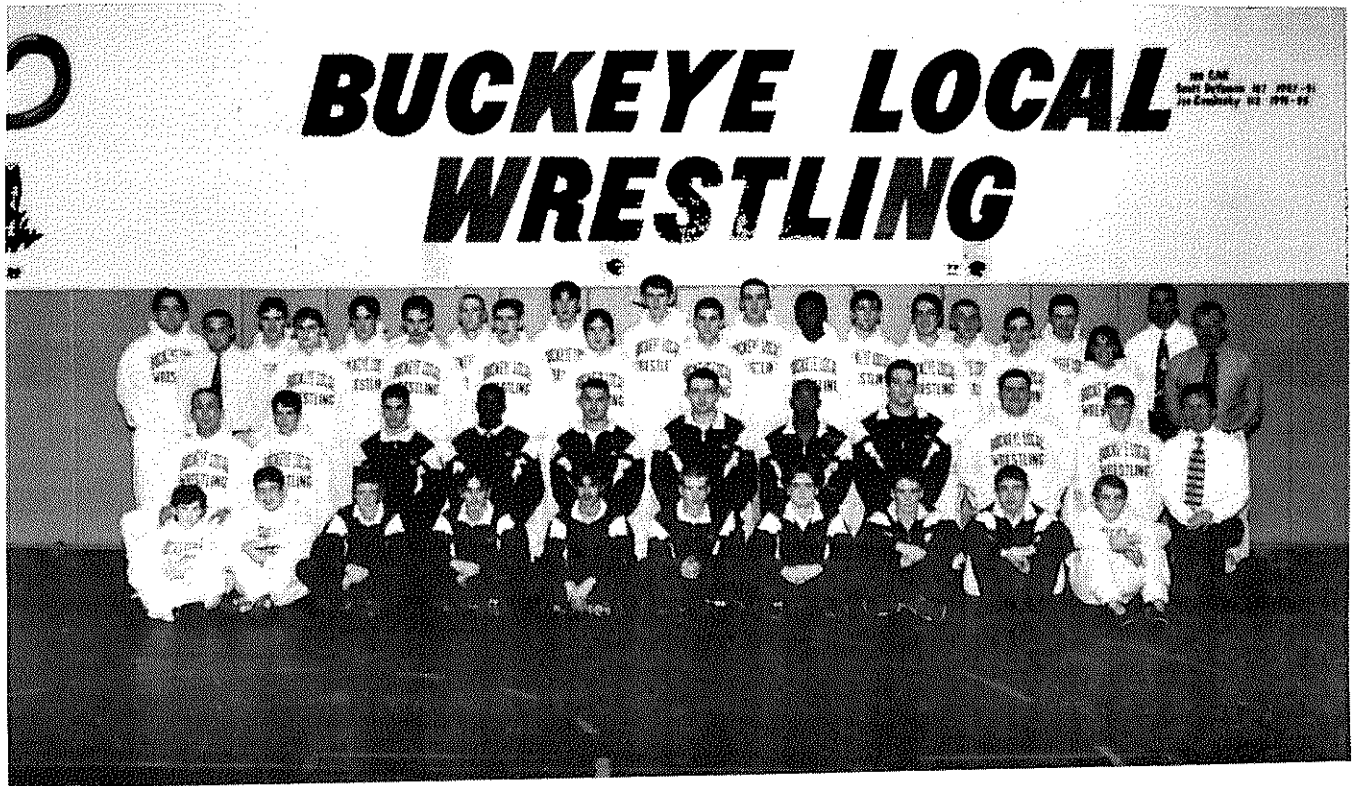
1996-97 BROOKE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Front row from left to right: Amanda Morgan (Mgr.), Jonathan Schey, Patrick Fodor, Joel Rogers, Rick Stanley, DeWitt Stanley, Dan Stanley, Ed Stock, Matt Clifton, Jesse Hornick (Stats.)
Second row: Angela Powell (Stats.), Whitney Hill (Mgr.), Tom Ayers, Ray Nielsen, Rick Wallace, Wesley Boyd, Nick Minda, Charles Rockhold, Tony Underwood, Stephanie Fodor (Photographer)
Back row: Head Coach Nolan VanGilder, Kelly Runyan (Mgr.), Rich Goodman (Mgr.), Brandon Jester, Mike Findling, Ian Mayhew, Bill Spencer, Mark Fedak, Tim McQuillian, Teri Fowle (Stats.), Mindy Montanez (VCR Camera Operator), Assistant Coach Joe Erlewine.

SPONSORED BY THE BROOKE WRESTLING CLUB

President: John Dean
Vice President: Goldie Stanley
Secretary: Lynette Stanley
Treasurer: Ellen Stanley

BUCKEYE LOCAL WRESTLING



SITTING; Shawn Smith, Casey Sustik, Brian Vargo, Greg Bigelow, Matt Curitti, Mike Cusick, Brad Glover, Jeff LaMotte, Sean Doyle, Brad Voiers

KNEELING; Coach Dave LaMotte, Noah Straus, Andrew Monogioudis, George Jackson, Tim Merkel, Rob Roe, Terry Smith, Jim Wilt, Mike Murphy, Brandon Rinkes, Coach Dan Doyle

STANDING; Coach Andrew Sawka, Coach Joe Smarrella, Scott Schaal, David Hilliard, Justin Tucker, Joe Long, Duayne Wetherell, Robert Hepburn, Joe Roe, Chris Sustik, Mike Brandy, Pat Benton, Bryan Harubin, Elec Simon, Adam Beranek, Chad Trout, Tom Sobota, Chad Smith, Randy Meeker, Nikkol Mosser, Coach Rich McCardle, Coach Herman DeYarmon

School: Buckeye Local High School

Colors: Navy Blue & Silver Grey

Classification: AAAA

Principal: Dan Doyle

Athletic Director: Ron White

BOOSTER OFFICERS

President: Randy Donahue

Vice President: Joe Sustik

Treasurer: Toni Hamm

Secretary: Linda Hosenfeld

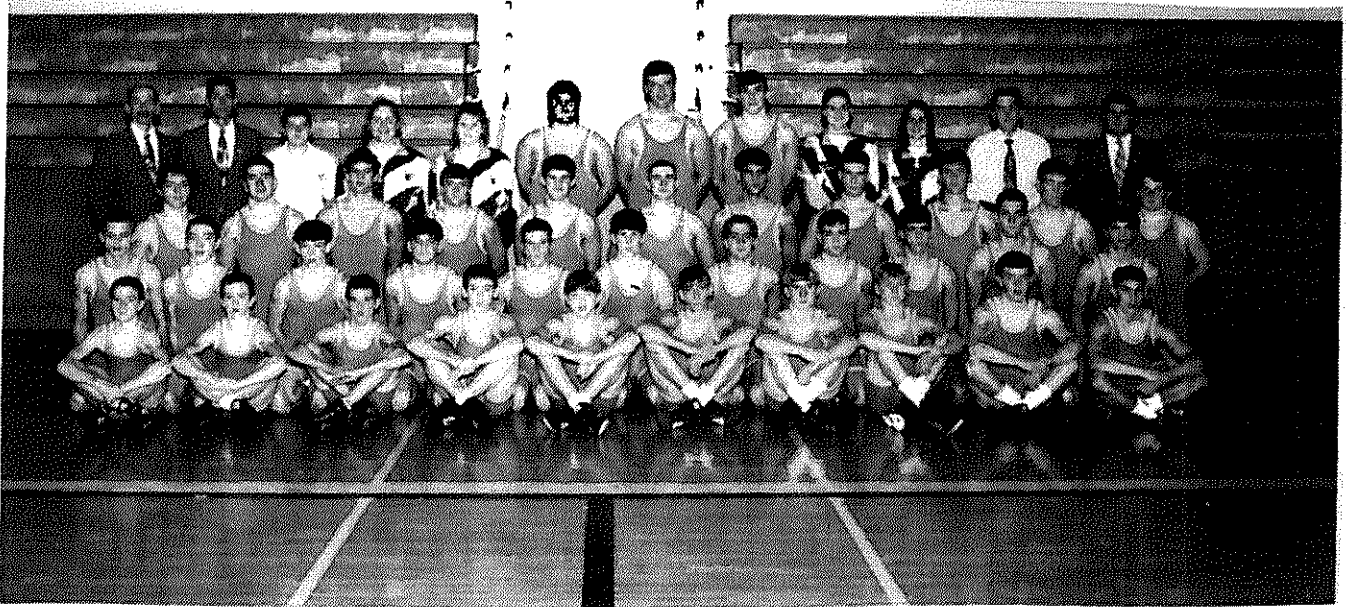
Good Luck, Panthers

from the

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Supporters of ALL Buckeye Local Athletics

OAK GLEN HIGH SCHOOL 1996-97 WRESTLING TEAM



1st Row, l-r: Phil MacFarland, Zach Zubay, Jason Roberts, Jon Yeater, Kimmer Cline, Jason Jones, Chris Poole, Josh Langley, Logan Glass, Ed Weible. 2nd Row, l-r: Andy Wharton, Matt Holdsworth, Mike Witherow, Matt Smith, Robbie Lamb, Josh Adkins, Josh Vinci, Denny Lebec, Drew Snider, Pat McGeehan, Shawn Milner. 3rd Row, l-r: Jerry Crow, Jack Hoit, Matt Volino, Jared Eckleberry, Frank Crummitt, Bryon Gallagher, Dirk Snider, Oscar Hoit, Duwayne Bland, Josh Reed, Tom Hawkingberry. 4th Row, l-r: Head Coach Larry Shaw, Asst. Coach Bill Wells, Brenden McGeehan, Shauna Smith, Beth Zanker, Josh Thomas, Alex McClung, Robert Wildman, Amie Goddard, Teresa Phillips, Randy Elliott, Asst. Coach Rick Brown.



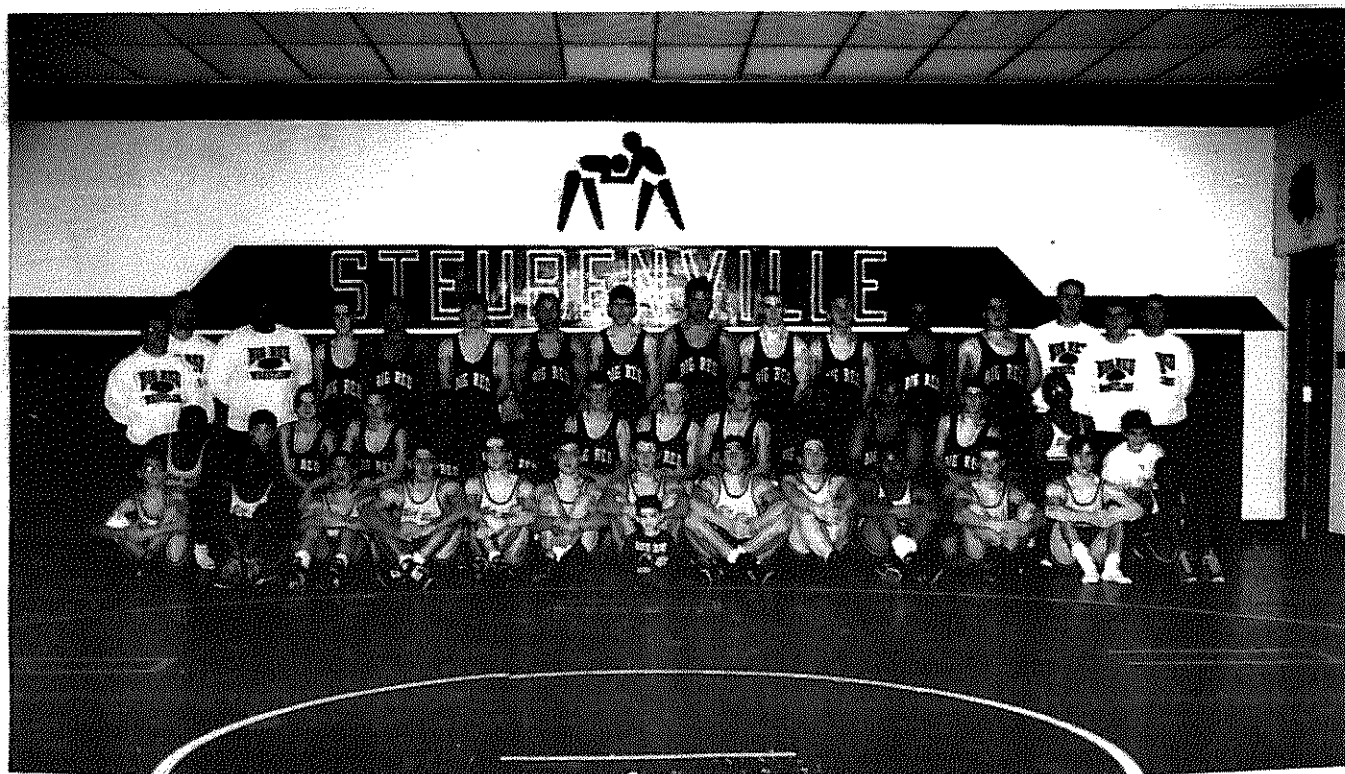
***Good Luck
Golden Bear Wrestlers!***

**OVAC Class AAA
Columbia Blue and
Gold School Colors**

**Athletic Director - John Edwards
Principal - Suzan Smith**

STEUBENVILLE WRESTLING

1996-1997



In front: Michael Camilletti

Seated: Nick Ricci, (* _____), Marcus Smith, Jamie Komonich, Chris Warznirski, Joe Yanok, Drew Hindman, Dan Meronoff, Josh Mossor, Brian Chester, Matt Rembold, Bill Young, and Jay Barbour.

Kneeling: (* _____), Thad Crosier, Jared Grimm, Brock Budash, Jeff Saunders, Ethan Birden, Joe Young, Mitch Wheeler, Chris VanDine, Cornell Birden, Mike Hayden, Greg Besozzi, and (* _____).

Standing: Coach Joe Marricino, Coach Rick Camilletti, Jamel Chamberlain, Derek Sebeck, John Jones, Mark Snider, (* _____), John DiPasquale, (* _____), David Schayes, (* _____), Brad Edwards, Jared Angelica, Head Coach Danny Keenan, Matt Snider, and Coach John Rocchi.

(* _____) indicates no longer with the team.

Good Luck, Big Red !!!

Steubenville High School Wrestling
and
The Big Red Boosters

ROLL RED ROLL !!!



NOTES

1997 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

AWARD WINNERS

MR. MAT

MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP

BIERKORTTE MVP AWARD

Championship Team Banner

"AAAA" Champion

"AAA" Champion

"AA" Champion

"A" Champion

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

103 - _____

112 - _____

119 - _____

125 - _____

130 - _____

135 - _____

140 - _____

145 - _____

152 - _____

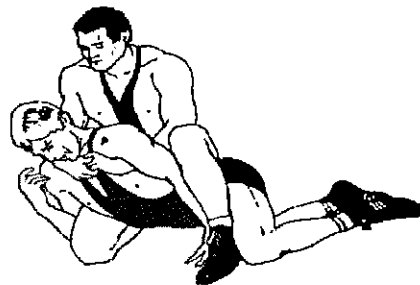
160 - _____

171 - _____

189 - _____

215 - _____

HWT - _____





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