

WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

One of the Largest Conference Tournaments in the United States

Wheeling Civic Center
Wheeling, West Virginia
Thursday-Friday-Saturday
January 22 - 23 - 24, 1998



▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪
▪ *Souvenir Program* ▪
▪ \$2.00 ▪
▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

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” Schmitt
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
1998 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."

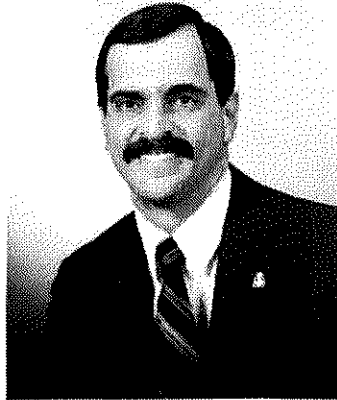
*Mr. Ronald Mauck
Brooke High School
Director*



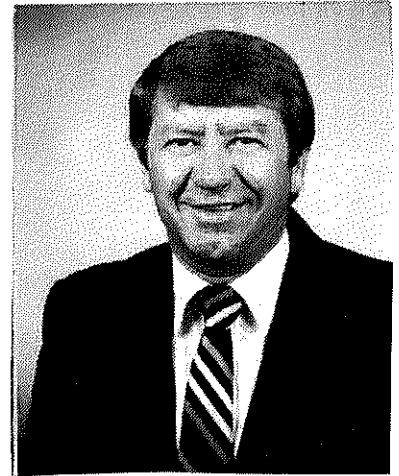
1997 - 1998 OVAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



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St. Clairsville



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OVAC Board Member - Past President
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RON TROWBRIDGE
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John Marshall



RODNEY McDANIEL
OVAC Board Member
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C.L. Strahl
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Union Local



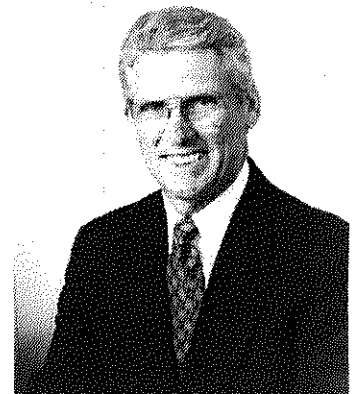
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Proud Partners with "Potters"

Congratulates

East Liverpool High School

on

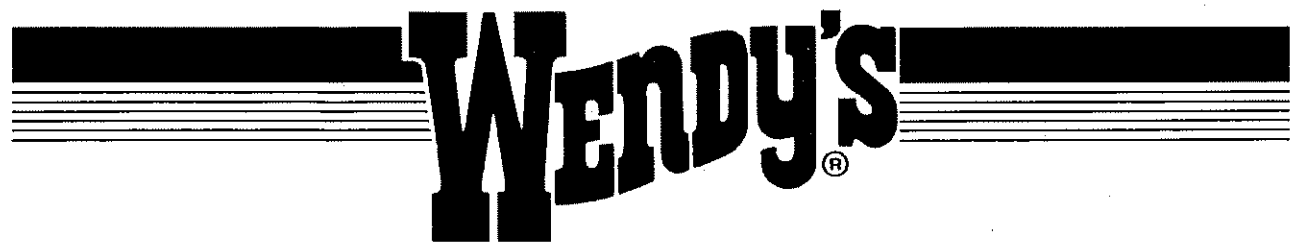
The 50th Anniversary of Wrestling

and

25 Years of Membership

in

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference



Welcomes You to Wheeling and
The OVAC Wrestling Tournament

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



and
the



Zanesville, Ohio • Wintersville, Ohio • Cadiz, Ohio
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Moundsville, West Virginia • Benwood, West Virginia
Wellsburg, West Virginia • Elm Grove, West Virginia

Wendy's Management Group, Inc.
Zanesville, Ohio

1997

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

TEAM SCORING

OVER ALL

1. Buckeye Local -----	184
2. East Liverpool -----	173½
3. Wheeling Park -----	168½
4. Martins Ferry -----	167½
5. John Marshall -----	166½
6. Beaver Local -----	159
7. Indian Creek -----	142½
8. Cadiz -----	142
9. Brooke -----	113½
10. Oak Glen -----	111½
11. Steubenville -----	109
12. Cameron -----	108
13. Edison Local -----	105½
14. Wellsville -----	96
15. Bellaire -----	92
16. Barnesville -----	90½
17. Shadyside -----	82½
18. St. John's -----	80
19. Linsly -----	79
20. Union Local -----	69½
21. Monroe Central -----	62
22. Steubenville Central -----	58
23. St. Clairsville -----	56½
24. Bridgeport -----	54½
25. Meadowbrook -----	44
26. Caldwell -----	40½
27. Tyler Consolidated -----	39
28. Magnolia -----	37
29. Cambridge -----	32
30. Bishop Donahue -----	28
31. Weirton -----	24
32. River Local -----	22
33. Shenandoah -----	14
34. Beallsville -----	12
35. Weirton Madonna -----	11½

AAAA

1. Buckeye Local -----	184
2. East Liverpool -----	173½
3. Wheeling Park -----	168½
4. John Marshall -----	166½
5. Indian Creek -----	142½
6. Brooke -----	113½
7. Steubenville -----	109
8. Edison -----	105½
9. Cambridge -----	32
10. Weir -----	24

AAA

1. Martins Ferry -----	167½
2. Beaver Local -----	159
3. Oak Glen -----	111½
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5. Barnesville -----	90½
6. Union Local -----	69½
7. St. Clairsville -----	56½
8. Meadowbrook -----	44
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1. Cadiz -----	142
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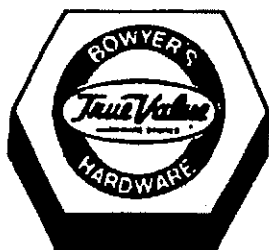
Athletic contests are truly life in a microcosm
where we see tested the morals and values hopefully instilled

PAT HADLEY

Columbiana County Auditor

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of "Potter" Wrestling*

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Rich Gregor

Personifying the Pride and the Passion of Wrestling

by Nick Trombetta



One of the joys of coaching is developing a camaraderie with your peers. I had the privilege of this experience with my good friend, Rich Gregor. I am honored to be able to share with you my thoughts about this unique and talented teacher and coach.

Rich was born to coach. He was and is a hard nosed, no nonsense, tell it like it is, in your face humanitarian. There is no contradiction in terms here. He cares about people and does more than just talk about it. Rich has a credo based on good old-fashioned down-home values. Honesty, hard work and loyalty are the core from which he operates. His unwavering devotion to his family, his community, his school, his team and his friends is well known and highly respected. He is more than a great coach, teacher and role model. Rich Gregor is as fine a man as you will ever know. He is truly a cut above the rest.

I enjoyed watching Rich work. He was at his best during the OVAC Tournament. I watched him pace the floor of the Civic Center talking to his kids and discussing strategy prior to a match. I watched him smack his kid on the back to awaken the wrestler and motivate him to give his best, (it didn't matter if it were the finals or preliminaries). It didn't matter if his kid was highly favored or highly overmatched, the intensity was the same. I marveled at his exuberance during and after a hard fought bout. I've seen him explode with joy after a victory, laughing and sharing his happiness with anyone and everyone. I've watch him embrace his athlete after a disappointing loss. It hurt Rich just as much as it did his wrestler and sometimes even more. I've watched him both console and congratulate opposing wrestlers and coaches. Sportsmanship is as important to him as winning. To Gregor you can't win without it!

A Gregor team was always in great shape, mentally tough and extremely disciplined. A team generally reflects the attitude and values of their coach and his teams did. There was never any room on his team for showboats, prima donnas or cry babies. If someone needed an attitude adjustment, (this included his assistants, opposing coaches and officials) Rich knew what to do. He knew when to push, pull, hug and back-off his kids and assistants. They knew if you wrestled or coached for him, there were certain rules and parameters. Violate the rule and there would be a cost associated with it. Follow the rules and you could expect to be rewarded with more kindness and attention than you ever thought possible.

Gregor won more than his share of matches, meets and championships. You have to be impressed to see how many and how often, (326-162-3). Consistency is a prerequisite to any successful program. Rich was

consistent in the way he did things and the way he treated people. He had the enviable knack to have his teams repeatedly set realistic goals and reach them. He did this by working hard and having fun. Wrestling practices were sometimes replaced by sled riding. His kids loved it and him for this and all the other Gregor activities that helped get them in shape and avoid early season burnout.

No coach in OVAC history has entertained us like he has with his patented classic "Gregor tirades". The unassuming recipient of most of these were the wrestling officials. When he felt that a referee blew a critical call at the O.V.A.C. Tournament in Wheeling, (which according to Rich, happened to him every year) the verbal assault began. It would be so loud and animated that I'm sure Rich could be heard all the way back in Bergholtz. To say the least, he was passionate in defense of his kids. Afterwards, he would surprise more than a few referees when complimenting them for a job well done. He is that kind of man; fair, focused, generous and funny.

Rich did things the right way for all the right reasons. He is respected by those of us in the wrestling family as a great coach, loyal friend and an outstanding human being. Such admiration he richly deserves and has aggressively earned. However, it is the rest of us who are honored for having had him touch our lives in so many different ways.

Thanks Rich, you made us all believe we could be champions!

Rich's Record A Wrestling Career Spanning 5 Decades

'56 - '59 - Springfield Local High School - Wrestled 4 yrs
'59 - '63 - Ohio University - Wrestled 4 years
'63 - '65 - Central Missouri State - Obtained Masters Degree
'65 - '66 - Springfield Local High School - Wrestling Coach
'66 - '69 - Miami Dade Junior College, Fla - Wrestling Coach
'69 - '70 - Frostburg State College, MD - Wrestling Coach
'71 - '72 - Hialeah High School, Florida - Wrestling Coach
'72 - '74 - Harbor High School, Ashtabula, OH - Wrestling Coach
'74 - '88 - Springfield Local High School - Wrestling Coach
'88 - '90 - Stanton Local High School - Wrestling Coach
'90 - '92 - Edison South Local High School - Wrestling Coach
Overall coaching record - 326-162-3
Winning percentage - 664%

*Trombetta is the Superintendent of the Midland
School District in Midland, Pa. and a two-time
OVAC Wrestling Coach of the Year.*

The East Liverpool Board of Education

Charles "Chuck" Parry
Paula Davenport

Carolee O'Hara
Max Ace

Maureen Aronoff

and

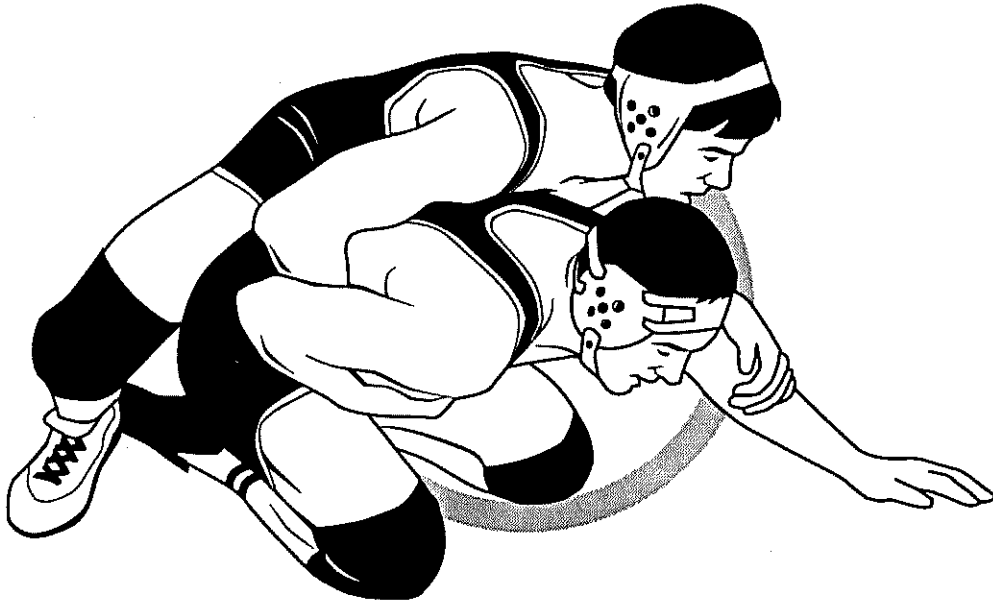
ADMINISTRATORS

Thomas P. Ash - Superintendent
John W. Weaver - ELHS Principal
John Piverotto - Vocational Director
Glenn Dickinson - Westgate Principal
Daniel Ferrari - East Elementary Principal
Frank Rose - North Elementary Principal

Robert McCafferty - Assistant Superintendent
John Polshaw - ELHS Vice Principal
Charles Padgett - Director Spec. Prog.
John George - Middle School Assistant
Rick Wolfe - Lacroft Elem Principal

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MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1997



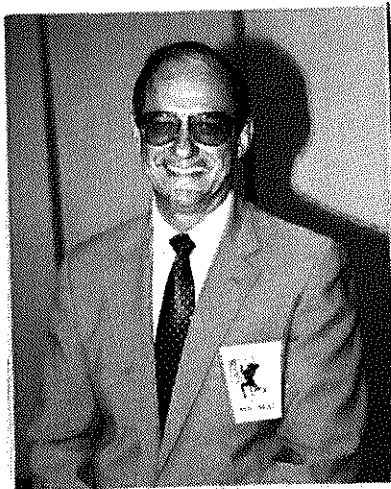
1976: GEORGE KOVALICK
Bellaire Athletic Director



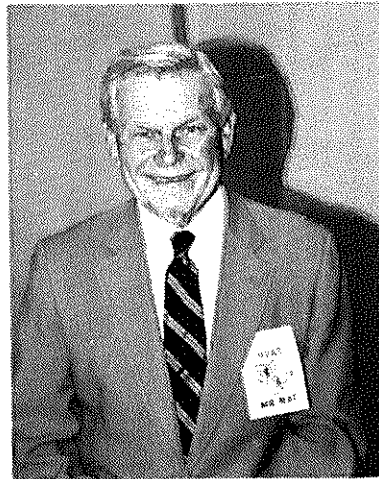
1977: BILL VAN HORNE
Sports Editor, Wheeling New Register



1978: JOHN VROTSOS
Martins Ferry High School



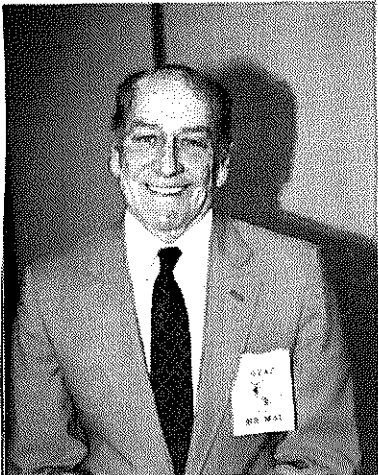
1979: Richard Edge
Principal, Springfield High



1980: George Wally
John Marshall Athletic Director



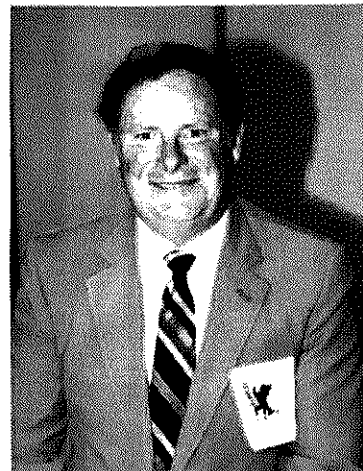
1981: Bob Hedmond
Steubenville Athletic Director



1982: Paul Crago
Marshall County Schools



1983: Dr. Vincent Monseau
West Liberty State College



1984: Bill Hinegardner
John Marshall High School



1985: DENNIS BOWMAN
Bellaire High School

MR. MAT AWARD • 1976 — 1997



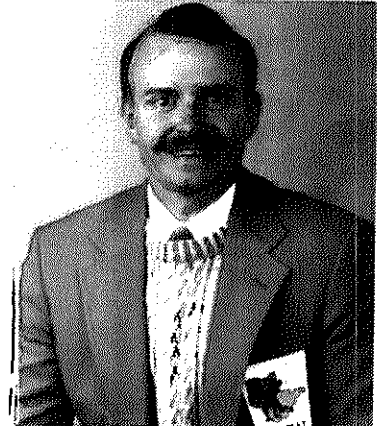
1986: RONALD MAUCK
Brooke High School



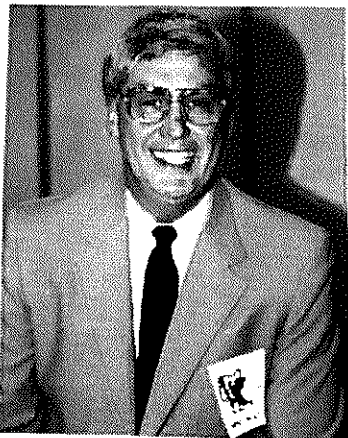
1987: ERIC CARDER
Wheeling Park Athletic Director



1988: DAVE KOVALICK
Barnesville High School



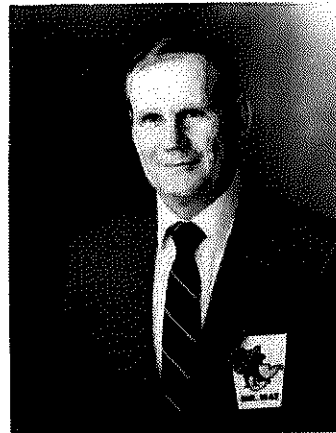
1989: STEVE KISH
Principal, Bellaire High School



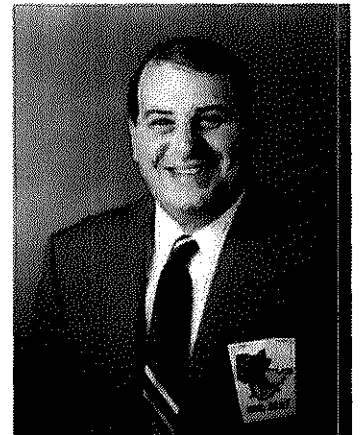
1990: CARL FODOR
Hancock County Schools



1991: DR. WILLIAM WELKER
Warwood Middle School



1992: LARRY DEATON
Martins Ferry



1993: JOHN STEPHENSON
Cadiz High School



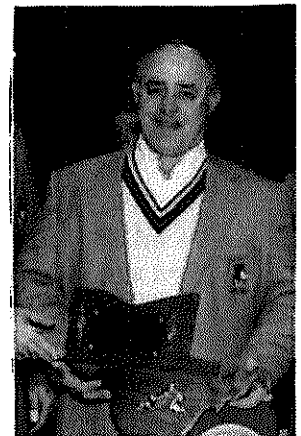
1994: JOE BATES
Woodsfield High School



1995: BOB BRUNEY
Martins Ferry High School



1996: LARRY CHAMBERS
Moundsville Jr. High School



1997: GARY DAVIS
Beallsville High School

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Member FDIC

25th ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1973 O V A C CHAMPIONS

- 98 - Kevin Felton ----- Brooke
105 - Bob Mendenhall ----- Linsly Institute
112 - Challen Stewart ----- Barnesville
119 - Frank Hotlosz ----- Bellaire St. John's
126 - Don Nippert ----- Beallsville
132 - Dave Kosky ----- Bellaire St. John's
138 - Ken Robinson ----- Brooke
145 - John Vdovjak ----- Warwood
155 - Rick Spencer ----- Steubenville
167 - Tom Suriano ----- Martins Ferry
175 - Dan Claugus ----- Barnesville
185 - Eric Frankovitch ----- Weirton
HWT - Denny Haney ----- Warwood

WELCOME BACK !!!!!

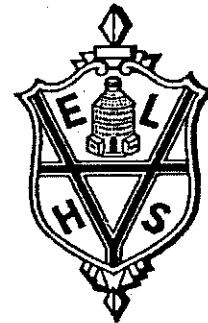
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45th Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament Schedule 1998

Meet Sessions

8 MATS

First Session - Thursday January 22 - 5:00 PM

8 MATS

Second Session - Friday January 23 - 11:00 AM

8 MATS

Third Session - Friday January 23 - 6:00 PM

4 MATS

Fourth Session - Saturday January 24 - 11:00 AM

Semi-Finals and 5th round semi-final Consolations

4 MATS

Fifth Session - Saturday January 24 - 4:00 PM

Championship Finals
Wrestling for 1st thru 8th Place

1998 OVAC WRESTLING OFFICIALS

Ray Anthony	Columbia Station, OH	John Holliday	New Martinsville, WV
Bob Bender	Martins Ferry, OH	John Jefferis	Barnesville, OH
Lou Coffland	Cadiz, OH	** Steve Kish, Jr.	Martins Ferry, OH
Jim Crosier	Barnesville, OH	Steve Long	Centerville, OH
Rick Crosier	Steubenville, OH	Dave Lynn	Barnesville, OH
Shawn Crosier	Steubenville, OH	*** Ray Marling	Martins Ferry, OH
* Larry Deaton	Martins Ferry, OH	Tom Woods	Mt. Lake Park, MD
Rick Hare	Williamsport, MD	Tony Vcelka	Belmont, OH

* NFIOA 1997 West Virginia Wrestling Official Achievement Award

** NFIOA 1997 Ohio Wrestling Official Achievement Award

*** OVAC 1997 Wrestling Official of the Year

Wrestling Rules Interpreters

Vince Matteucci - State of Ohio - Lakewood, OH

William Welker - State of West Virginia - Wheeling, WV

The success of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament is largely a tribute to the expertise and efficiency of the Wheeling Civic Center Staff, under the direction of Civic Center Manager, Dennis Magruder; Ron Osser of Ticket Sales; Lee Krages of Food Service and the unexcelled cooperation of all their employees.

O.V.A.C. Wrestling

Thursday Night

Opening Ceremonies

JANUARY 22, 1998

3:00-4:00 Weigh-ins (Ohio Valley Scales)
4:35 Coach's meeting and scratch schedule
4:35-5:00 Warm up on mats

4:35-4:40	4:40-4:45	4:45-4:50
1. Barnesville	9. Cadiz	17. Linsly
2. Beallsville	10. Caldwell	18. Magnolia
3. Beaver Local	11. Cambridge	19. Martins Ferry
4. Bellaire	12. Cameron	20. Meadowbrook
5. Bishop Donahue	13. East Liverpool	21. Monroe Central
6. Bridgeport	14. Edison	22. Oak Glen
7. Brooke	15. Indian Creek	23. River
8. Buckeye Local	16. John Marshall	24. Shadyside
		25. Shenandoah

4:50-4:55	4:55-5:00
26. St. Clairsville	32. Weirton
27. St. John	33. Weirton Madonna
28. Steubenville	34. Wellsville
29. Steubenville Catholic	35. Wheeling Park
30. Tyler Consolidated	
31. Union Local	

5:05-5:15 Teams will fall in procession with coaches leading their teams and then line up to the right of their teams (Olympic Music)

TEAMS ENTER

5:15 OVAC Wrestling Prayer - Dr. Vince Monseau, Head Wrestling Coach
West Liberty State College

5:20 National Anthem performed by Ron Dilorenzo, Wheeling Park High School

5:25 Processional exit to Olympic Theme

5:30 Announce on deck wrestlers

“Stick With The Best!”

WHEELING TROPHY



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it’s happening at the ‘LIGHTS’ ”*

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

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;

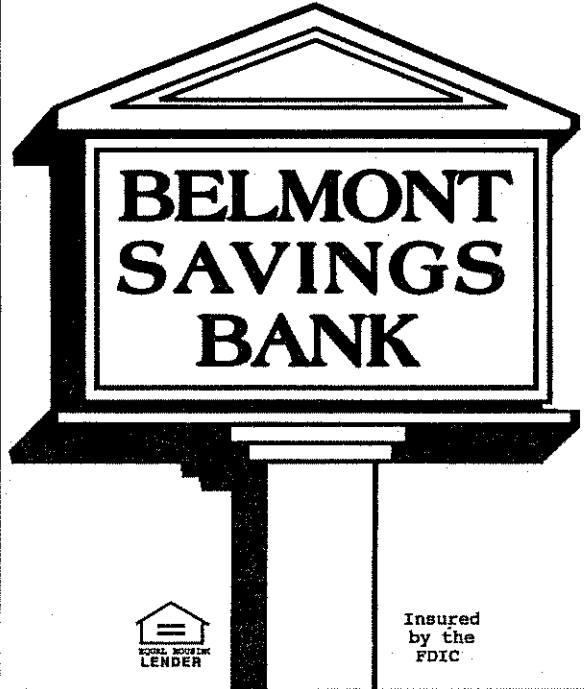
Bless our parents that they may understand--win or lose, their sons are learning much about life through wrestling;

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

Good Luck To All OVAC Teams!



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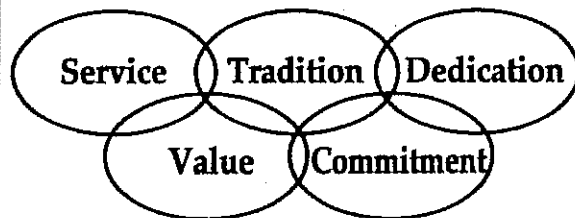
Barnesville
425-1901



215 W. Fifth Street - East Liverpool OH 43920
(330) 385-1010



Seated, left to right: Jim Cooper, Frank C. Dawson, Dike Dawson
Standing, left to right: Tim Martin, Jim Dunlap, Dan Ibbs, Belinda Dunlap



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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 Tluchowski	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
1997	Chris Ward	John Marshall

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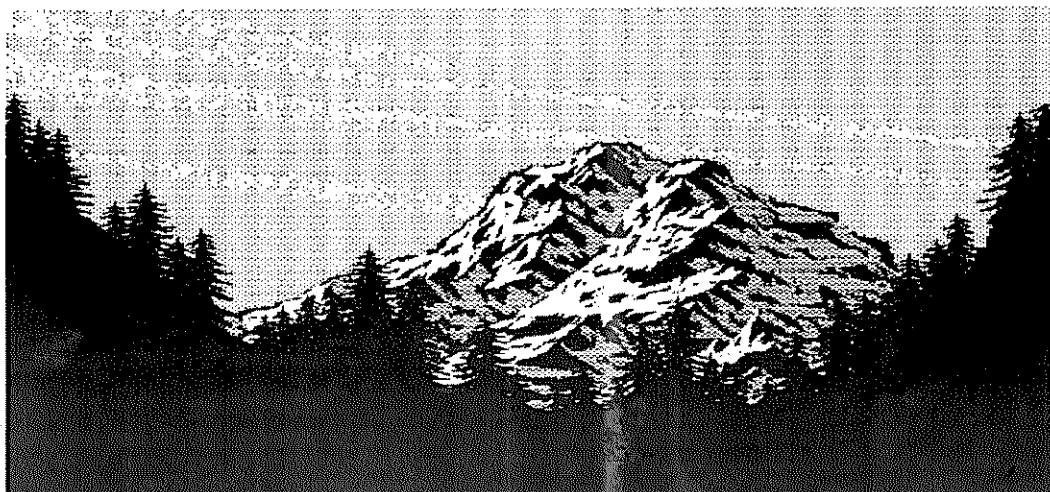
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Good Luck OVAC Coaches and Wrestlers!

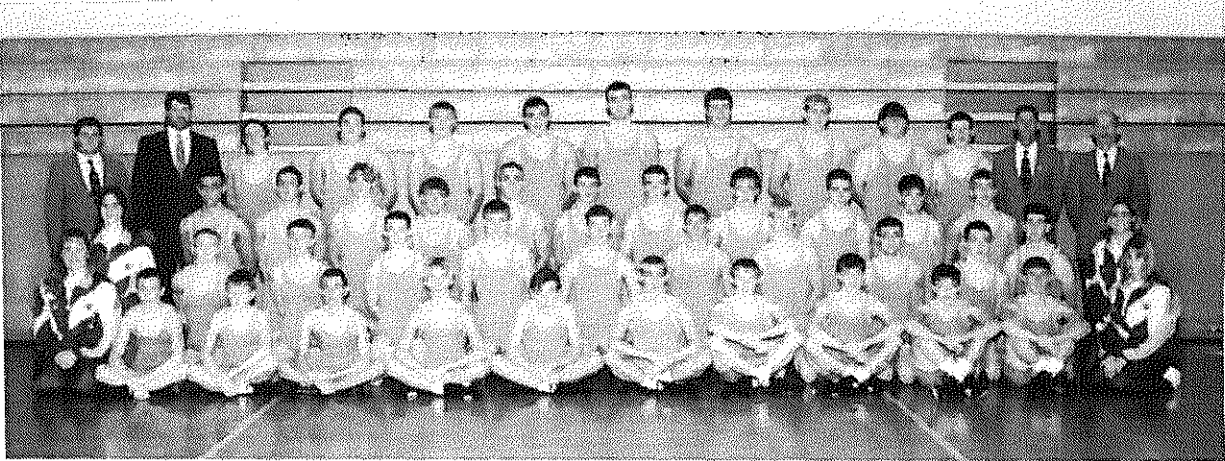
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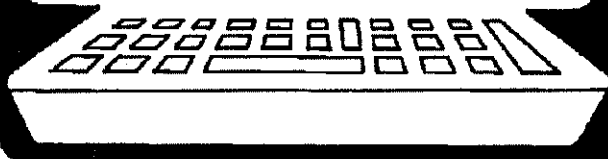
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Bobby Douglas	Bridgeport	1961
Mark Emmerling	East Liverpool	1989
Kelly Shields	Edison South	1993

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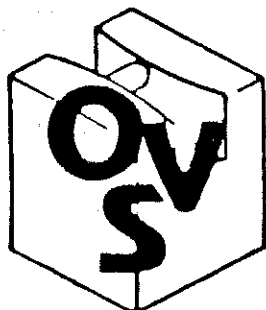
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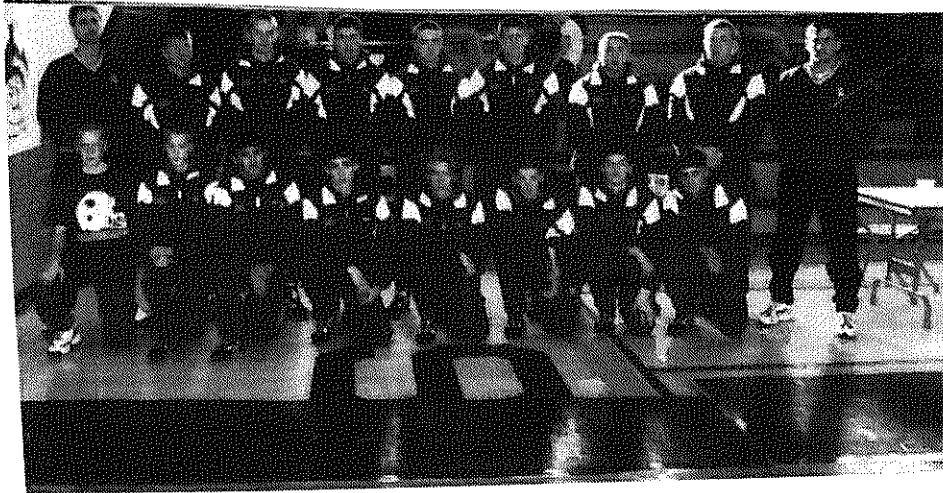
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~~ IN MEMORIAM ~~

A TRIBUTE TO PAT CLUTTER

The "Voice of OVAC Wrestling" for many years at the Wheeling Civic Center, Pat Clutter will be deeply missed by all of us who love the sport of wrestling.

On Wednesday, December 17, 1997, Patrick Alvin Clutter took leave of this world at the age of 46, and the Ohio Valley academic and athletic community lost a son who made us all very proud.

A devoted husband, dedicated father, educator, coach, and sports broadcasting celebrity, Pat Clutter's brilliance illuminated every endeavor in which he was involved. But more importantly, the many loving memories and lasting friendships he made will be fondly cherished in the hearts and minds of those he touched - - family, students, fellow educators and coaches, and local radio/TV sports personalities.

I knew Mr. Pat Clutter as the radio instructor for my three sons (Billy, Ricky, and Danny) at Wheeling Park High School . . . and announcer for our grand OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

As a master teacher, he was a unique and important commodity in our society. My sons thought the world of Pat Clutter, and their sentiments were shared by every student/athlete who has ever come in contact with this dedicated educator and coach.

Pat Clutter was the type of teacher/coach who was concerned about his adolescent learners' total development . . . and the students knew how much he cared about their futures. In fact, Mr. Clutter often assisted his students in pursuing a higher education or a position in the workplace. His pupils always knew they could talk to him when faced with problems in their lives. Yes, Pat Clutter always found time for those he taught and coached.

Although Mr. Clutter was a highly-respected and very successful girls' basketball coach, he realized the virtues of all other sports as well.



Wrestling was very special to Pat Clutter. He took great pride in being the premier announcer of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament when it was relocated to the Wheeling Civic Center in the early '80s. We will always remember his vibrant enthusiasm as the "man behind the mike" during the three-day mat extravaganza.


In sum, I think Dave Flatley, his sports broadcasting protege and former student, phrased it best (Sunday NEWS-REGISTER, December 28, 1997):

"Pat Clutter gave me the opportunity to find my God-given talent, and he also gave me the stage to debut it to the world. Without his encouragement, prodding and constant guidance, I would not be where I am today.

Always the constant teacher, Pat was the perfect broadcast partner who continued to teach me the finer points of the game as seen from a coach's point of view.

As Father Wilhelm said at the funeral service a few weeks ago, we all feel cheated that Pat Clutter was taken away from us so young, and yet we must be forever grateful that he came at all."

By William Welker, Ed. D.



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	1989	Reed Case, Cadiz
1981	Bob Furr, Beallsville	1990	Ed Neely, Weirton
1982	Dave Delande, St Clairsville	1991	Eric Potts, Cameron
1983	Scott Mills, Steubenville	1992	John Gibeaut, Union Local
1984	Tim Ward, Beallsville	1993	Dave Norris, Cameron
1985	Charlie Keenan, Steubenville	1994	Chad Burge, Cameron
	Darrin Heavilin, Cadiz	1995	Brian Roskovich, Bridgeport
1986	Mike Imbroscio, Bellaire	1996	Eric Anderson, St. John’s
1987	Vinnie Monseau, Wheeling Park	1997	Sean Doyle, Buckeye Local
1988	Dan Keenan, Steubenville		

Richard W. Oberdick

3/20/36 - 2/8/97



It was with heavy hearts that the OVAC Wrestling family learned of the death of Dick Oberdick on Feb. 8, 1997, shortly after the 44th Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

Dick was mild mannered and soft spoken, an impression that belied his boundless enthusiasm.

As a '55 graduate of Martins Ferry High School, football was his great love, but he also ran track for the "Purple Riders". For a period of time he held the OVAC record for the One Mile Run.

As with many wrestling fans, his addiction to the sport started when his oldest son, Rick, began wrestling in '69. Subsequently, he followed the career of his son, Jeff, through '77.

He became even more intimately involved during Rick's coaching tenure at St. Clairsville from '78 thru '88, and then Jeff's coaching career at Martins Ferry from '82 until the time of his passing.

Dick was an active member of the Martins Ferry Boosters, faithfully giving of his time, talent, and finances in helping kids in any way possible.

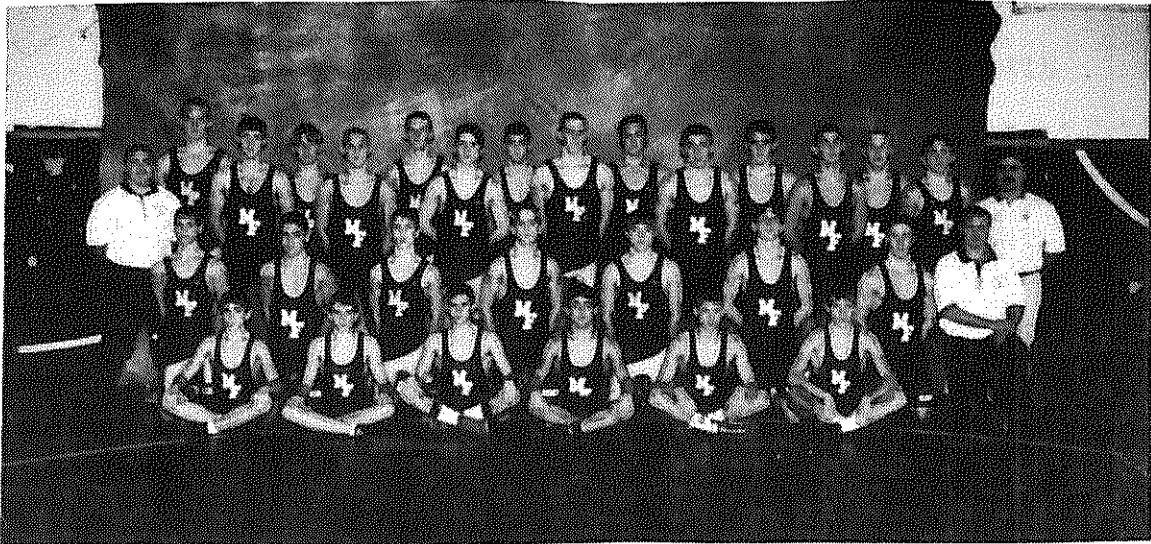
When son, Rick, left coaching, he continued his involvement with wrestling by directing tournaments. It was only natural that Dad would likewise satisfy his addiction by helping out in any way possible. For more than 10 years, Dick religiously worked tournaments at St. Johns, OVAC, OHSAA Sectionals, and Districts.

In 1996, he was honored as the first recipient of the "Sid Stolz Award" presented to a loyal and dedicated table worker at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

Steve Kish, veteran wrestling official and Superintendent of Schools in Martins Ferry, said, "Dick was a tireless conscientious and personable gentleman, who helped elevate Ohio Valley wrestling to its present level. He has left behind a legacy as one who sincerely cared about wrestlers and actively did all he could for the sport of wrestling and all participants and coaches."

To those of us who knew him, he was loved and will be sorely missed. He was an individual to be admired for selfless commitment to family, friends, and community, with the only reward being the personal satisfaction of being involved in positive activities that benefit the young. We would all be well served to follow his example.

Martins Ferry Purple Riders



Seated: Left to Right - Anthony Mamone, Todd Miller, Doug Curnes, Jason Schaal, Greg Ware, Shane Brost. **Second Row:** David Cornett, Scott Roth, John Yoder, Kirk Roth, Steve Yarnevic, J.T. Stenger, Dan Jones, Coach Jeff Oberdick. **Third Row:** Coach Babe Sidon, Tim Weaver, Chris Ward, Tom Bumbico, Jason Wensyel, Tom Sobota, Andy Dobson, B.J. Hedger, Coach Mark Roth. **Fourth Row:** Sam Cruise, George Padgelek, Rob Duncan, Nick Redinger, Casey Berisford, Craig Bruney, George Shreve. Absent: David Proctor, Justin Hughes.

Superintendent Steve Kish
Principal Daniel Stephens
Athletic Director Warren Hood
Head Coach Jeff Oberdick

Assistant Coaches Babe Sidon
Mark Roth
Bubba Coleman
Nickname Purple Riders
Colors Purple & White

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The James H. Morris OVAC Wrestling Sportsmanship Award and Scholarship

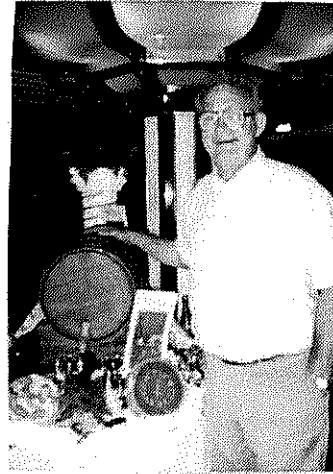
A memorial tribute to James "Dead Eye" Morris was established by the Morris family and sons, Jeff and Gregg, (both former OVAC Wrestling Champions) in 1997 following his untimely passing.

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

The inaugural Sportsmanship Award was presented during opening ceremonies of the Finals in 1997. Co-recipients of this prestigious award were Tom Brannon and Ray McCool of Moundsville.

This is a unique award in that a plaque is 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."

To qualify, an OVAC wrestler must apply to be selected and recognized as the recipient of this Scholarship Award. The criteria used to determine the winner is structured to place great emphasis on Good Sportsmanship and a favorable evaluation of his academic and wrestling achievements.



A plaque, allowing for the listing of successive honorees, is 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 Wrestling 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."

The first recipient of The James H. Morris Memorial Scholarship in 1997 was Paul Grinch a 152# wrestler from Shadyside High School.



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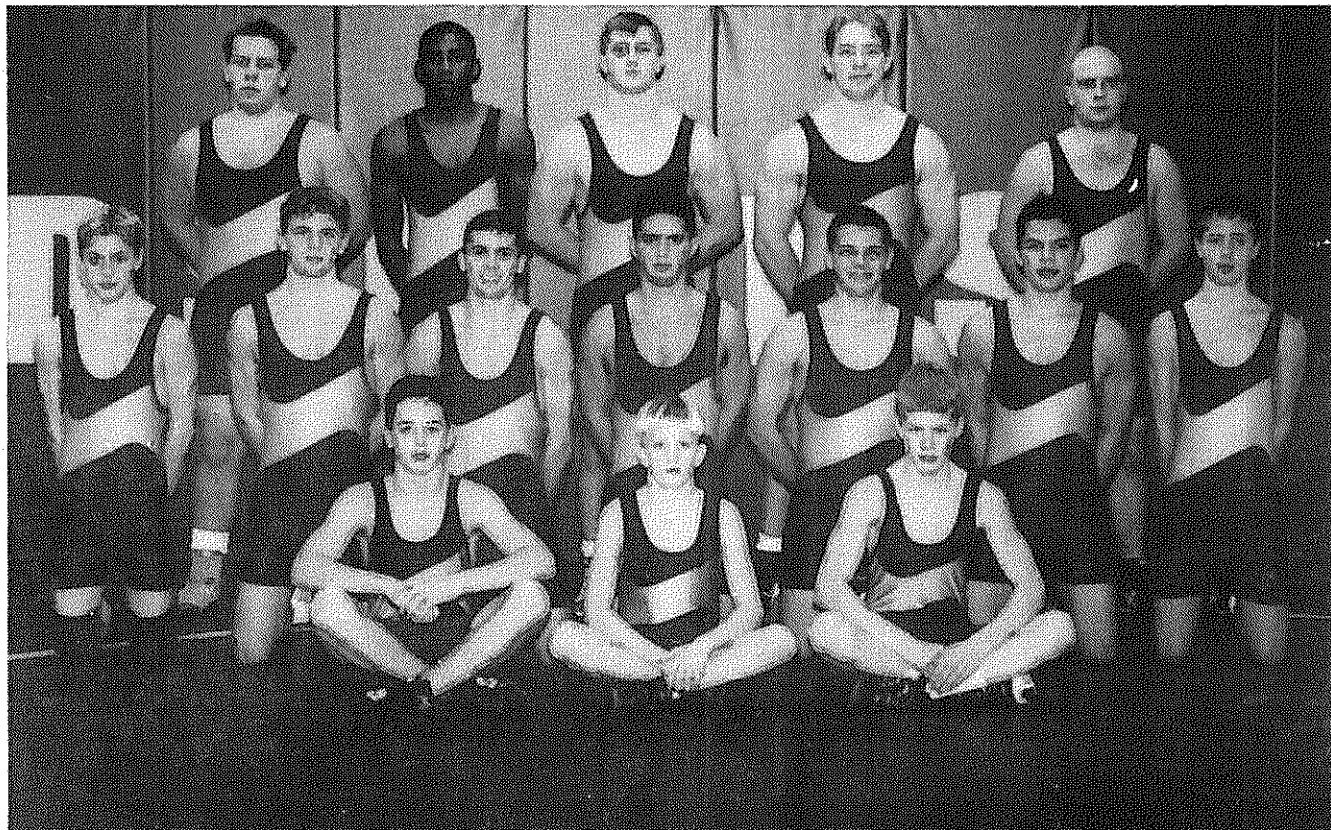
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Indian Creek Wrestling 1998

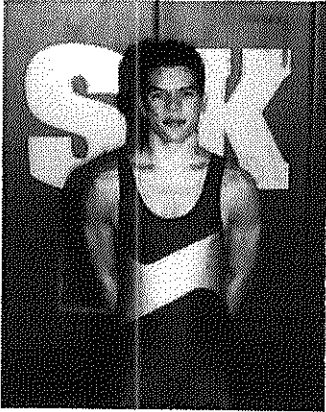


First Row: Justin Cowser, Derek Maple, and Justin Hall. Second Row: Jared Koos, Brandon Pendleton, Jeremy Stacy, Josh Ewing, Jeff Suppa, Phil Altieri, and Trevor Marsh. Third Row: Nate Yeager, Trevor Cooper, Nick Dondzila, David Boyuk, and Josh Tooley.

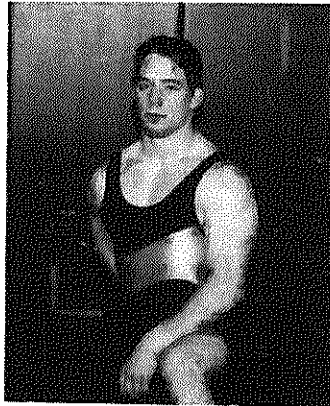
Coaches: Head Coach John Craig; Assistant Coaches, John Rocchi and T.C. Chappellear

Good Luck Redskin Team from the
Indian Creek Wrestling Parents!

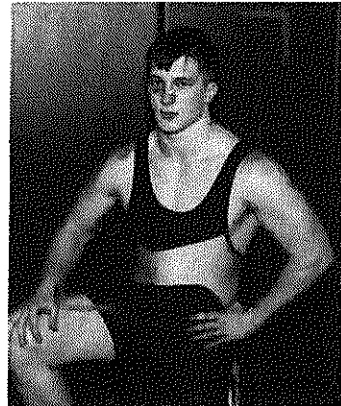
Redskin Seniors



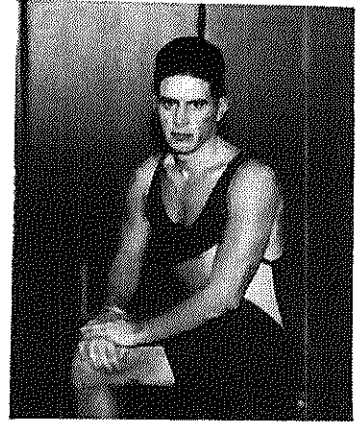
Phil Altieri



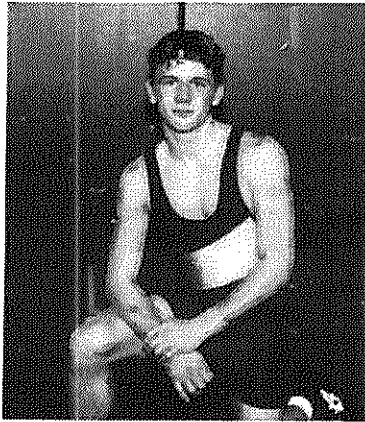
David Boyuk



Nick Dondizila



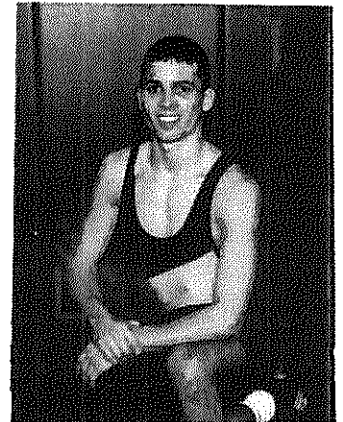
Josh Ewing



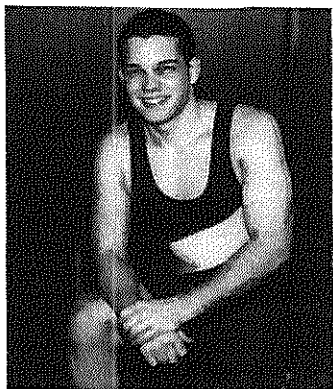
Brandon Pendleton



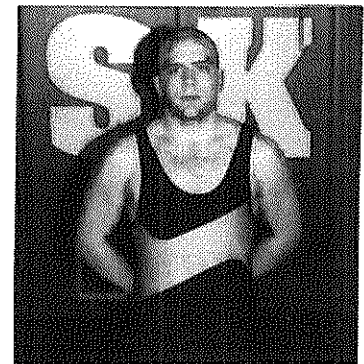
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The Wrestling Parent

*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.

THE OVAC Wrestling Tournament

Its birth . . . growth . . . and perpetuation

By Richard Keith Wolf



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.

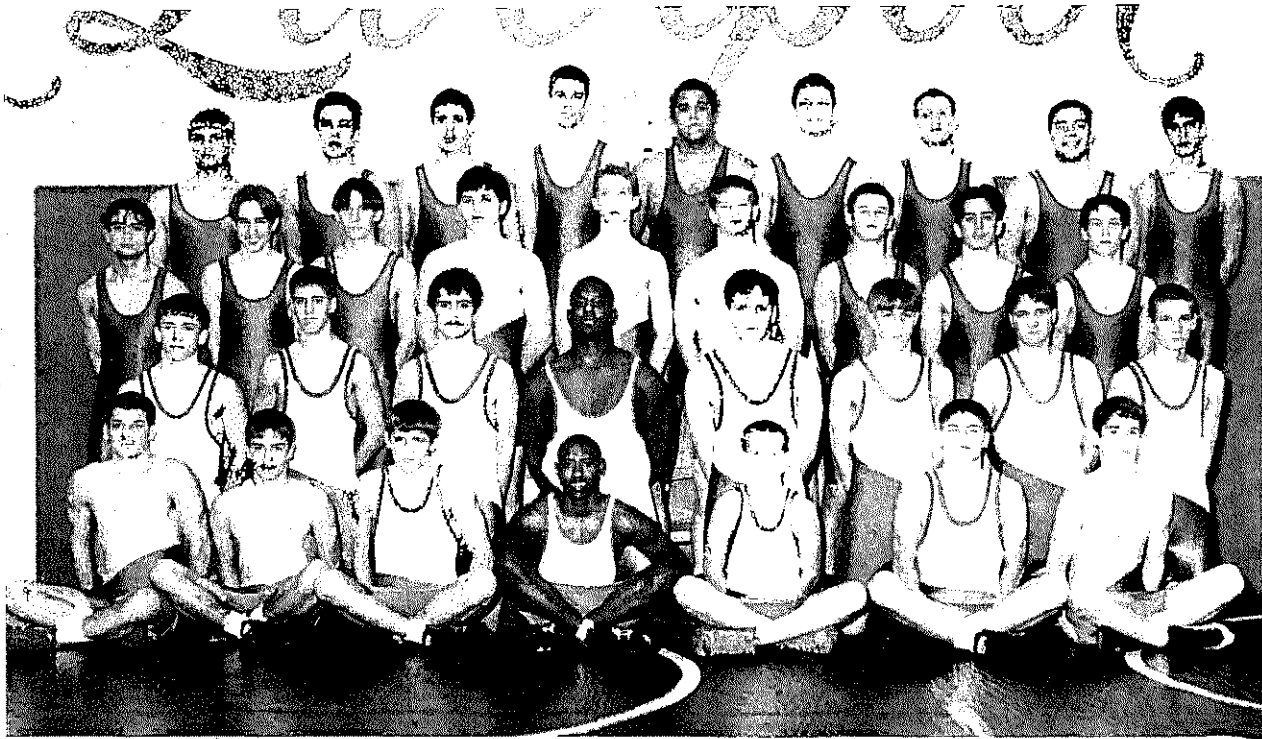
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The East Liverpool High School Wrestling Team 1997-1998



1st Row: Phil Lascola, Jacob Fitch, Jeremy Ghrist, Leroy Theodore, Mike Badgley, Skyler King, and Jim Crumbley

2nd Row: Adam Eccleston, Justin Wright, Jeff Milhoan, Jay Howard, Bryan Starr, Lance Erwin, John Burkett, and John Earich

3rd Row: Soungie Sarge, Micah Jordan, Joe Earich, Joe Beebout, Bill Watson, Matt Schoolcraft, Shean Wechter, Lucas Jordan, and Mike Smith

4th Row: Matt Salsberry, Kyle Jones, Fred Thorne, Dan Earich, Tom Redman, Matt Hurst, Jeff Wright, Jeremy Ross, and Jason Bogart

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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
1997	Chris Ward	John Marshall	

* Undergraduate Degree ** Graduate Degree *** Attending Graduate School

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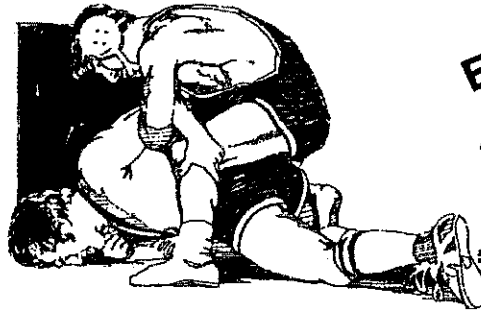
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Amanda Archer

Megan Dudley

Amber Korte



Elizebeth Webster

Elesha Mizik

Shawn Stritz
Matt Wukelich
Mike Steed
David Lumpkins

• WRESTLING
1997-98

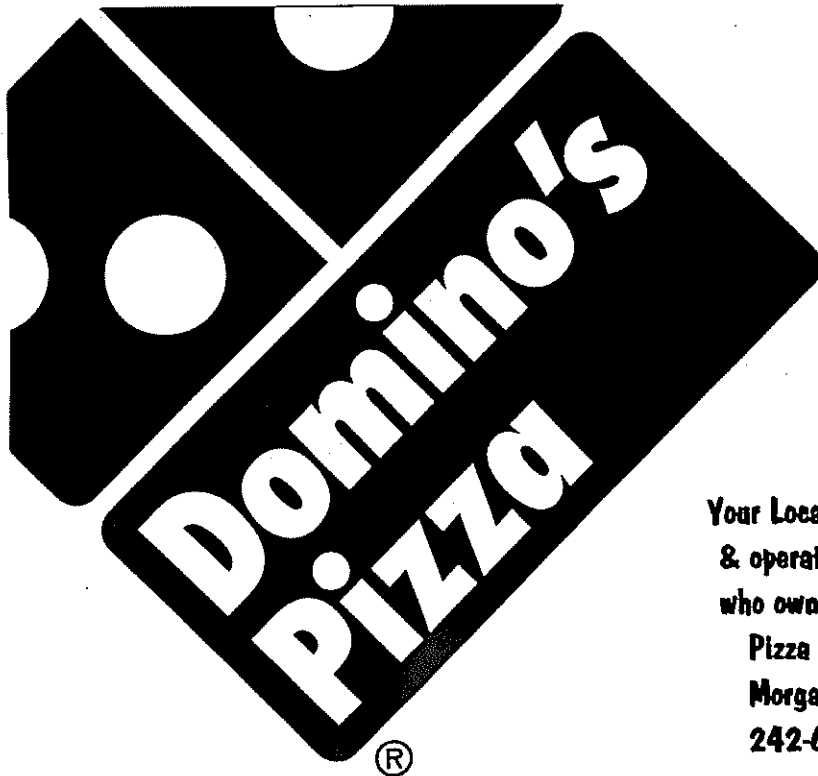
Travis Devolld
William Wade
Doug Wesson
Danny Wharton

Josh Basler
Aaron Fennicum
Bobby Hoover
Josh Archer
Jeremy Feldner

Coach:
John Blackburn

WIN

Coach:
David Ciacci



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PEEWEE WRESTLING COACH REFLECTS ON HIS DUTIES SECOND THOUGHTS

by Fred Miller

(Reprinted with Permission as originally published in The East Liverpool Review Jan. 11, 1997)

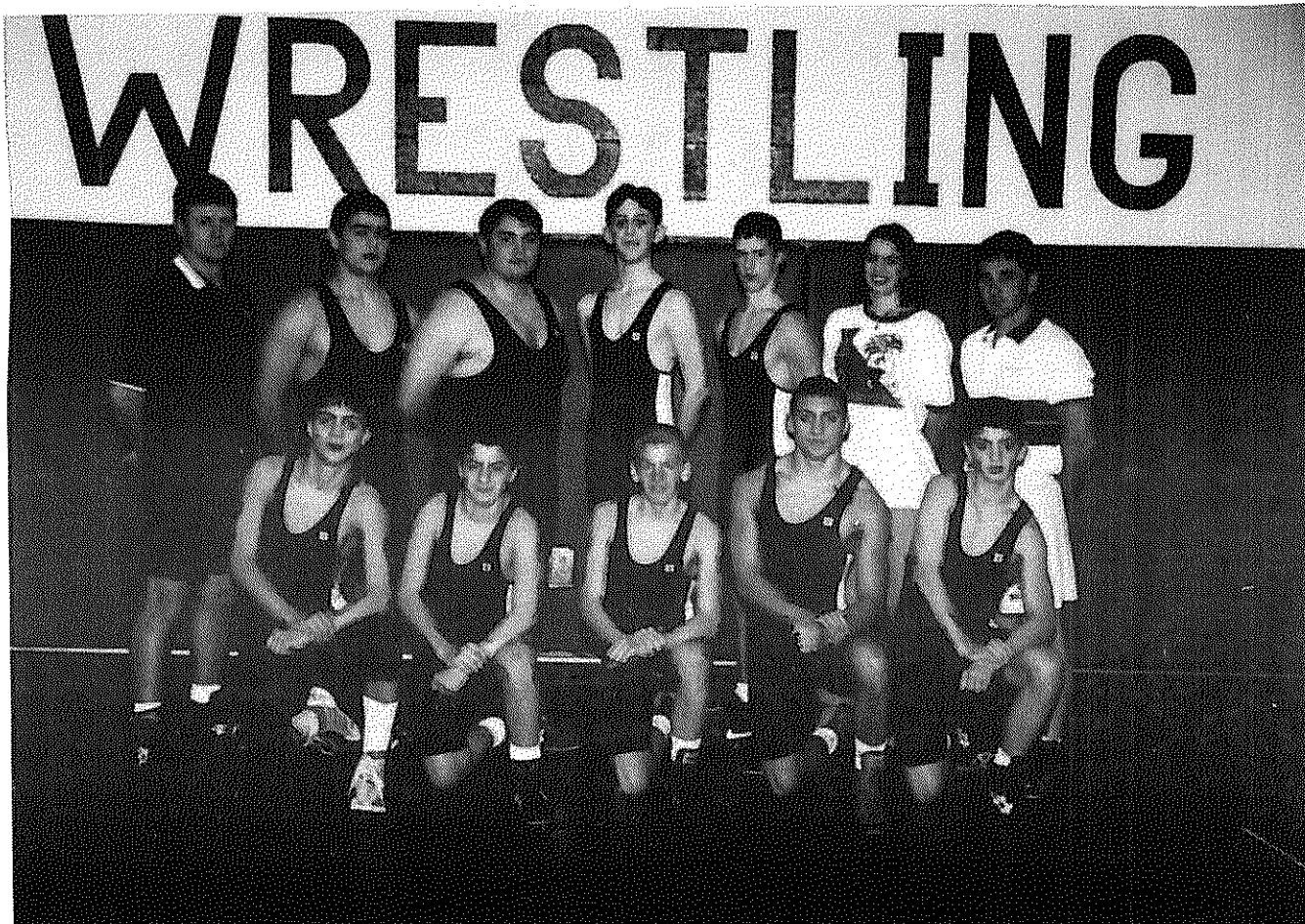
What does it mean to be a peewee wrestling coach? It means a lot of things, among them:

1. Looking suspiciously at a crusty patch on a kid's chin, wondering if it is impetigo, ringworm or just a scab.
2. Squatting at the corner of a mat during a match and screaming, "Get off your back! Get off your back!" to a five-year-old.
3. Making a boy give me 10 push-ups for smarting off during practice.
4. Waking up at 5:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning in January to lead shivering parents and sleepy wrestlers in mini-vans to an all-day tournament at a school I never heard of somewhere in Pennsylvania.
5. Arguing with another peewee coach at a pre-tournament meeting about why my 90-pound 10-year-old deserves to be seeded ahead of his 90-pound 10 year-old.
6. Badgering parents of kids who have dropped off the team to return the team's uniforms, shoes and headgear.
7. Giving earnest last-minute instructions to a wrestler who's been on the team for three years, has never won a match, and furthermore couldn't beat Mother Teresa if she gave him the first takedown.
8. Finding out a wrestler has not been to practice because his parents are getting a divorce.
9. Hearing a father humiliate his son in front of 300 people for losing a match.
10. Seeing a wrestler I thought would never win a match, win a match.
11. Discovering halfway through a match that the wrestlers are in different age and weight classes.
12. Telling an irate father who is six-feet-two and 275 pounds that he must leave the building because the referee has ejected him for being verbally abusive.
13. Hugging my own boy as he sobs into my midsection after getting pinned, while telling him gently to suck it up.
14. Watching in amazement as a kid who never pays attention in practice executes a perfect switch to win his match.
15. Showing a little boy wrestler how to do a "butt drag" move on a little girl wrestler while her mother is watching and wondering if I'm violating any laws.
16. Dragging around a bag of lost-and-found T-shirts and sweatpants in hopes someone will claim something.
17. Convincing kids it is an honor to be allowed to stay after practice and mop the mats.
18. Wondering what congenital bladder defect makes little wrestlers have to go to the bathroom as soon as practice begins.
19. Cutting off a boy's "rat tail" with my pocketknife before a match because of rules about long hair.
20. Seeing a happy and proud-as-punch Little Worshrag curl up in bed with the first-place trophy he won that day.

I could name a hundred other things it means to be a peewee coach, but I think you get the idea.

Miller is a freelance writer, Director of Community Relations at East Liverpool City Hospital, and 1968 OVAC Wrestling Champion from Oak Glen.

Weir Red Riders



Front Row: Matthew Valles, Matt Zahn, Eric Noel, Brent Zuccolotto, Anthony Ianni

Back Row: Asst. Coach Ray Pernell, Robert Busick, Ben Manypenny, Jake Pyle
Bo Barker, Statistician, Kim Tingler, Head Coach Randy Pryor

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



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The OVAC and OVAC Foundation salutes all of the athletes, coaches, and administrators taking part in this OVAC wrestling classic.

The OVAC Foundation Board and its entire membership supports those fifteen athletic programs sponsored by the OVAC.

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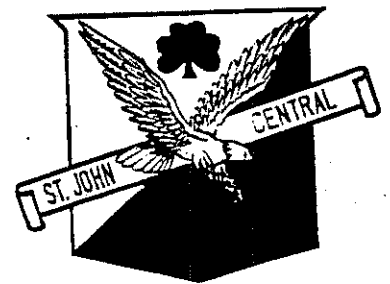
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salutes

All Participants and Workers in the

45th Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament

January 22, 23, 24, 1998

Wheeling Civic Center

Richard Keith Wolf, Program Coordinator

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

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SATURDAY EVENING OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 4:00 PM | Open Warm-Up For All Place Winner Participants | |
| 4:15 PM | INTRODUCTION
Special Thanks To:
Ron Mauck, Tournament Director
Dennis Magruder, Civic Center Manager
Dale Klee, Cameron Coca-Cola
Dr. Mike Kovalik, Medical Staff
Ed McCauley, Kroger
All Tournament Workers and Staff | 103
112
119
125
130
135
140
145
152
160
171
189
215
275 |
| 4:17 PM | Assistant Wrestling Coach Honored | |
| 4:20 PM | Junior High School Coach Honored | |
| 4:23 PM | Sidney A. "Sid" Stoltz Memorial Award
The Stoltz Family | |
| 4:26 PM | Bob Sadler Sportsmanship Award
Richard Edge | |
| 4:28 PM | James H. "Dead Eye" Morris
Sportsmanship Award
The Morris Family | |
| 4:30 PM | Service Award Winners
Ron Mauck | |
| 4:33 PM | Introduction of Past Champions '73
Steve Kish, Supt. Martins Ferry Schools | |
| 4:40 PM | PARADE OF CHAMPIONS
Olympic Theme | |
| 4:45 PM | Singing of Our National Anthem
Miss Susan Suriano
Senior - Martins Ferry High School | |
| 4:50 PM | Announcement of "Mr. Mat '98"
Tournament Director, Ron Mauck | |
| 4:55 PM | Parade of Champions Exit
Olympic Theme | |
| 5:00 PM | START TOURNAMENT | |

ALL WEIGHT CLASS PLACERS
WILL RECEIVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE COACHES
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&
ED MCCAULEY, KROGER COMPANY

- "A" RUNNER-UP**
Presented by Dave Kovalick - Mr. Mat '88
- "A" CHAMPION**
Presented by Gary Davis - Mr. Mat '97
- "AA" RUNNER-UP**
Presented by Dr. Vince Monseau - Mr. Mat '83
- "AA" CHAMPION**
Presented by Dick Edge - Mr. Mat '79
- "AAA" RUNNER-UP**
Presented by John Vrotsos - Mr. Mat '78
- "AAA" CHAMPION**
Presented by Larry Deaton - Mr. Mat '92
- "AAAA" RUNNER-UP**
Presented by Bill Hinegardner - Mr. Mat '84
- "AAAA" CHAMPION**
Presented by Dan Stephens - Pres. OVAC
- TOURNAMENT CHAMPION BANNER**
Presented by ??? - Mr. Mat '98
- MOST VALUABLE WRESTLER**
Dave Bierkorte Award Winner

1997 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '97

103 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
9-2	Mike Smith	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	1
	Jose Smith	10	Cambridge	AAAA	2
10-1	Derrick Koch	9	St. John's	A	3
	Greg Ware	9	Martins Ferry	AAA	4
5-0	Mark Evans	9	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
	Josh Woodby	10	Monroe Central	AA	6
Fall :24	Brad Severt	9	Meadowbrook	AAA	7
	Jay Barbour	9	Steubenville	AAAA	8

112 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
12-1	DeWitt Stanley	12	Brooke	AAAA	1
	Greg Bigelow	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
4-3	Ron LeMasters	12	Cameron	A	3
	Scott Roth	9	Martins Ferry	AAA	4
3-1	Ryan Donahue	10	St. John's	A	5
	Pat Mull	11	John Marshall	AAAA	6
7-0	Mike Scholl	10	Edison	AAAA	7
	Larry Hickman	10	Beaver Local	AAA	8

119 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
16-8	Luke Spencer	11	Edison	AAAA	1
	Ricky Stanley	11	Brooke	AAAA	2
11-2	Bryn Marsh	12	Indian Creek	AAAA	3
	Matt Anderson	12	St. John's	A	4
Fall 2:40	Josh Hackney	10	Wellsville	AA	5
	Rick Dillon	10	St. Clairsville	AAA	6
Forfeit	Jimmy Lucas	10	Barnesville	AAA	7
	Brian Flanegin	10	Wheeling Park	AAAA	8

125 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
6-3	Ken Becker	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	1
	Jeff McKinnon	12	Wellsville	AA	2
9-2	Jeff LaMotte	11	Buckeye Local	AAAA	3
	Brandon Pendleton	11	Indian Creek	AAAA	4
10-5	Jeff Jefferis	11	Barnesville	AAA	5
	Chris Ward	11	Martins Ferry	AAA	6
4-2	Shane Riggle	11	John Marshall	AAAA	7
	Dan Stanley	10	Brooke	AAAA	8

1997 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '97

130 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
3-1	Ryan Muldrew	12	John Marshall	AAAA	1
	Sean Doyle	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
5-4	Soungie Sarge	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	3
	Andy Dobson	11	Martins Ferry	AAA	4
4-2	Matt Kennedy	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
	Jeremy Stacy	11	Indian Creek	AAAA	6
6-1	Derek Ault	12	Bellaire	AAA	7
	Mike Witherow	11	Oak Glen	AAA	8

135 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
2-1	Jake Ludwig	12	East Liverpool	AAAA	1
	Dan Jones	11	Martins Ferry	AAA	2
18-7	Bob Orsini	12	Steubenville Cen	AA	3
	Adam Milhoan	11	Beaver Local	AAA	4
3-2	A.J. Monseau	11	Wheeling Park	AAAA	5
	Shawn Porreca	12	Indian Creek	AAAA	6
Default	Josh Whipkey	11	John Marshall	AAAA	7
	Bob Strother	12	Magnolia	AAA	8

140 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
11-9	Chris Ward	12	John Marshall	AAAA	1
	Cornell Birden	12	Steubenville	AAAA	2
9-2	Brian Padgelek	12	Martins Ferry	AAA	3
	Travis Kaiser	11	Barnesville	AAA	4
Fall 4:37	Jess Milhoan	10	Beaver Local	AAA	5
	Denny Lebec	11	Oak Glen	AAA	6
11-0	Jacob Sedgmer	12	Cadiz	AA	7
	Josh Ewing	11	Indian Creek	AAAA	8

1997 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '97

145 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
3-2	Bill Lucas	12	Beaver Local	AAA	1
	Dustin Corder	11	Cadiz	AA	2
8-3	Doug Wolfe	12	East Liverpool	AAAA	3
	Adam Kennen	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	4
OT 3-2	Tim Weaver	11	Martins Ferry	AAA	5
	Jerry Crow	10	Oak Glen	AAA	6
TF 4:40	Nick Porter	12	St. Clairsville	AAA	7
	Pat Benton	10	Buckeye Local	AAAA	8

152 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
4-1	Jeff Wright	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	1
	Dave Schayes	12	Steubenville	AAAA	2
4-2	Josh Arnette	10	Wellsville	AA	3
	Paul Grinch	12	Shadyside	A	4
3-1	Steven Hoppel	12	Beaver Local	AAA	5
	Rob Roe	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	6
10-0	Lucas Sedgmer	10	Cadiz	AA	7
	Phil Altieri	11	Indian Creek	AAAA	8

160 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
10-6	John Cole	11	Beaver Local	AAA	1
	Dustin Wilson	11	Barnesville	AAA	2
3-2	Ben McFarland	12	Union Local	AAA	3
	Bob Wilson	11	John Marshall	AAAA	4
9-4	Bill Bryant	12	Cadiz	AA	5
	Andy Smith	12	Bishop Donahue	A	6
8:0	Tom Miller	12	Caldwell	AA	7
	Jason Newell	10	Meadowbrook	AAA	8

171 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
Fall 1:50	Chad Roskovich	12	Bridgeport	A	1
	Terry Smith	10	Buckeye Local	AAAA	2
8-7	John Keller	12	Bellaire	AAA	3
	Brad Bryant	12	Cadiz	AA	4
7-2	Eric Cramer	11	Monroe Central	AA	5
	Matt Hurst	11	East Liverpool	AAAA	6
10-3	Dave Dozier	11	Beaver Local	AAA	7
	Matt Summers	11	Linsly	A	8

1997 OVAC PLACEWINNERS

TOP EIGHT IN '97

189 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
14-6	Chad Pratz	11	Linsly	A	1
	John Schumacher	10	Monroe Central	AA	2
6-3	Isaac Antil	12	Caldwell	AA	3
	Ron Baker	11	Bridgeport	A	4
6-1	Randy Culbertson	12	Cadiz	AA	5
	Brandon Kupfer	10	Cameron	A	6
7-2	Matt Coleman	10	Beaver Local	AAA	7
	Mike Smolira	11	Union Local	AAA	8

215 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
Fall 1:49	David Boyuk	11	Indian Creek	AAAA	1
	Bubba Sechrest	12	Bellaire	AAA	2
Fall 2:17	Kyle Carreon	12	Edison	AAAA	3
	Lucian Weese	12	John Marshall	AAAA	4
5-2	Shane Bolon	12	Martins Ferry	AAA	5
	Michael Wilt	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	6
Fall 3:14	Heath Wells	9	Monroe Central	AA	7
	Tony Grear	11	Barnesville	AAA	8

275 POUNDS

RESULTS	WRESTLER	GRADE	SCHOOL	DIV.	PLACE
Fall: 2:41	Ben Kulpa	12	Wheeling Park	AAAA	1
	Alex McClung	10	Oak Glen	AAA	2
OT 2-1	Jason Heskett	11	St. Clairsville	AAA	3
	Ty Wilson	12	St. John's	A	4
5-3	Michael Murphy	12	Buckeye Local	AAAA	5
	Tom Poe	11	Bellaire	AAA	6
Default	Mike Campana	12	Steubenville Cen	AA	7
	Garrett O'Neil	11	Cameron	A	8

Charles W. McCoy II
Account Representative



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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 OVERALL Tournament Champions

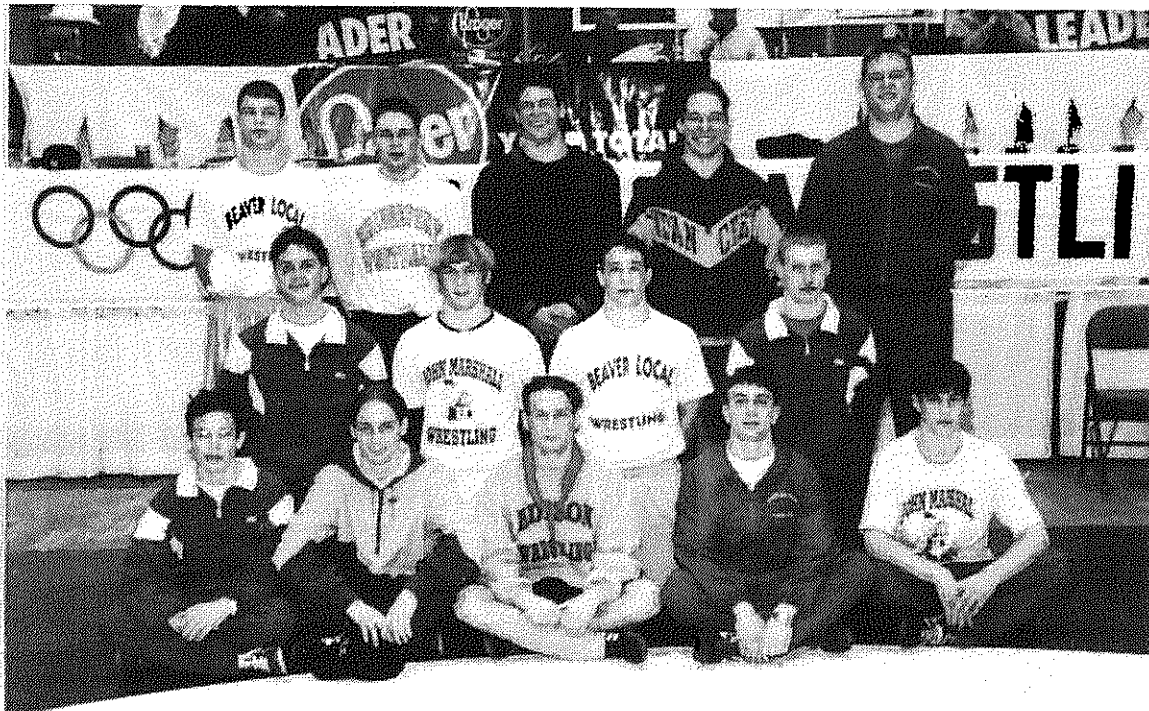
1954-1997

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	Joseph 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 School	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 Glen 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
1996	Buckeye Local High School	Dan Doyle
1997	Buckeye Local High School	Dan Doyle

1997 OVAC FINAL TEAM SCORES

AAAA			AA		A		
BUCK	118 1/4	MFERRY	167 1/2	CADIZ	142	CAMERON	108
E.LIVER P.	117 3/4	BEAV	159	WELLS	96	SHADYS.	82 1/2
WHG.PARK	168 1/2	DAK GLEN	111 1/2	MONROE CENTRAL	62	ST. JOHN	80
JOHN MAR	166 1/2	BELLAIRE	92	ST. EUBANK	58	LINSLY	79
INDIAN CREEK	114 2 1/2	BARNESV.	90 1/2	CALDWELL	40 1/2	BRIDGEPO	54 1/2

1997 OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS



1st Row: Mike Smith, East Liverpool; Stanley Devitt, Brooke; Luke Spencer, Edison Local; Ken Becker, Wheeling Park; Ryan Muldrew, John Marshall
2nd Row: Jake Ludwig, East Liverpool; Chris Ward, John Marshall; Bill Lucas, Beaver Local; Jeff Wright, East Liverpool
3rd Row: John Cole, Beaver Local; Chad Roskovich, Bridgeport; Chad Pratz, Linsly; Dave Boyuk, Indian Creek; Ben Kulpa, Wheeling Park

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DAVID BIERKORTTE AWARD WINNER**

**CHRIS WARD
JOHN MARSHALL**

1997 COACHES OF THE YEAR

- * AAAA — DAN DOYLE - Buckeye Local
- AAA — JEFF OBERDICK - Martins Ferry
- AA — REED CASE - Cadiz
- A — JIM POTTS - Cameron

**DANIEL BURKE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

CHRIS WARD, JOHN MARSHALL

**GEORGE KOVALICK
SCHOLARSHIP**

SEAN DOYLE, BUCKEYE LOCAL

**DAVID BIERKORTTE
SCHOLARSHIP**

CHRIS WARD, JOHN MARSHALL

**JAMES H. MORRIS
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

RAY MCCOOL & TOM BRANNON, MOUNDVILLE

JAMES H. MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP

PAUL GRINCH, SHADYSIDE

**1997 OVAC TOURNAMENT
DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

**AAAA
Buckeye Local**

**AAA
Martins Ferry**

**AA
Cadiz**

**A
Cameron**

**1997 DUAL MEET
CHAMPIONS**

**AAAA
Buckeye Local**

**AAA
Beaver Local**

**AA
Cadiz**

**A
Cameron**

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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 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!

**CHAMPIONS CHERISH NOT CONQUEST
BUT CHALLENGE
BORN OF AND NURTURED BY
A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
Richard Keith Wolf**

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WHEELING PARK
HIGH SCHOOL**

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AT WARWOOD GRADE SCHOOL
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM*



*GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR
PATRIOT WRESTLERS*



NOTES

1998 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 - _____

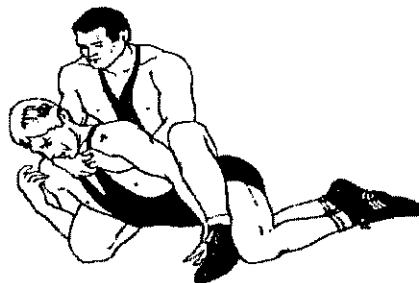
160 - _____

171 - _____

189 - _____

215 - _____

HWT - _____



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