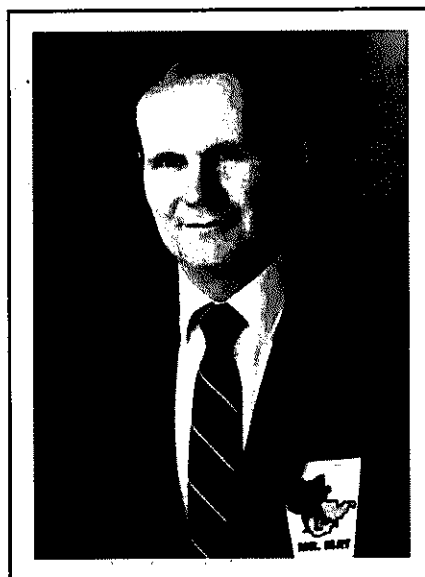


# **Fifty-Sixth Annual Ron Mauck**

**Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
Wrestling Tournament**

**The Largest Conference Tournament in the United States**

**WesBanCo Arena  
Wheeling, West Virginia**



**LARRY DEATON**  
"Devoted Longevity"

**Thursday - Friday - Saturday  
January 22-23-24, 2009**

# **CITY OF WHEELING**

## **WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA - 26003**

**Welcome!**

**On behalf of the City of Wheeling and the Wheeling City Council, we welcome all the wrestlers and fans of the Ohio Valley. We congratulate the RON MAUCK Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament on its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and its 30 years of a mutually beneficial relationship with the WesBanCo Arena.**

**It is our sincere hope that both fans and participants alike will enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere created by the people and places of Wheeling.**

**It is our fond desire to make your visit to Wheeling a memorable experience.**

**Once a visitor to Wheeling...never a stranger again.**

**By competing, you are all CHAMPIONS!**

**With warmest regards,**

**The Mayor, City Manager and Council Members**

# A Word of Welcome to All....

On behalf of the OVAC Executive Board, welcome to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Mauck Wrestling Championship Tournament. Countless hours of planning, organization and hard work by Tom Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer; Dan Doyle, Director of Wrestling and our dedicated volunteers ensure the success of this championship series.

This tournament provides student athletes with the opportunity to showcase their talents in an impressive venue. It is our hope that this tournament is one of their most memorable high school experiences.

Best of luck to all the teams and thank you for your competitive spirit, class and Valley sportsmanship.



**Diana Vargo**  
OVAC President  
Asst. Supt. Ohio County Schools

On behalf of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference it is my privilege to welcome you to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships.

No doubt you will leave this tournament with memories that will last a lifetime. During these three days of intense competitions let's not lose sight that one of the missions of interscholastic athletics is to provide opportunities for young people that will enhance their educational experience. We hope student-athletes are playing because they are having fun but there are lifelong lessons to be learned in athletic participation such as sportsmanship, citizenship, hard work, dedication, leadership and teamwork.

The past 55 years have brought many memorable milestones to OVAC Wrestling. Allow me to share a few.

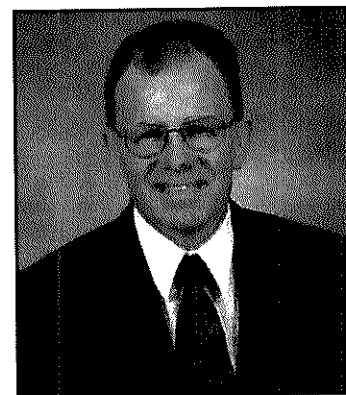
During the spring of 1970, we lost a phenomenal wrestler, David Bierkorte, to an untimely accident. Because of his athletic prowess, the Wheeling Central High School Booster's Club initiated the "David Bierkorte Award" for the outstanding wrestler in 1971.

The Wheeling Civic Center Manager in 1979 was Frank Rodriguez. He had a great deal of respect for those involved with OVAC wrestling, and was instrumental in OVAC wrestling finding a home at WesBanco Arena. Presently we are blessed with Dennis Magruder, who has given us the same positive support, along with the entire WesBanco Arena staff.

In 1980, OVAC wrestling initiated the first "George Kovalick Scholarship". Two years later Bob and Dolores Burke lost their son Danny, a Wheeling Park wrestler, in a tragic accident. Out of their love for him the "Daniel M. Burke Wrestling Scholarship" was initiated in 1983. We lost a fantastic wrestling enthusiast in 1996 from Marshall County affectionately name "Dead Eye". His devoted family established the "James H. Morris Sportsmanship Scholarship" in 1997, out of his love for the mat sport. In 1999, East Liverpool's two-time OVAC Champ and Hercules Award winner, Matt Salsberry, was lost in a tragic auto accident. In 2003, "Friends in his Memory" established the annual "Matt Salsberry Academic/Athletic Wrestling Scholarship". In 2003, Lucas "Luke" Sedgmer, a two-time OVAC Wrestling Champion from Cadiz High School tragically lost his life in an auto accident. In 2005, a committee in his community established The Lucas D. Sedgmer Memorial Scholarship.

So we now have five (5) permanently installed scholarship funds that over the years have afforded six deserving OVAC wrestlers an amazing \$83,500 in college scholarships.

I want to thank every one of the workers, coaches, officials and wrestlers. They are the people who make the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament the best in the nation. So let's make sure our focus – win or lose – is to recognize and applaud the commitment, dedication and determination of the young people competing in this outstanding event. I wish everyone the best of luck!



**Dan Doyle, Director**  
The Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament

# OVAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



**Seated:** Walt Skaggs, Ohio Board Member – Jeff Crosier, Ohio Board Member  
Jerry Narcisi, Past President – Dianna Vargo, President – Dan Doyle, Vice-  
President – Dan Angalich, West Virginia Board Member –

**Middle:** Tom Rataiczak, Executive Secretary/Treasurer – Steve Wojcik, Baseball  
Commissioner – John Howell, Basketball Commissioner – Don Zinni,  
Football Commissioner – Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner – Nancy  
Mumley, Past Treasurer

**Back:** Blair Closser, AAAA Representative – Kelly Rine, AAA Representative –  
Ed Cihy, AAA Representative – Bob Koch, AA Representative – Doug  
Tush, A Representative  
(Absent Tim Haight, West Virginia Board Member)

**56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
RON MAUCK OVAC  
WRESTLING TOURNAMENT  
January 22-23-24, 2009**

**First Session – Thursday, January 22, 2009 – 6:00 PM**

**Opening Ceremonies**

**National Anthem**

**Presentation of Assistant & JR. High**

**Coach of the Year Awards**

**Wrestling (8 mats)**

**Second Session – Friday, January 23, 2009 – 12:00 PM**

**(8 mats)**

**Third Session – Friday, January 23, 2009 – 6:00 PM**

**Wrestling (8 mats)**

**Fourth Session – Saturday, January 24, 2009 – 12:00 PM**

**Wrestling (4 mats)**

**Championship Semi-Finals & Fifth Round Consolations**

**Fifth Session – Saturday, January 24, 2009 – 6:00 PM**

**Introductions/ Ceremonies**

**MR . MAT 2009 Presentation**

**1984 OVAC Champions & Coaches**

**CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING -6:30 PM**

**(4 MATS)**

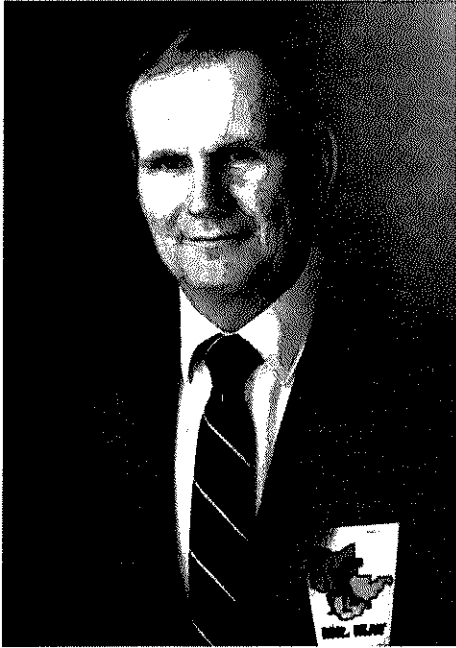
**Contestants Vying for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Places**

**ADMISSION**

<b>Single Session</b>	<b>Adult - \$ 6.00</b>	<b>Student - \$4.00</b>
<b>Advance Ticket Book</b>	<b>Adult - \$25.00</b>	<b>Student - \$15.00</b>
<b>Single Final Session</b>	<b>Adult - \$ 8.00</b>	<b>Student - \$ 4.00</b>

## **Larry Deaton**

### **“Devoted Longevity”**



**If there are any two words to describe Larry Deaton’s officiating efforts over the years, they are most definitely, “devoted longevity”. Point of fact, Larry has officiated the grand sport of wrestling over the span of five decades!**

**As an outstanding schoolboy wrestler and 1964 graduate of Martins Ferry High School, Larry has dedicated his adult life to the promotion of wrestling in the Ohio Valley (Eastern Ohio and Northern West Virginia).**

**Larry has served as secretary and interpreter for the Ohio Valley Wrestling Officials Association for 12 years.**

**With knowledge and experience as a former OHSAA District and OVAC Champion, he founded and began**

**coaching the Ohio Valley Youth Wrestling Club in 1975. It was one of the first small-fry wrestling organizations formed in the Ohio Valley.**

**Larry has conducted many wrestling and officiating clinics over the years and continues in his effort to promote excellence in the sport of wrestling. Over the years he has worn many hats; referee, coach, tournament director and team official, across both the United States and as far away as Germany (1979). However, his greatest love is officiating, be it folk style, freestyle or Greco-Roman.**

**Since 1966, Larry has refereed at every level of the mat sport from youth to college. And the beat goes on. His efforts on the mat read like a veritable “Who’s Who” in the annals of Ohio officiating records.**

**The following is just a sampling of the many events that Larry has officiated since the 60’s;**

- **3 - NAIA National Championships**
- **NCAA Divison II Regional Championship**
- **8 – OHSAA State Tournaments**
- **15 – WVSSAC State Tournaments**
- **33 – Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC) Tournaments**
- **11 – Medina, OH Invitational Tournaments**

- 3 – National AAU Tournaments

Larry's "devoted longevity" over the last 42 years has not gone unnoticed. Among his numerous accolades are:

- '92 – OVAC Mr. Mat Award
- '94 – Charter Distinguished Member of Ohio Wrestling Officials Hall of Fame
- '97 – West Virginia Official of the Year
- '97 – Martins Ferry High School – Wrestling Hall of Fame
- '04 – OHSAA Hall of Fame

One of his proudest officiating moments, I am sure, will occur during the 56th Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament, when the annual "Official-of-the-Year" award will now and hereafter be presented in his honor as, "The Larry Deaton Official of the Year".

His devotion to the sport of wrestling is mirrored in his public life. His involvement in community activities attest to his life-long commitment of giving and serving.

His community activities include;

- Member Elks Lodge 231
- Masonic Lodge 496
- Scottish Rite of Steubenville
- Past President and Treasurer of Martins Ferry High School Booster Club

- Currently Chairman of Trustees - First United Methodist Church
- Past Member Martins Ferry Board of Education (4Years)
- Presently Member of Martins Ferry Parks Board (6Years)

A retired plant foreman at Weirton Steel for 37 years, Larry now works for the City of Martins Ferry as an electrician.

None of what he has accomplished would have been possible without the love and support of his devoted wife, Sylvia, his high school sweetheart.

Larry and Sylvia are the proud parents of a daughter, Teri (Deaton) Taylor, of Cuyahoga Falls, OH and a son, Bill Deaton, of Martins Ferry.

Teri and her husband, Tom, have three sons; Ethan, Colin and Donavan (all wrestlers!)

Bill and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of four; Curt, Brittany Rebecca and Andrew.

*Wrestling USA* congratulates Larry Deaton on his selection as the 2009 *National Wrestling Official of the Year*. "We proudly recognize Mr. Deaton for his lifetime commitment to the development and growth of the mat sport in Ohio and the Upper Ohio Valley."

(written by Bill Welker, Chairman of the Official Selection Committee and 2002 National Official of the Year)

# OVAC

## MR. MAT AWARD 1976 – 1985



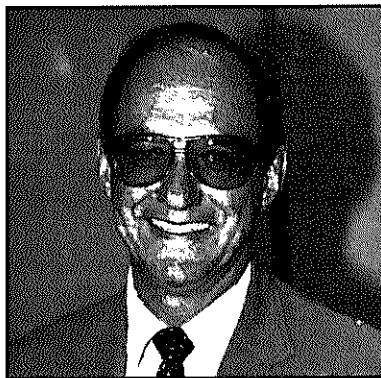
**1976: George Koalick**  
Bellaire Athletic Director



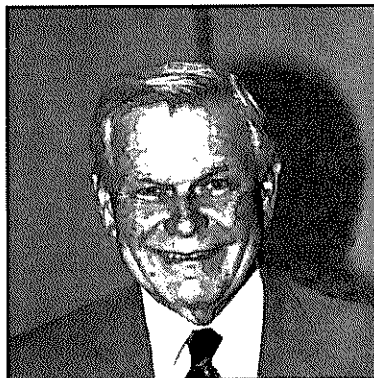
**1977: Bill Van Horne**  
Sports Editor, Wheeling News  
Register



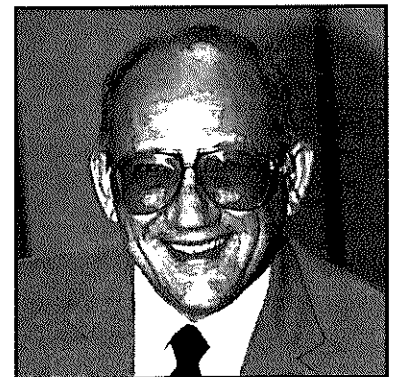
**1978: John Vrotsos**  
Martins Ferry High School



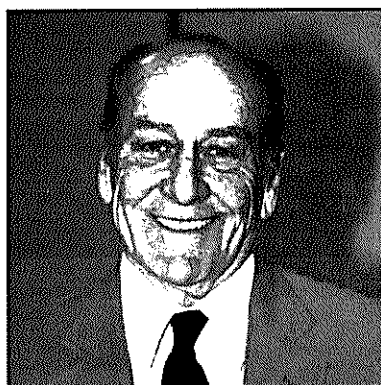
**1979: Richard Edge**  
Principal, Springfield High



**1980: George Walley**  
John Marshall Athletic Director



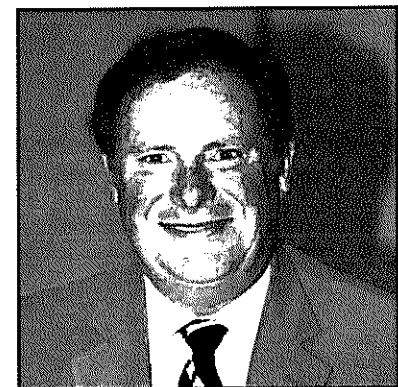
**1981: Bob Hedmond**  
Steabenville Athletic Director



**1982: Paul Crago**  
Marshall County Schools



**1983: Dr. Vince Monscau**  
West Liberty State College



**1984: Bill Hinegardner**  
John Marshall High School



# OVAC MR. MAT 1985 – 1994



**1985: Dennis Bowman**  
Bellaire High School



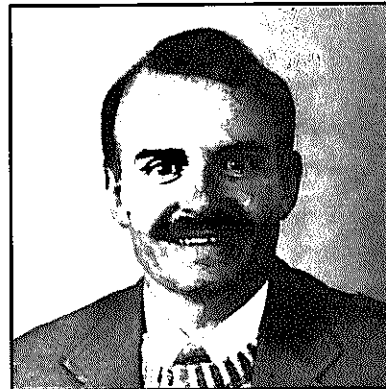
**1986: Ron Mauck**  
Brooke High School



**1987: Eric Carder**  
Wheeling Park Athletic Director



**1988: Dave Kovalick**  
Barnesville High School



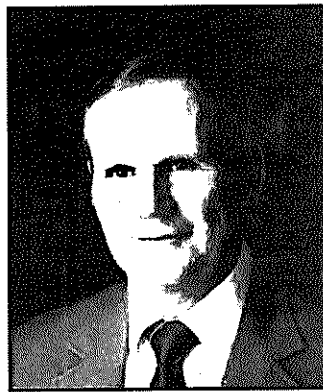
**1989: Steve Kish**  
Principal, Bellaire High School



**1990: Carl Fodor**  
Hancock County Schools



**1991: Dr. William Welker**  
Warwood Middle School



**1992: Larry Deaton**  
Martins Ferry



**1993: John Stephenson**  
Cadiz High School

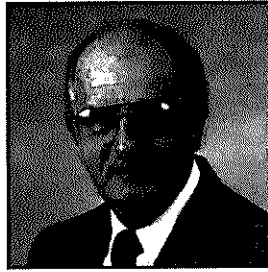


**1994: Joe Bates**  
Woodsfield High School

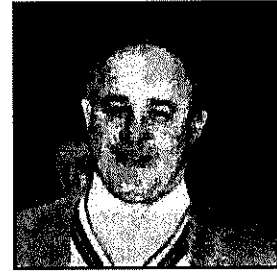
# OVAC MR. MAT AWARD 1995-2008



**1995: Bob Bruney**  
Martins Ferry High School



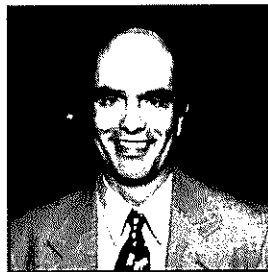
**1996: Larry Chambers**  
Moundsville Jr. High



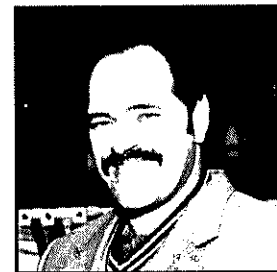
**1997: Gary Davis**  
Beaksville High School



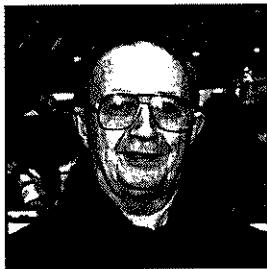
**1998: Cal Pokas**  
Martins Ferry Times Leader



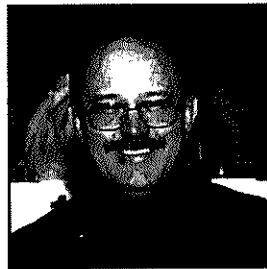
**1999: Tom Lackman**  
Jefferson Union High School



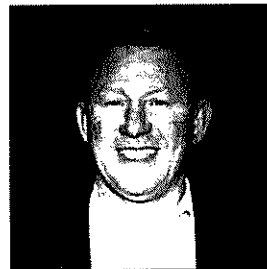
**2000: Ed "Buzz" Evans**  
Wheeling Park High



**2001: William McEldowney**  
Wheeling



**2002: John Craig**  
Indian Creek



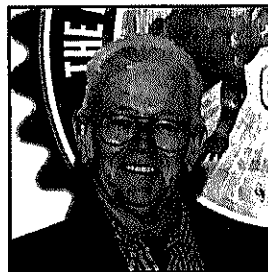
**2003: Ed Dugas**  
John Marshall



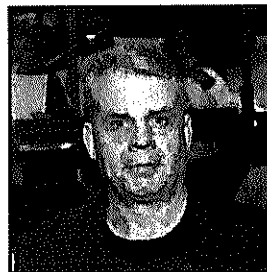
**2004: Jeff Oberdick**  
Martins Ferry



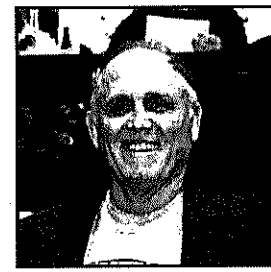
**2005: Dan Doyle**  
Noble County Schools



**2006: Nolan Van Gilder**  
Brooke High School



**2007: Rick Link**  
Union Local



**2008: Jim Potts**  
Cameron

**RON MAUCK OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT  
TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP  
1954-2008**

1954 BRIDGEPORT  
1955 BRIDGEPORT  
1956 BRIDGEPORT  
1957 BRIDGEPORT  
1958 BRIDGEPORT  
1959 BRIDGEPORT  
1960 BRIDGEPORT  
1961 MARTINS FERRY  
1962 MARTINS FERRY  
1963 MARTINS FERRY  
1964 MARTINS FERRY  
1965 MARTINS FERRY  
1966 MARTINS FERRY  
1967 MARTINS FERRY  
1968 MARTINS FERRY  
1969 ST. JOHN'S  
1970 WHEELING CENTRAL  
1971 ST. JOHN'S  
1972 JOHN MARSHALL  
1973 JOHN MARSHALL  
1974 JOHN MARSHALL  
1975 WARWOOD  
1976 WEIR  
1977 JOHN MARSHALL  
1978 WHEELING PARK  
1979 WHEELING PARK  
1980 STEUBENVILLE  
1981 CADIZ  
1982 STEUBENVILLE  
1983 JOHN MARSHALL  
1984 STEUBENVILLE  
1985 BARNESVILLE  
1986 EAST LIVERPOOL  
1987 STEUBENVILLE  
1988 EAST LIVERPOOL  
1989 STEUBENVILLE  
1990 WHEELING PARK  
1991 OAK GLEN  
1992 STEUBENVILLE  
1993 MARTINS FERRY  
1994 WHEELING PARK  
1995 STEUBENVILLE  
1996 BUCKEYE LOCAL  
1997 BUCKEYE LOCAL  
1998 MARTINS FERRY  
1999 MARTINS FERRY  
2000 EAST LIVERPOOL  
2001 EAST LIVERPOOL  
2002 OAK GLEN  
2003 BEAVER LOCAL  
2004 OAK GLEN  
2005 OAK GLEN  
2006 WHEELING PARK  
2007 OAK GLEN  
2008 WHEELING PARK

GEORGE KOVALICK  
GEORGE KOVALICK  
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JOHN VROTSOS  
ART HEHR  
JOE BATES  
JOHN HIBBERT  
DENNIS BOWMAN  
BILL HINEGARDNER  
BILL HINEGARDNER  
BILL HINEGARDNER  
ERIC CARDER  
CHARLES MURRAY  
BILL HINEGARDNER  
ERIC CARDER  
ERIC CARDER  
JOHN CRAIG  
JOHN STEPHENSON  
JOHN CRAIG  
ED DUGAS  
JOHN CRAIG  
DARRELL DAVIS  
NICK TROMBETTA  
JOHN CRAIG  
NICK TROMBETTA  
JOHN CRAIG  
BUZZ EVANS  
LARRY SHAW  
JOHN CRAIG  
JEFF OBERDICK  
BUZZ EVANS  
RICK CAMILLETI  
DAN DOYLE  
DAN DOYLE  
JEFF OBERDICK  
JEFF OBERDICK  
SCOTT HEIMSTRA  
SCOTT HEIMSTRA  
LARRY SHAW  
RICH WRIGHT  
LARRY SHAW  
LARRY SHAW  
GENE MONTELEONE  
LARRY SHAW  
GENE MONTELEONE

# **The Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament**

## **Its birth...growth....and tradition**

**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.

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 West Virginia and Ohio.

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 during 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 Over-All Team Champion, Wheeling Central Catholic...in 1971, following the tragic death of David Beirkortte, former OVAC Tournament

Champion, the Wheeling Central Catholic Boosters Club established the Most Valuable Wrestler Award to be presented annually to a wrestler of merit 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 school district consolidations, it was decided that the smaller schools should be competing for team championships against equal or near equal enrollment. Therefore, classifications were established for 3 Division Champions plus an Over-All Tournament title...Finally, little Warwood became the first school to win the Over-All Team Championship 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 as an annual award. 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 it was his idea...his dream...his energy...and his enthusiasm that had made it a reality.

In 1977, school classifications were expanded to 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 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

major improvements took place that year, (1) the massive floor area of the Civic Center now made it possible to wrestle on 8 mats, and (2) 8 individual and independent electronic match scoreboard/clocks were purchased.

In 1980, recognition of individual weight-class competitors was expanded to include the top 8 finishers.

That same year, 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 Danny Burke Memorial Wrestling Scholarship was awarded to John Witzberger of Wheeling Central.

In 1997, following the untimely passing of James "Dead Eye" Morris, sons Jeff and Gregg (both former OVAC Champions), and the Morris family, established an annual sportsmanship award and a scholarship to honor his memory, in tribute to his long abiding love for wrestling and devotion to the OVAC.

The threatening flood was more a probability than a possibility when the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tournament opened on Thurs. Jan. 19, 1996. When it became evident that we were faced with the certainty, a prudent, yet difficult and unpopular decision was made to discontinue wrestling at 6:00 PM on Friday, Jan. 20, and resume at that point on Sat. Jan. 27.

To accomplish this monumental task required the complete cooperation of everyone involved, including, but not limited to wrestlers, coaches, athletic directors, tournament workers, referees and the rescheduling or dropping of other meets or tournaments, plus a host of individual problems faced by 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.

None of this could have taken place without the cooperation, understanding and participation of the Civic Center staff, under the supervision its

congenial and tireless Director, Dennis Magruder.

WTOV-9, as a corporate sponsor, demonstrated their enthusiastic support for OVAC wrestling when they initiated live television coverage of all championship bouts in 1998.

In the spring of 1999, the dynamic force behind the growth and expansion of the OVAC, Sam Mumley, Executive Secretary for 32 years, succumbed to his battle with cancer.

Steve Kish, Superintendent of Martins Ferry Schools, willingly stepped in to fill the void, serving as interim, until Tom Rataiczak assumed the permanent position in the fall of 1999.

In November of 2002, we mourned the passing of Bob Hedmond, MR. MAT of '81. He had served as football coach at East Liverpool, Brooke and Steubenville High Schools as well as OVAC Wrestling Tournament Director during its 3 years at the Diocesan Arena ('76-'78).

In 2003, "Friends in Memory of Matt Salsberry" established an athletic/academic scholarship "with a desire to honor and perpetuate his memory". He was a two-time OVAC Champion in '98-'99 and Mr. Hercules Award winner from East Liverpool. He lost his life in a tragic auto accident in '99.

The year 2003 marked three significant mile stones: (1) the OVAC celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> annual tournament, (2) the OVAC commemorated 25 years of a cooperative relationship with the Wheeling Civic Center and (3) we recognized, honored and applauded Ron Mauck for 25 years of dynamic leadership as the Director of OVAC Wrestling. More than 250 former OVAC wrestling tournament champions were introduced and applauded as they paraded before a packed house.

The tragic death of Lucas "Luke" Sedgmer, two-time OVAC champion from Cadiz, on May 9, 2003 brought about the establishment of the Lucas D. Sedgmer scholarship.

OVAC Wrestling now provides 5 permanent scholarships annually to deserving wrestlers. To date we have presented 62 scholarships in the amount of \$76,500.

With student and spectator safety always the primary concern, the Sat. Jan. 22, 2005, sessions of the tournament were wisely postponed, when it was learned that the National Weather Service prediction of "freezing rain turning to snow early Saturday morning" would be a reality. The tournament resumed on Mon. Jan. 24, without a hitch, thanks to the outstanding cooperation of schools, coaches, WesBanCo Arena management, tournament officials and staff.

In 2006, the OVAC Executive Committee unanimously voted to rename the wrestling tournament the RON MAUCK OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT in honor of his dedication, enthusiasm and leadership as Director of Wrestling for 28 years.

2008 marked another milestone. It marked the 30th year of Ron Mauck's dynamic and tireless leadership. He has fostered the growth and stability of what many consider the signature event in the OVAC.

Giving selflessly of his time, energy and talent, He has engendered much goodwill and cooperation among both those involved and those attending this spectacular event. His warmth and camaraderie has created what has become a family of wrestling enthusiasts and supporters.

Rare are these character traits embodied in one so humble, yet so capable. His legacy of leaderships shall serve to inspire and motivate, much like his mentor, the late venerable George Kovalick.

Retiring as OVAC Director of Wrestling does not mean that Ron will no longer be a part of that which he has so zealously created and perpetuated. He will continue to be involved and provide wise counsel to his successor.

Finding a successor to provide the continuity and commitment of the great works of Ron Mauck as Director of OVAC Wrestling was not an easy task..

A dedicated and enthusiastic advocate of OVAC wrestling and all that it represents, as an instrument of positive influence in the lives of young men, succeeded Ron Mauck in 2008.

Dan Doyle, Superintendent of Noble Local Schools, has been committed to the aims and objectives of OVAC wrestling since his days as a school boy wrestler, through his many years as a coach and to ever increasing leadership roles in directing the fortunes of the sport that he loves.

The reins of the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament are secure in the hands of one with such demonstrated capabilities.

It is our fond wish that this tournament will continue to grow...if not in size, hopefully in stature...as a symbol of all that is good a decent. 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 opening ceremonies on Thursday...through the Parade of Champions on Saturday...only then will you realize that this is a true labor of love...and a living tribute to all those, both past and present, who have strived to make it possible and memorable.

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL RUDY MUMLEY  
**OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL  
CHARITY CLASSIC**

“Serving the Youth of the Upper Ohio Valley”

SUNDAY JULY 26, 2009

Wheeling Island Stadium

7:15 pm

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McDonald’s OVAC All-Star Band

OVAC Queen of Queens

OVAC All-Star Cheerleaders

Wednesday July 22 George Strager Evening with the Stars  
White Palace at Wheeling Park

Friday July 24 Queen of Queens Talent Contest  
WesBanco Arena

Saturday July 25 Pep Rally  
Russek Field WLSC

Bob Koch – Game Director

Ron Mauck – Game Advisor

Reva Icard – Queen of Queens Coordinator

Dru Meyer – All-Star Band Coordinator

Steve Kish – Ten-Year Reunion Coordinator

Dianna Vargo – Evening with the Stars Coordinator

Linda Myers – Program Coordinator

Tom Rataiczak – Executive Secretary OVAC

In 37 years, the OVAC has donated over \$821,600 to charity organizations and  
scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley

**2008 RUDY MUMLEY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Kyle Rader Monroe Central HS

Taylor Shepherd Magnolia HS

**2008 RON MAUCK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Troy Starr River HS

Mike Angalich Bishop Donahue HS

*“Charity and Love for Our Fellowman”*





## DANIEL M. BURKE MEMORIAL WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP

Dedicated to the sincere belief that the loss of their young son, Danny, should not end with the tragic auto accident on February 8, 1952, Bob and Delores Burke wished to establish a living tribute to perpetuate his memory.

He was a dynamic individual and wrestler at Wheeling Park, who had yet to reach his full potential in this sport he loved. It was both fitting and appropriate that his parents decided to help a gifted scholar/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 that the recipient be a senior with outstanding records in both wrestling and academic performance.



The original award was in the amount of \$1,000, however in 2006, was increased to \$2,500 and is to be applied to college expenses.

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 serves to honor and perpetuate Danny's memory in a manner fulfilling the wishes of his parents.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>COLLEGE</b>
1983	John Witzberger	Wheeling Central	West Virginia University
1984	Todd Rowe	Wheeling Park	Mount Union
1985	Todd Hibbs	Jefferson Union	Mount Union
1986	Paul Ice	East Liverpool	Muskingum
1987	Jeff Sobel	Oak Glen	Syracuse
1988	Steve Woods	Wellsville	Maryland
1989	David Woods	Cameron	Capital
1990	David Heath	St Clairsville	Washington & Jefferson
1991	Larry Sams	Wellsville	Ohio State
1992	Rick MoKros	Shadyside	Ohio Northern
1993	Dwayne Patterson	Oak Glen	W. Virginia Northern
1994	Ryan Slack	Shadyside	Univ. Pennsylvania
1995	Luke Underwood	Weirton	Fairmont St.
1996	David Cornish	Buckeye Local	Waynesburg
1997	Chris Ward	John Marshall	West Liberty
1998	Dan Jones	Martins Ferry	Ohio State
1999	Jose Smith	Cambridge	Cleveland State
2000	Zack Zubay	Oak Glen	West Virginia U.
2001	Nathan Keadjorsky	Buckeye Local	West Virginia U.
2002	John Tierney	Martins Ferry	Kent State
2003	David Bertolino	Buckeye Local	Iowa State
2004	Jason Bahmer	Barnesville	West Point Mil. Acad.
2005	David Foltz	Oak Glen	
2006	Abbie Rush	Wheeling Park	Boston Univ.
2007	James Myers	Indian Creek	
2008	Cody Miller	Oak Glenn	Larry Shaw West Virginia



## 2008 Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament Team Standings



1 - 204 Wheeling Park  
2 - 198 Beaver Local  
3 - 184 Cambridge  
4 - 178 Oak Glen  
5 - 147 Martins Ferry  
6 - 136 Bellaire  
7 - 112.5 John Marshall  
8 - 109 Harrison Central  
9 - 90 Steubenville  
10 - 88.5 Buckeye Local  
11 - 88 Edison  
12 - 86 Brooke  
13 - 83 Caldwell  
14 - 72.5 East Liverpool  
72.5 Indian Creek  
16 - 61 Beallsville  
61 Monroe Central  
18 - 59 St Clairsville  
19 - 57.5 Bellaire St John  
20 - 55 Shadyside  
21 - 54.5 Meadowbrook  
22 - 53.5 Wheeling Central  
23 - 52.5 Bridgeport  
24 - 45.5 Barnesville  
25 - 42 River  
26 - 40 Weirton Madonna  
27 - 36.5 Union Local  
28 - 33 Cameron  
29 - 29 Wellsville  
30 - 22 Steubenville Central  
31 - 21 Weir  
32 - 19 Tyler Consolidated  
33 - 16 Shenandoah  
34 - 10 Conotton Valley  
35 - 7 Bishop Donahue  
36 - 5 Magnolia

AAAA  
Wheeling Park  
Beaver Local  
Cambridge  
John Marshall  
Steubenville  
Buckeye Local  
Edison  
Brooke  
East Liverpool  
Indian Creek  
Weir

AAA  
Oak Glen  
Martins Ferry  
Bellaire  
Harrison Central  
St Clairsville  
Meadowbrook  
Wheeling Central  
Barnesville  
Union Local  
Tyler Consolidated  
Magnolia

AA  
Caldwell  
Monroe Central  
Shadyside  
River  
Cameron  
Wellsville  
Steubenville Central  
Shenandoah

A  
Beallsville  
Bellaire St John  
Bridgeport  
Weirton Madonna  
Conotton Valley  
Bishop Donahue

# **James H. Morris**

## **OVAC Wrestling**

### **Sportsmanship Award & 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), following the untimely passing of their father in 1997.

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 in his memory shall be in the form of an annual award and scholarship.

This is a unique award in that it 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 honor of "presenting a \$1,000 scholarship to the wrestler recipient at the OVAC Spring Awards Banquet

The recipient of this scholarship shall be selected by a committee that determines by qualifying criteria that he is deserving.

Such criteria is structured to place great emphasis on "good sportsmanship" and a favorable evaluation of his academic and wrestling accomplishments.

A plaque, allowing for the listing of successive recipients, shall be prominently displayed along with other OVAC awards.

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 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."

#### **Sportsmanship Award Winners**

- 1997 Tom & Ray McMool - Moundsville
- 1998 James & Bobbie Stephenson
- 1999 Dick Wolf - East Liverpool
- 2000 Randy Elliott - Oak Glen
- 2001 Pete Cuffaro - Wheeling
- 2002 Tom & Linda Myers - Wheeling
- 2003 "Babe" Schmitt, Jr. - Wheeling
- 2004 Steve Shaffer - Wheeling Park
- 2005
- 2006 Ann Morris & Evelyn Kovalick
- 2007

#### **Scholarship Award Winners**

- 1997 Paul Grinch - Shadyside
- 1998 Garrett O'Neal - Cameron
- 1999 Lucas Sedgmer - Cadiz
- 2000 Scott Roth - Martins Ferry
- 2001 Philip Bellville - Oak Glen
- 2002 Mike Fassouletos - John Marshall
- 2003 Tony Maylee - Indian Creek
- 2004 Branden Shaw - Brooke
- 2005 Logan Hartle - John Marshall
- 2006 Justin Seebach - Caldwell
- 2007 Stephen Jewell - Wheeling Park
- 2008 Taylor Potts - John Marshall

**NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME  
WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

---

**OVAC Wrestling Luminaries  
Inducted into  
The National Wrestling Hall of Fame  
for  
“Lifetime of Service to Wrestling”**

**Class of 2003-----Dr. Vince Monseau  
Mr. Mat - 1983**

**Class of 2004-----Bill Hinegardner  
Mr. Mat - 1984**

**Class of 2005-----Ed Dugas  
Mr. Mat - 2003**

**Class of 2006-----Ron Mauck  
Mr. Mat - 1986  
Emil Nardone—Medal of Courage**

**Class of 2007-----George Kovalick  
Mr. Mat - 1976  
Jim Potts  
Mr. Mat - 2008**

**Class of 2008-----Dr. Bill Welker  
Mr. Mat - 1991  
Ed West**

# George E. Kovalick

4/8/23 – 4/8/84

## “Founding Father of OVAC Wrestling”

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

**His accomplishments are legendary...his influence unparalleled**

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

Standing as tangible proof of all that he epitomized is his enshrinements in four separate and distinct Athletic Halls of Fame; Kent State University, West Liberty State College, Ohio Wrestling Coaches and Ohio High School Athletic Directors Association.

In 1980, a scholarship was established to honor Coach Kovalick by the OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association. It is presented annually to a college-bound scholar/wrestler.

During opening ceremonies of the 1985 OVAC Wrestling Tournament, a bronze plaque was unveiled and now hangs in the lobby of the WesBanCo Arena, inscribed in fitting tribute it reads:

*“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

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

1993 Dave Norris, Cameron  
1994 Chad Burge, Cameron  
1995 Brian Roskovich, Bridgeport  
1996 Eric Anderson, St. John's  
1997 Sean Doyle, Buckeye Local  
1998 Aaron Monseau, Wheeling Park  
1999 Craig Bruney, Martins Ferry  
2000 Steve Ochap, Wheeling Park  
2001 Tyler Hughes, Cameron  
2002 Chris Taylor, John Marshall  
2003 Phil Bliss, Brooke  
2004 Casey Hughes, Cameron  
2005 Clay Tucker, Martins Ferry  
2006 Bryan Rowland, Oak Glen  
2007 Daniel Felton, Brooke  
2008 Ethan Dray, Oak Glen

# David Bierkortte Award

David Bierkortte after having been crowned the 165# Champion at the 1970 OVAC Wrestling Tournament and compiling an undefeated record, was fatally injured in an auto accident during his junior year.

The Wheeling Central Catholic Booster Club decided 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.

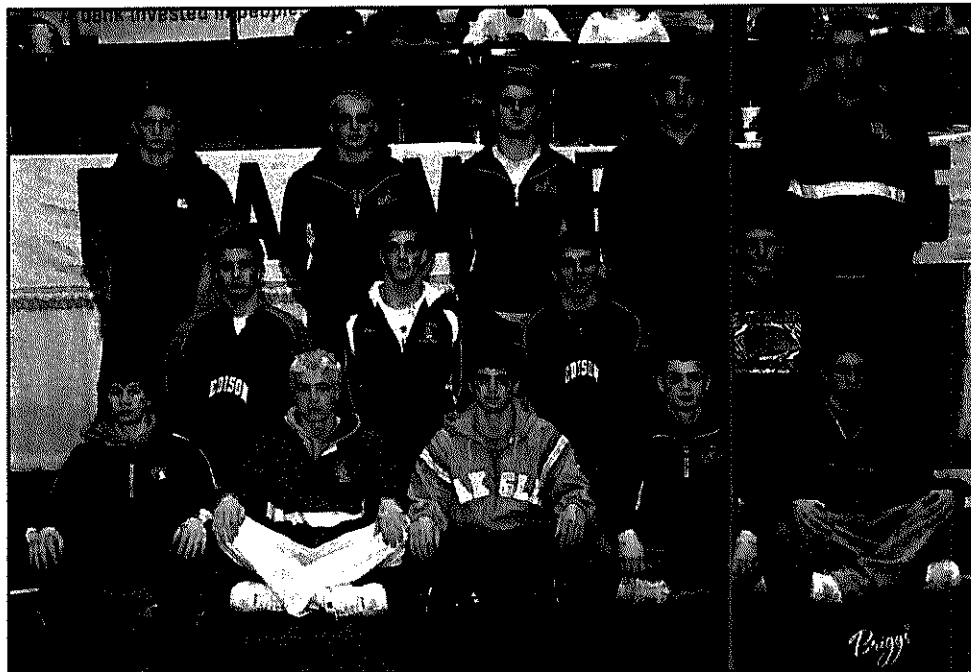
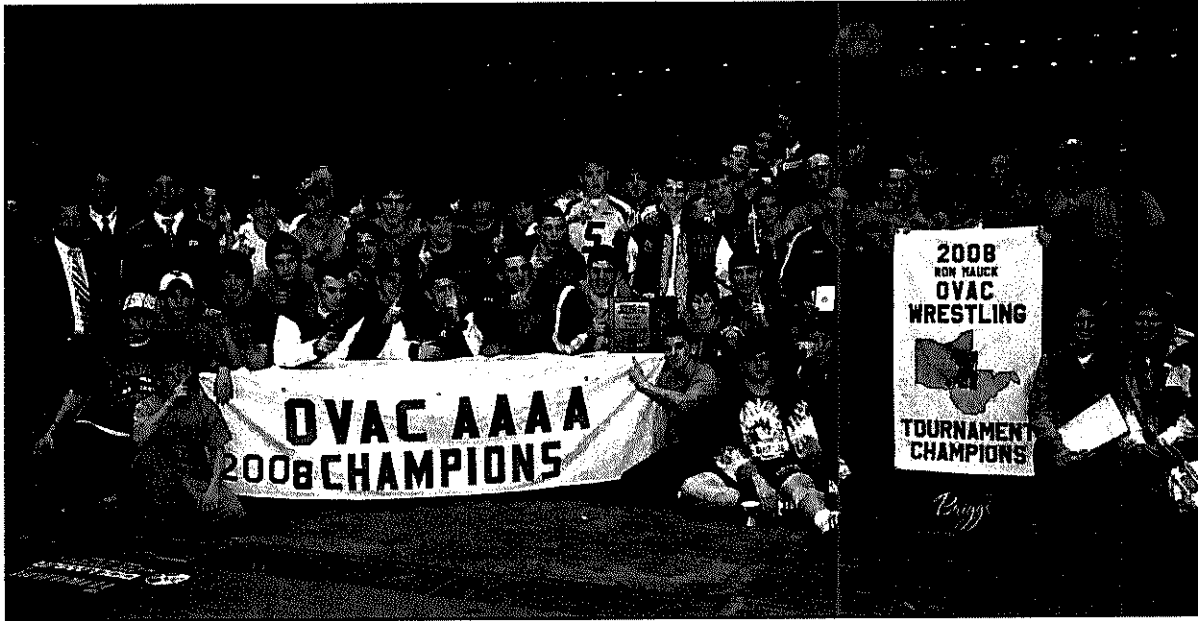
The recipient of this award is to be announced during the awards ceremony following the conclusion of the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament. The honoree, as selected by a panel of judges, is to be deemed the Most Valuable Wrestler in the tournament. Formal presentation of the award will take place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

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

## DAVID BIERKORTTE WRESTLING AWARD WINNERS

1971	Don Blum	Martins Ferry	
1972	Art Jones	Bellaire	
1973	Dan Claugus	Barnesville	
1974	Sheldon Grace	Weirton	
1975	Mike Kovalick	Bellaire	
1976	Randy Davia	Cadiz	
	Ed Covey	Bridgeport	
1977	Rich Davis	Jefferson Union	
1978	Carl Stanley	Wheeling Park	
1979	Randy Pryor	Weirton	
1980	Trent Iachini	Steubenville	
1981	Mike Tluchowski	Steubenville	
1982	Larry Isleman	Toronto	
1983	Brian Miller	Barnesville	
1984	Heath Beardmore	Cambridge	
1985	Tim Moxley	Barnesville	
1986	Sean Murray	Oak Glen	
1987	Mark Mlynek	Bellaire	
1988	Rick Burlenski	Bridgeport	
1989	Mark Emmerling	East Liverpool @	
1990	Babe Sidon	Martins Ferry	
1991	Douglas Knight	Steubenville	
1992	R. C. Anderson	Cameron	
1993	Kelly Shields	Edison South @	
1994	Dustin Harris	Beaver Local	
1995	Justin Ewing	St. Clairsville	
1996	Eric Anderson	St. John's	
1997	Ryan Muldrew	John Marshall	
1998	Chad Pratz	Linsly	
1999	Jose Smith	Cambridge	
2000	Scott Roth	Martins Ferry	
2001	Cole Bowersock	Beaver Local	
2002	Derek George	John Marshall	
2003	David Bertolino	Buckeye Local	
2004	Adam Hoppel	Beaver Local @	
2005	Clay Tucker	Martins Ferry	@ 4 Time OVAC Champion
2006	Zack Schuller	St. Clairsville	
2007	James Myers	Indian Creek	
2008	Jimmy Reisz	Beallsville	

# 2008 AAAA & OVER-ALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS OAK GLEN



## RON MAUCK OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT 2008 INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT CLASS CHAMPIONS

**Front:** 103# - Dirk Bauer, Wheeling Park ; 112# - Arizona Miller, Beaver Local  
 119# - Troy Eckleberry, Oak Glen; 125# - Paul Rose, Cambridge; 130# - Erik Canter, Bellaire;  
**Middle:** 135# - Andy Stine, Edison; 140# - Jimmy Reisz, Beallsville; 145# - Nick Stine, Edison  
 152# - Johnny Merryman, Shadyside  
**Back:** 160# - Ryan Skoff, Bridgeport; 171# - Chad Teague, Cambridge; 189# - Kirk Wetherell, Cambridge;  
 215# Branko Busick, Steubenville; 285# - Derek Wolfe, Beaver Local

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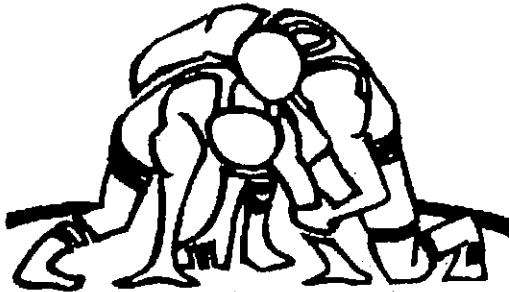
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**Good Luck OVAC Coaches and Wrestlers !**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL OVAC COACHES & WRESTLERS**

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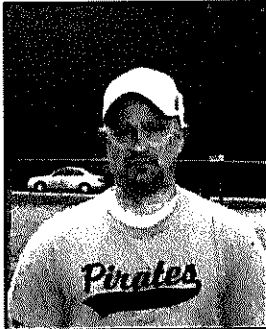
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# **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1984 O V A C CHAMPIONS**

**98 – Todd Rowe -----Wheeling Park  
105 – Rich DiGiandomenico – Whling Pk  
112 – Jesse Outward -----Martins Ferry  
119 – Dennis Daugherty-----Cambridge  
126 – Heath Beardmore-----Cambridge  
132 – Tim Pontius-----Cambridge  
138 – Brett Taggart-----East Liverpool  
145 – Mike Miller-----Shadyside  
155 – Ron Hilton-----Martins Ferry  
167 – Paul Simmons-----John Marshall  
175 – Brian Young-----Steubenville  
185 – Charlie Keenan-----Steubenville  
HWT – Tim Moxley-----Barnesville**

# **WELCOME BACK !**

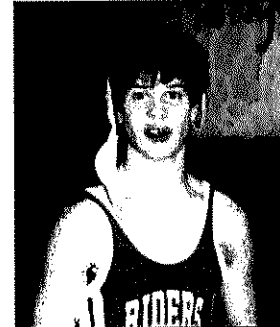
# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION O V A C CHAMPIONS 1984



**98#**  
**Todd Rowe**  
 Wheeling Park  
 6938 Richwood Dr.  
 Conneant, OH 44030  
 Mgr. Auto Parts Store

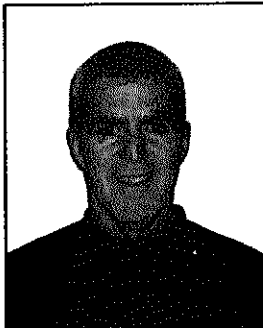


*Photo Not Available*



**112#**  
**Jesse Outward**  
 Martins Ferry  
 71587 Ayers Rd.  
 St. Clairsville, OH 43950  
 Steelworker Follansbee  
 Wife-Dawn  
 Children-Shayla - Damon

**105#**  
**Rich DiGiandomenico**  
 Wheeling Park  
 506 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Wheeling, WV 26003  
 Cameron Plant AEP  
 Wife- Denise  
 Children-Austin & Keirstin Bowen  
 Iraaa - Richard - Shayna DiGiandomenico



**119#**  
**Dennis Daugherty**  
 Cambridge  
 111 Byesville Road  
 Cambridge, OH 43725  
 Waste Water Mgr  
 Wife -Lisa  
 Children-Danielle-Dustin-Devaney



*Photo Not Available*

**126#**  
**Heath Beardmore**  
 Cambridge  
 184 Lowery Lane  
 New Concord, OH 43762



*Photo Not Available*

**132#**  
**Tim Pontius**  
 Cambridge

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION O V A C CHAMPIONS 1984



**138#**  
**Brent Taggart**  
 East Liverpool  
 938 Spruce St  
 Kulpmont, PA 17834  
 Capt. Corrections  
 Children - Ashley - Caitlyn



**145#**  
**Mike Miller**  
 Shadyside  
 3173 Echo Park Dr.  
 Hilliard, OH 43026  
 Sales DHL Express  
 Wife - Doreen  
 Children - McKenzie



*Photo Not Available*

**155#**  
**Roa Hilton**  
 Martins Ferry  
 311 N. Zane Way  
 Martins Ferry, OH 43935  
 Titanium Metals Corp.  
 Wife - Holly  
 Children - Jessica - Danielle - Karlee



*Photo Not Available*

**167#**  
**Paul Simmons**  
**John Marshall**  
 RD#1 Box 171 AB  
 Glen Easton, WV 26039



*Photo Not Available*

**175#**  
**Brian Young**  
 Steubenville  
 506 Pine Valley Dr.  
 Steubenville, OH 43952  
 Owner B & T Remodeling  
 Wife - Joyce  
 Children - Brittany - Taylor



*Photo Not Available*

**185#**  
**Charlie Keenan**  
 Steubenville  
 10015 Crows Nest Cove  
 Aurora, OH 44137  
 Supt. Maple Hgts Schools  
 Wife - Jane Ann  
 Children - Tressa - Megan  
 Charlie - Bridget



*Photo Not Available*

**HWT**  
**Tim Moxley**  
 Barnesville  
 1036 Ridge Point Cove  
 Longwood, FL 32750  
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 Wife - Maureen  
 Children - Madeline  
 Jaciob - Ben

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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.

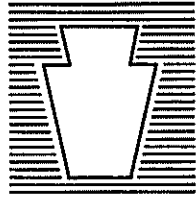
No athletic endeavor requires as deep a commitment or as much dedication and self-sacrifice as does wrestling. No one who enters the sport of wrestling and labors seriously, to become the best that they can be, will ever be the same person again. The impact of that experience will forever alter perspectives,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

By  
Richard Keith Wolf



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## The Wrestling Parent

Parents in wrestling are courageous - it's true,  
They feel all the pain that 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.

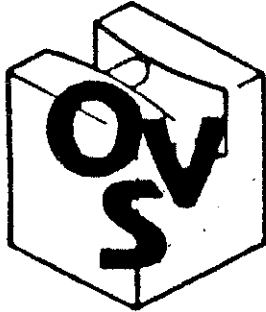
Excuses for losing they will never endure,  
"Don't blame the ref, son, because of the score,  
The coach, he will show you the best way to move.  
Keep working in practice if you want to improve."

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 the mat, they'll always be there,  
Such love for a sport is truly inherent,  
The wrestling parent.



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# **OVAC**

## **Wrestling Coaches**

### **Larry Deaton**

### **Official of the Year Award**

**This is an honor bestowed annually. To be selected is a tribute to individual refereeing excellence, as determined by vote of OVAC Wrestling Coaches. Named in honor of Larry Deaton for his five decades of service and commitment to wrestling. His life-long dedication to the sport of wrestling as an official and mentor is an inspiration to all who he has taught and become educated.**

#### **Past Winners**

<b>1996</b>	<b>Ray Marling</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>Shawn Crosier</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Ray Marling</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>Steve Kish</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Shawn Crosier</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>Jim Crosier</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Merle Tournay</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Dr. William Welker</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Rick Crosier</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Ray Marling</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Jack Regis</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>Ray Jefferies</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Paul Coffland</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>???????????????</b>

# **Matthew Salsberry**

**1980-1999**



**Within minutes after leaving for home from Ohio Northern University, where they had all just undergone freshmen orientation, Matt Salsberry; his girlfriend, Emily Bickerton; and his best friend, Dan Aldrich, fell victims to tragedy. An inattentive and irresponsible teenage driver, in a moment of senseless exhilaration took the lives of all three and brought emotional devastation to the families and school community.**

**Matt Salsberry had a lust for life that dictated success. The commitment and enthusiasm which he brought to the wrestling mat, the playing field, the stage and the classroom, motivated and inspired teammates, classmates and fans. He was a humble winner and a gracious loser, who gained the respect of all who came to know him.**

**If any single incident defined his commitment and enthusiasm for whatever the project might be, surely**

**it had to be his humorous show-stealing portrayal of "Earthquake" McGoon in the school musical "Lil Abner".**

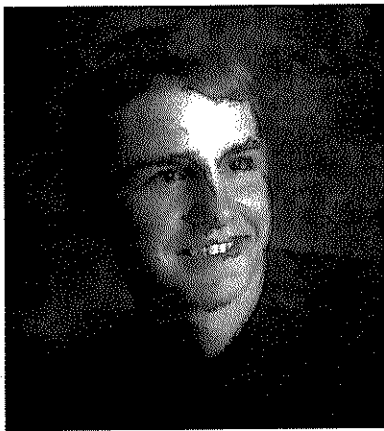
**Matt was a two-time OVAC champion and winner of the "Mr. Hercules Award" in '99, by pinning his way to the 215# championship in a cumulative time of less than a single match. He was 4<sup>th</sup> in the State of Ohio while compiling 124 wins. He was All-State in football for three years and started in 32 consecutive games. He earned 11 varsity letters, was River Valley League discus champion, served as Junior Class President and Senior Class Vice President, while maintaining a 3.5 GPA as a member of NHS.**

**"Friends in Memory of Matt Salsberry" having a desire to perpetuate the positive impact of his young life, deemed it fitting and proper to establish a \$1,000 scholarship to be considered annually and awarded to an OVAC wrestler who has earned a varsity letter in one additional sport, while likewise maintaining a minimum 3.5 GPA.**

## **RECIPIENTS**

- 2003 – John Petrozzi – Buckeye Local**
- 2004 – Luke Burkhardt – Shadyside**
- 2005 – Anthony Duffield – East Liverpool**
- 2006 – Christopher Crock – Shenandoah**
- 2007 – T. J. Osbon – Oak Glen**
- 2008 – Jimmy Reisz – Beallsville**

# Lucas D. Sedgmer Memorial Scholarship



Lucas "Luke" D. Sedgmer, the son of Kay Keyser-Sedgmer and William Sedgmer, was a 1999 graduate of Cadiz High School, where he excelled in wrestling as a 2-time OVAC Champion and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher at the Ohio State Div. III Wrestling Tournament.

Luke was an avid outdoorsman, possessed of a love and respect for all things living.

Tragically, he lost his life on Friday, May 9, 2003, in a head-on auto collision.

He had worked as a summer employee with the Harrison County Highway Department and served as an assistant wrestling coach at Wheeling Park High School.

He had finished school that very day and was to have graduated from West Liberty State College shortly thereafter.

The fulfillment of his dream would have been to teach and coach wrestling.

He was a member of the New Athens Volunteer Fire Department and attended the United Methodist Church in New Athens.

A committee was established to provide two scholarships to perpetuate and honor Luke in memoriam. One scholarship is presented to a graduate of Harrison Central High School and the other to an OVAC member school wrestler.

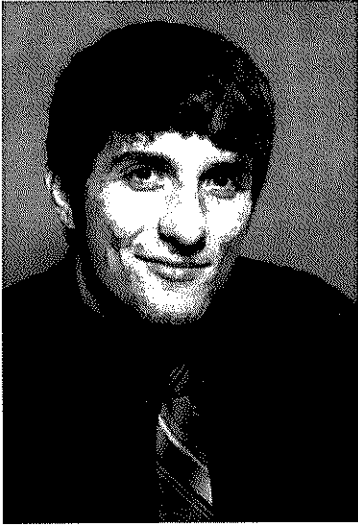
The criteria for selection as a recipient are the qualities exhibited by Luke during his brief but dynamic existence. They are scholarship, athletic accomplishments and character.

Luke was greatly admired, widely respected and dearly loved by all who came to know him. It is our fond hope that by honoring him in this fashion we will not only be perpetuating his memory, but aiding others in pursuit of their dream.

2005 - Chas Yoder-----Martins Ferry  
2006 - John Horn-----Shenandoah  
2007 - Eric DiAgosta--- East Liverpool  
2008 - Bryce Rush ----- Wheeling

# NOT IN VAIN

by Cody Miller



Thirteen years. Think about that length of time. Yeah...I guess that's where this should start...after all, what good is a story without some tale of humble beginnings? In my case humble is an understatement.

Thirteen long years ago, I was a chubby six-year-old that, if you looked at me, you never would've believed I had a prayer when it came to athletics. But nevertheless, I was there in the Oak Glen wrestling room ready to begin practice.

I was nothing short of terrible when I first began, but I worked hard and soon climb the ranks of the better wrestlers. While all this was going on, there was my father. He followed every scrap of information on wrestling he could find and always found a way to encourage me to keep plugging away. My dad drove to countless tournaments, took me to camps, bought me new wrestling gear, coached my youth wrestling team, and took pictures of all my matches. My father was superman.

So, as a chubby six-year-old, my father told me a story that would change my life forever. He told me about how he won the OVACs. Being able to look up at the wall in the wrestling room and see my father's name was a joy, and I never tired of telling everyone I knew, "Did you know my dad is up on the wall?"

I was so proud of my father, but more importantly, I was proud and honored to be his son. In the very beginning, before I knew a thing about wrestling, I knew about OVACs and I knew that my father was a champion. I made it my life's ambition to be on the wall with my father. At all costs, I wanted to make him proud.

Fast-forward thirteen years. In the finals of the OVACs of my senior year, I was wrestling a familiar opponent; I had beaten him earlier in the year, but none the less, he was tough. He had beaten an Ohio state placer in the semi-finals 3-1 to face me in the final match of the tournament.

I had told myself before I wrestled that it was just another match and that after it was over, no matter the outcome, I would be happy if I left it all out on the mat. Although I reassured myself of this, there still loomed the nagging idea that this was my senior year...my last chance...my very last chance to win it all.

After a tight match through regulation time with the score tied 1-1, overtime ensued and double overtime after that. To make an eternal thirty seconds very

short, I lost. I lost in double overtime to an opponent I had already beaten 5-2 in the regular season.

Immediately after the match, before I even left the mat, I felt like the crowd deserved something. I was always taught that you should treat winning and losing in the same fashion...with humility. With that notion, as I left the mat, I raised both arms in the air and looked at the crowd as if to say, "That's all I got."

I sat in a chair off to the side, and I was still pretty numb to the fact that I had lost. That is, until my father walked toward me.

I looked into his eyes and immediately knew he didn't care that I lost...he didn't care that I would never be on the wall with him, and that's what made it sting even more. His eyes were full of love.

He sat down next to me and patted me on the leg. I put my sweaty arm around him. We sat there together silently for a minute or so, but in the minute, thirteen years passed before my eyes. Every practice, every word spoken, every emotion in the last thirteen years flashed through my mind. I thought about my family, my dreams, but most of all, my father.

Having him sit right next to me was painful. My heart hurt for my father. He wanted it so badly for me, and in turn, I had always wanted to win it for him. I thought about all these things, but one thought took precedence over them all. I failed my father...I failed my father.

It is because of all these things that I laid my head on my dad's shoulder and could no longer hold the emotion back. I have never cried like I sobbed on my father's shoulder. All I could think to say between breaths was, "I'm sorry...I'm so sorry, Dad."

My father and I sat there for ten minutes crying together. I told him how sorry I was...how sorry I was that I had failed him...I failed to give him a gift that I had wanted to give him for THIRTEEN years. Before I could say more, with his face wet with tears and his voice shaky, he told me that I had given him a gift...he told me that the past thirteen years had been his gift...the fact that I had worked tirelessly for this one chance to make him proud was a gift. He loved watching me wrestle...he loved watching me grow into a man...he loved me.

The morning after the match, my dad left two pieces of paper on the couch for me. One paper was the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, and the other was a personal letter that he wrote.

In his letter, he told me that he knew that I had wanted to give him a championship, but the fact that I could taste it but never have it was killing me...he was right. My father wrote that the gift was not the OVACs, and it surely wasn't winning...the last thirteen years had not been in vain...because according to my father...I was his prize.

This essay was written as an assignment for English class at Oak Glen High School. Cody went on to win the 2008 West Virginia State Championship, with the OVAC finals the only blemish on an otherwise undefeated season.

**2008**  
**Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament Championships**  
**Final Summary**

.....

**103**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Dirk Bauer – Wheeling Park - maj. dec. - (#3) Kyle Bauer - Wheeling Central 10-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#5) Andrew Bertubin – Cambridge – dec. – (#2) Ed Lehotay – Meadowbrook 5-0  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#4) Darin Heavilin – Harrison Central – fall – Eddie Nogay -Weirton Madonna 3:21  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#8) Chris Tingler – Steubenville – dec. – Danny Rowland – Oak Glen 5-1

**112**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Arizona Miller – Beaver Local – dec. – (#2) Taylor Yoder – Martins Ferry 2-1  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#3) Zack Porter – Bellaire – dec. – (#5) Cody Wiltshire – Buckeye Local 1-0  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#4) David Mahan – Oak Glen –dec. – (#6) Aaron Majetich – Wheeling Park 2-1  
7<sup>th</sup> – Devin Mazik – Indian Creek – dec. - (#7) - Ryan Richter – Monroe Central 2-0

**119**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Troy Eckleberry – Oak Glen - dec. – (#6) Mitch Thompson – Beaver Local 5-2  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#2) Mike Kendjorski – Buckeye Local - dec. - (#4) Preston Foster – East Liverpool 4-2  
5<sup>th</sup> – David Schlieper – Cameron – maj. dec. – Justin LeRoy – Indian Creek 11-2  
7<sup>th</sup> – (3#) Nick Taylor – Wheeling Park – fall – (#7) Dillon Nolte – St. CVlairsville 1:25

**125**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Paul Rose – Cambridge – maj. dec. – (#2) Cagney Springer – East Liverpool 12-2  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#3) Jason Waugh – Wheeling Park – maj. dec. – (#4) Nick Risdon –Harrison Central 12-1  
5<sup>th</sup> – Zane McSwords – Martins Ferry – dec. - Jared McIntosh – Beaver Local 10-4  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#8) Seth Callarik – St. Clairsville – dec. (#5) Jeremy Howard – John Marshall 5-3

**130**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#5) Erik Canter – Bellaire – maj. dec. – (#1) Dominic Prezgia – St. Clairsville 9-1  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#6) Derek Holt – Martins Ferry – dec. – (#4) Ethan Dray – Oak Glen 8-3  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#3) Bryce Rush – Wheeling Park – fall – (#2) Chaser Clark – Union Local default  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#7) Tyler Berger – Cambridge – dec. – Brandon Bartrug – Buckeye Local 7-3

**135**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Andy Stine – Edison – dec. – (#2) James McFarland – Brooke 2-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#5) Shane Foster – Bellaire St John – dec. - (#3) Joel Paolo – Oak Glen 4-3  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#4) Ben Pockl – John Marshall – dec. – (#6) Brandon Conrad – Meadowbrook 8-5  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#7) Joe McKee – Wheeling Park – dec – (#8) Matt Flanigan – Wellsville 11-8

**140**

1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Jimmy Reisz – Beallsville – dec. – (#2) Robbie Chilson – Bellaire 6-4  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#5) Rob Eddy – Harrison Central – dec. – (#6) Chris Brancker – Edison 2-1  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#7) Dylan Ice – Beaver Local – dec. – Ben Giles – Brooke 7-0  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#4) Kurtis Jefferis – Barnesville – fall – Brandon Staudacher – Indian Creek 4:15

BRACKET (#) INDICATES SEED

**2008**  
**Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament Championships**  
**Final Summery**

.....

**145**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#3) Nick Stine – Edison – fall – (#1) Zach Basich – Wheeling Central default  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#4) John Ray – Cambridge – dec. – (#5) John Border – Caldwell 3-2  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#2) Aaron Porter – Bellaire – dec. – (#7) Nick McAvoy – Oak Glen 3-0  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#6) Max Nogay – Weirton Madonna – dec. – Justin Clendenin - Shadyside 3-2

**152**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#2) Johnny Merryman – Shadyside – OT dec. – (#1) Cody Miller – Oak Glen 3-1  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#3) Zack Kosky – Bellaire St. John – dec. – (#4) Mike Emery – Indian Creek 6-3  
5<sup>th</sup> – Salem James – Steubenville – dec. – (#8) Taylor Banks – Harrison Central 11-6  
7<sup>th</sup> – Andy Sigler – Union Local – dec. – (#7) Jeff Hanselman – Wellsville 5-0

**160**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#2) Bryan Skoff – Bridgeport – dec. (#1) Jon Bittinger – Beaver Local 8-4  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#3) Zack Six – Oak Glen – maj. dec. – (#6) Seth Bumgardner – Wheeling Park 15-2  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#4) Kason Melchiori – John Marshall – dec. (#8) Derek Porter – Bellaire 5-0  
7<sup>th</sup> – David Monteleone – Weirton Madonna – dec. – Daniel Goodwin – Edison 3-3

**171**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#3) Chad Teague – Cambridge – dec. - (#4) Chase Tucker – Martins Ferry 3-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#2) Ian Howell- Harrison Central – dec. – (#1) Nathan Schaal – Buckeye Local 2-1  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#5) Dan Doyle – Wheeling Park – dec. - (#6) Trevor Dunn – John Marshall 3-2  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#8) Paden Stewart – River – dec. - (#7) Josh Sizemore – Brooke 7-5

**189**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#2) Kirk Wetherell – Cambridge – fall – Matt Shreeve – Martins Ferry 1:25  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#6) Mike Mann – Barnesville – fall – (#3) Troy Starr – River 4:46  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#4) Devon Ludwig – Beaver Local - fall – (#5) Jery Kahl – Shadyside 4:07  
7<sup>th</sup> – Josh Costlow – Steubenville Central – dec. Ryan Crabtree – Wellsville 5-3

**215**

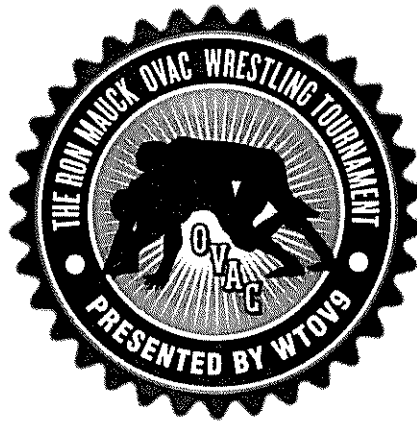
- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#2) Branko Busick – Steubenville – dec. – (#1) Derek Hesson – Caldwell 5-3  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#3) Allen Earnest – Wheeling Park – dec. (#4) Taylor Potts – John Marshall 4-1  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#7) Jake Henderson – Beaver Local – dec. – (#5) Schuyler Bondy – Monroe Central 5-4  
7<sup>th</sup> – (#3) Zac Costlow – Steubenville Central – fall – Robbie Moten – Cambridge 1:27

**285**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – (#1) Derek Wolfe – Beaver Local – fall – (#5) Steve Woodford – Martins Ferry 1:32  
3<sup>rd</sup> – (#6) Dutch Fisher – Wheeling Park – dec. – (#2) Drake Kowcheck – Brooke 2-1  
5<sup>th</sup> – (#7) Ryan Dugan – Steubenville – OT dec. – (#8) Sean West – Bridgeport 2-1  
7<sup>th</sup> – George Ruckman – Beallsville – fall – Troy Haslam River :44

BRACKET (#) INDICATES SEED

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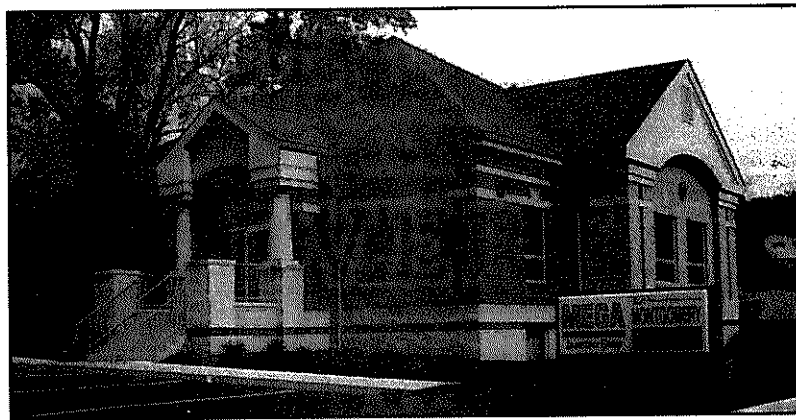
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AAA-Oak Glen  
AA-Caldwell  
A- Beallsville**

**DANIEL BURKE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Cody Miller-----Oak Glen**

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AA-Caldwell  
A-Beallsville**

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AWARDS**

**Ron Mauck & Bill Hinegardner**

**SID STOLTZ AWARD**

**Belinda Lough**

**OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**

**Paul Coffland**

**JUNIOR HIGH COACH OF YEAR**

**JoJo Seccoccia, Jr.----Steubenville**

**HERCULES AWARD**

**Kirk Wetherell--Cambridge**

**JAYVEE COACH OF YEAR**

**Kenny Robison---Monroe Central**

**GEORGE KOVALICK  
WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP**

**Ethan Dray-----Oak Glen**

**SADLER SPORTSMANSHIP**

**TEAM AWARD**

**Beallsville**

**MATT SALSBERY**

**SCHOLARSHIP**

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**Bryce Rush-----Wheeling Park**

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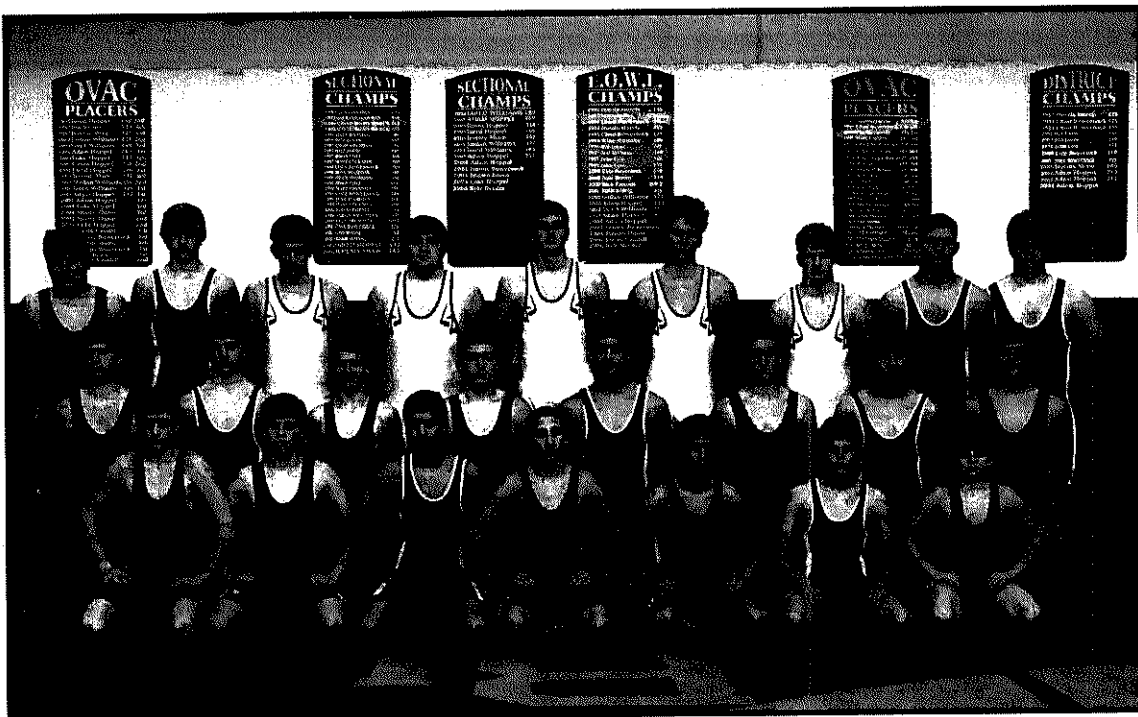


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**Back Row:** Jerry Malinsky, Cameron Miller, Lucas Kroesen, Joey Ross, Michael Sachs, Tony Harris, Nathan Wathey, Jake Henderson, Jon Brown

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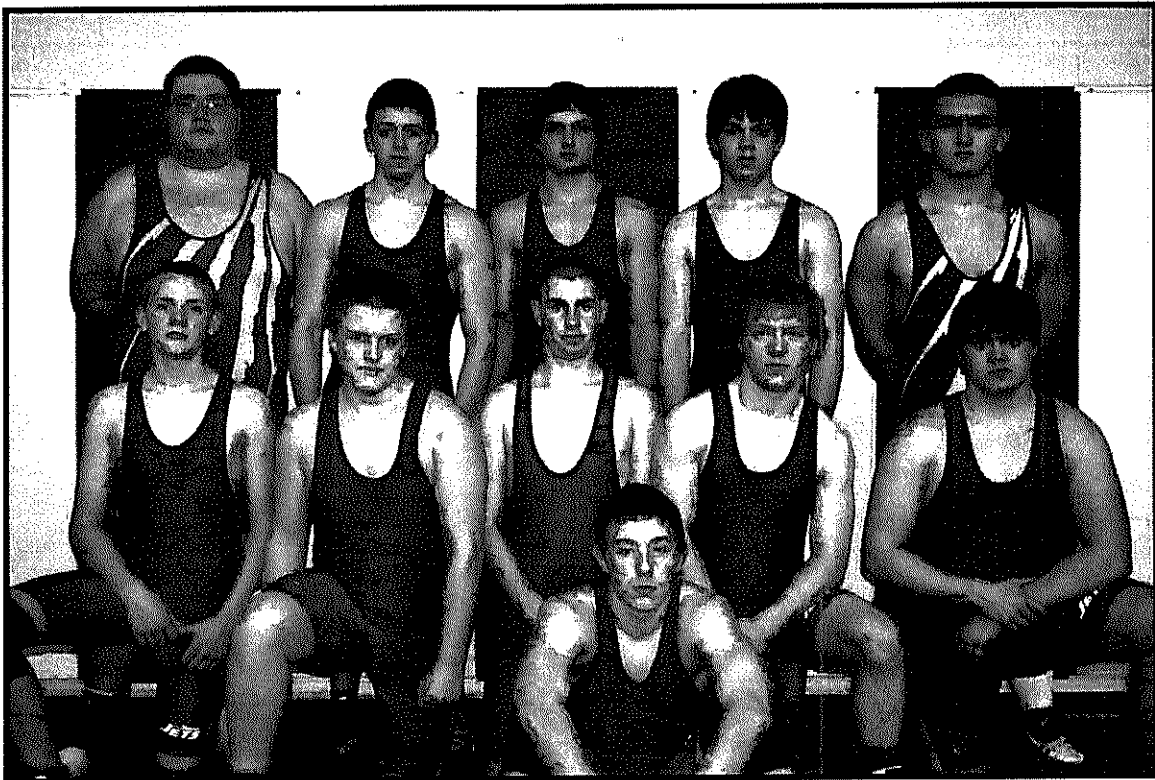
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Tyler Hixenbaugh – Colin Hudson - Josh Walker – Luke Braunlich  
Devin Earnest – Tyler Settle**

**Row 4: Mike Lough – Zack Kimmins – Braidy McConnell**

**Missing from photo: Matt Orosz - David Orosz - De'Sean Scott –Will Urich  
Derrick Minzler –Tyler Kettlewell**



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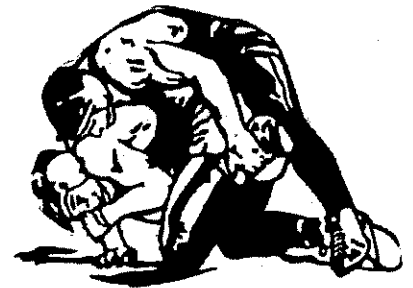
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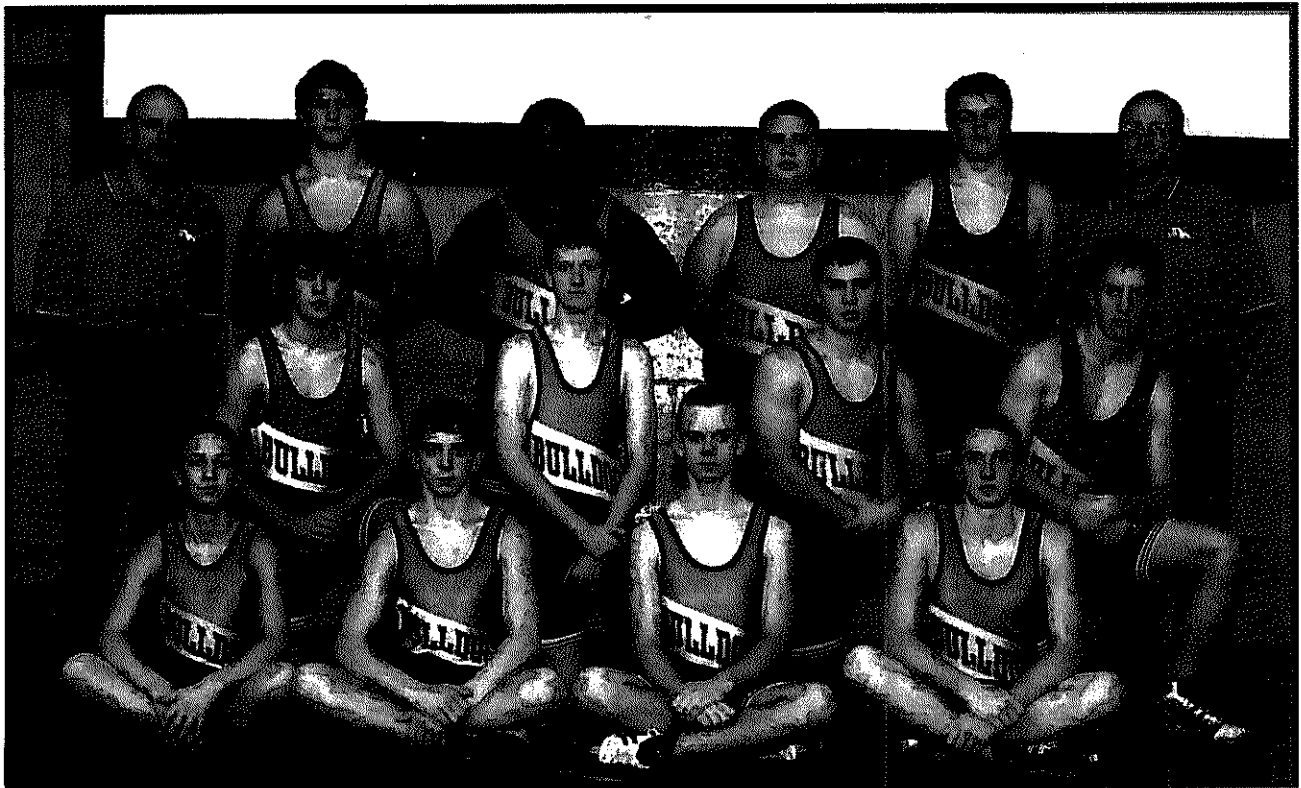
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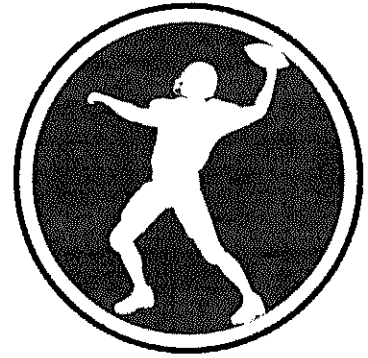
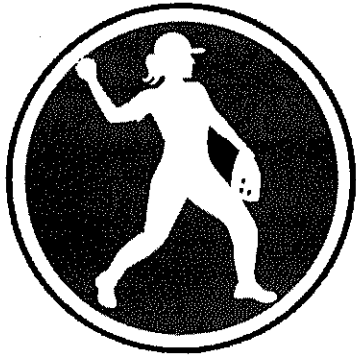


# BRIDGEPORT "Bulldogs" WRESTLING



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**Second: Ty Coulson - Chris Pritchett - Milos Kubica - Thijs Van Gulik**  
**Back: Asst. Coach, Rod Hammer - Mike Dalto - Sean West**  
**Austin Cordery - Brandon Kurner - Coach, Ross Roskovich**

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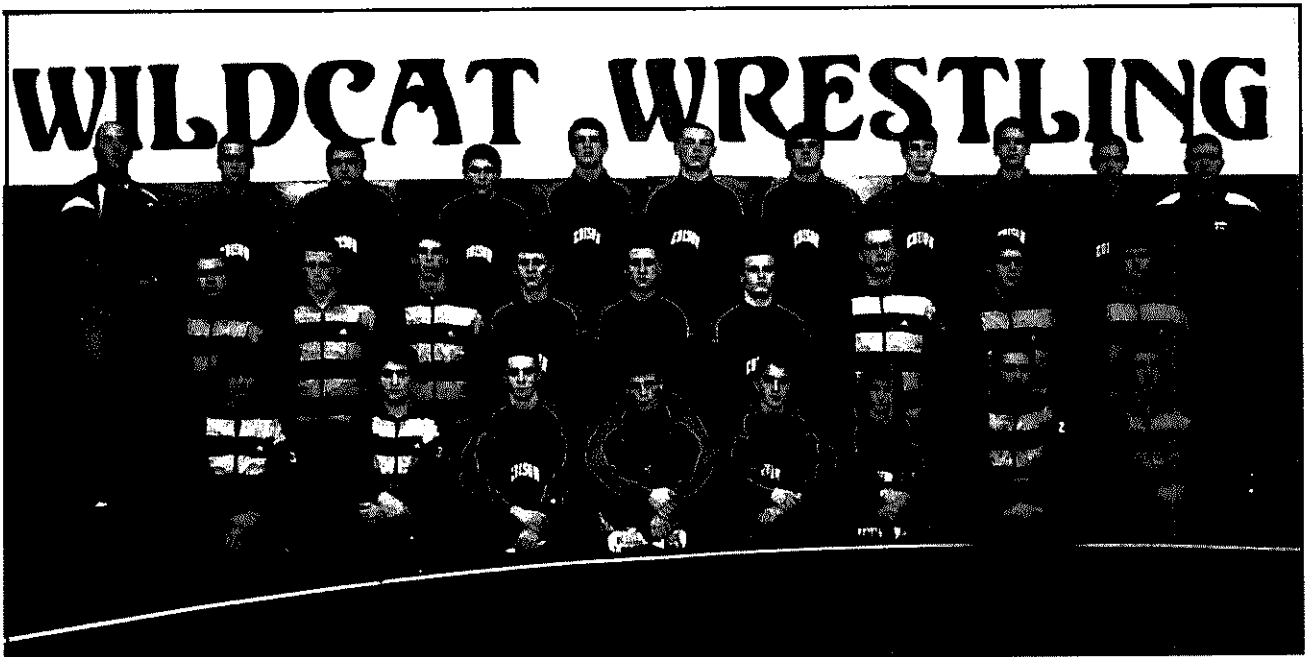


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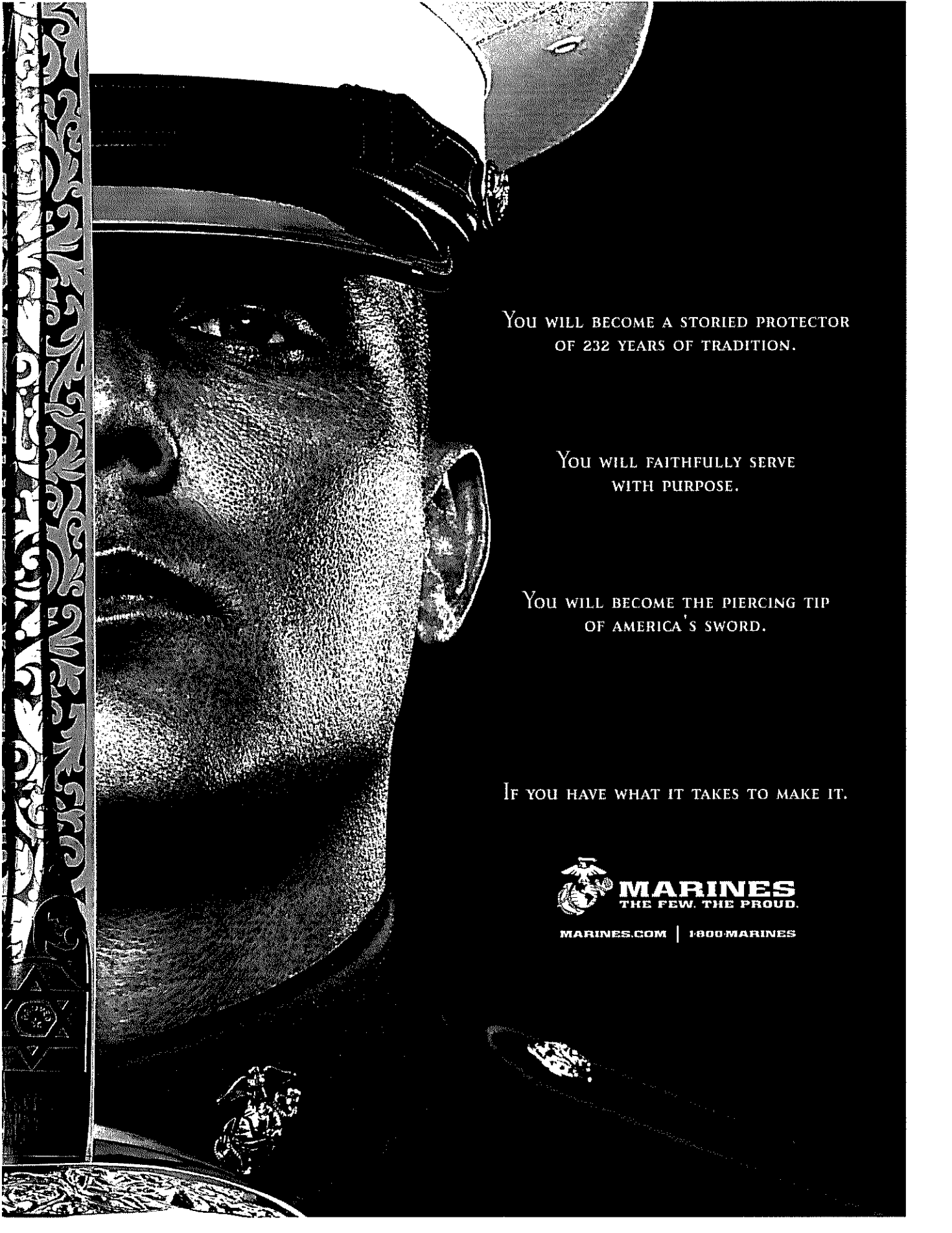


**Front:** Joey Threatt – Guy Blancato – Devvon Bell – Willis Long – Anthony Vein – Anthony Bell  
Chuck Merritt - Clint Rowan

**Middle:** Kevin Childers – Blake Judy – Clayton Baker – Ryan Lemasters – Anthony Shane  
Matt Hawken – Hunter Willis – Anthony Scott – Jordan Noviski

**Back:** Head Coach, Bill Koehnlein – Mason Taylor – Robert Hall – Dalton Herzick – Tyler Frey  
Brandon Bradley – Remington Gaspard – Danny Costa – Keith Gubanez – Mason Gubanez  
Asst. Coach, Harold Lemasters

**Not pictured:** James McCourt – Asst. Coach, John Costa



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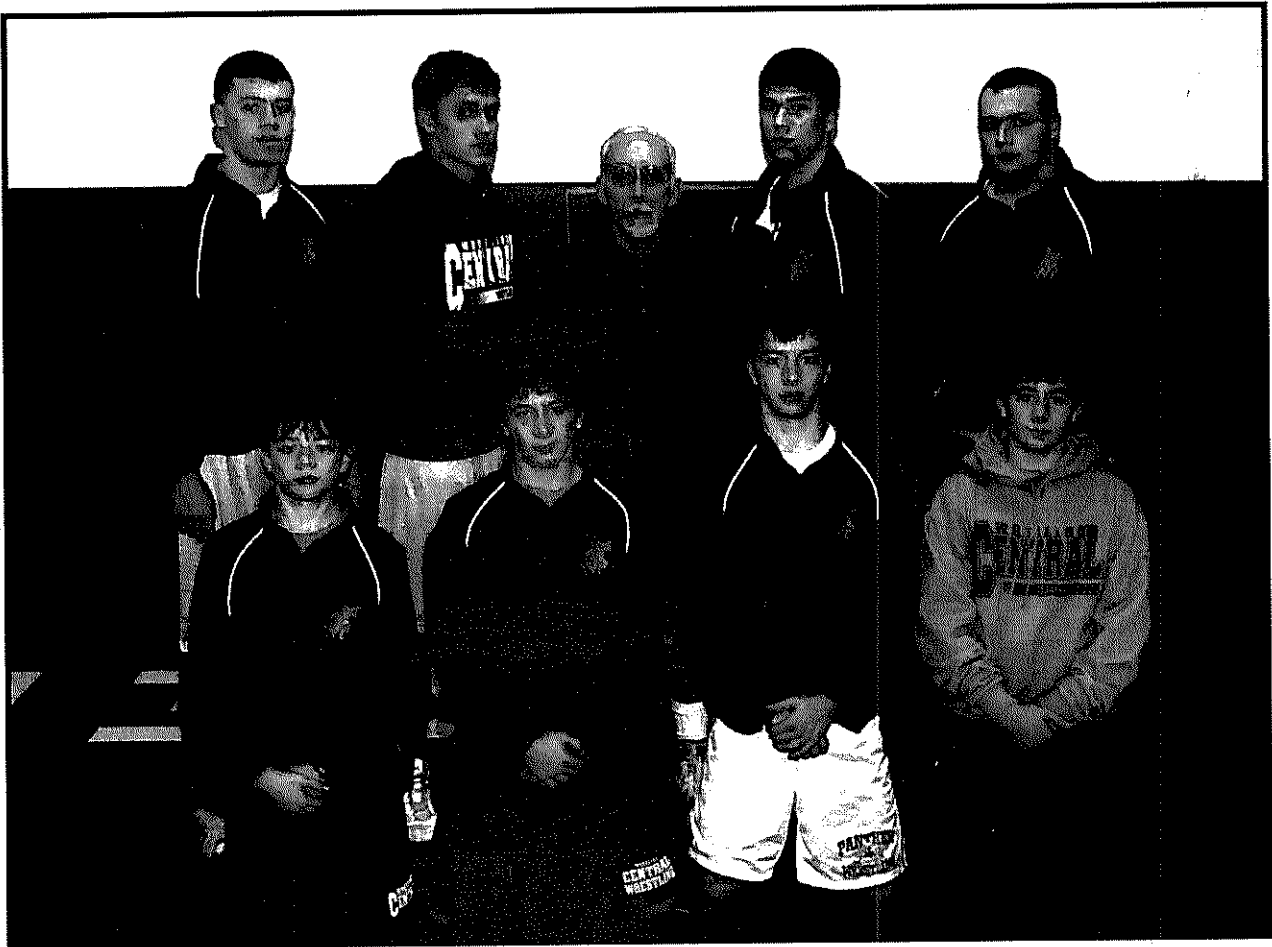
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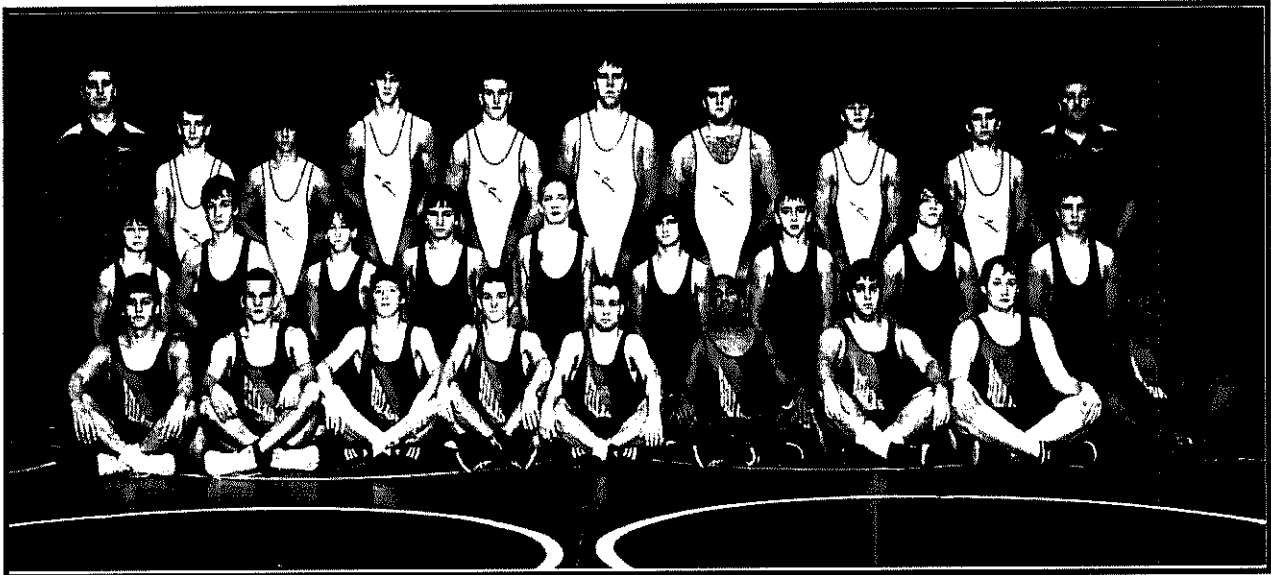


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## BIG RED



**Front:** Robbie Chilson - Derek Porter - Jake Foster - Zach Porter - Erik Canter  
Justin Baker - Zack Clegg - Xavier Meek - Julius Pitts

**Middle:** Josh Davis - Michael Underwood - Robbie Dodrill - Ryan Holyak  
Christian Edmond - Dylan Frizzi - Derek Bradshaw - Sean Wayt  
Anthony Vinka

**Back:** Head Coach, Shane Shaffer - Andrew Banker - Kyle Koshenka  
Michael Kidwell - Andrew Crook - Bob Bennett - Josh Lancione  
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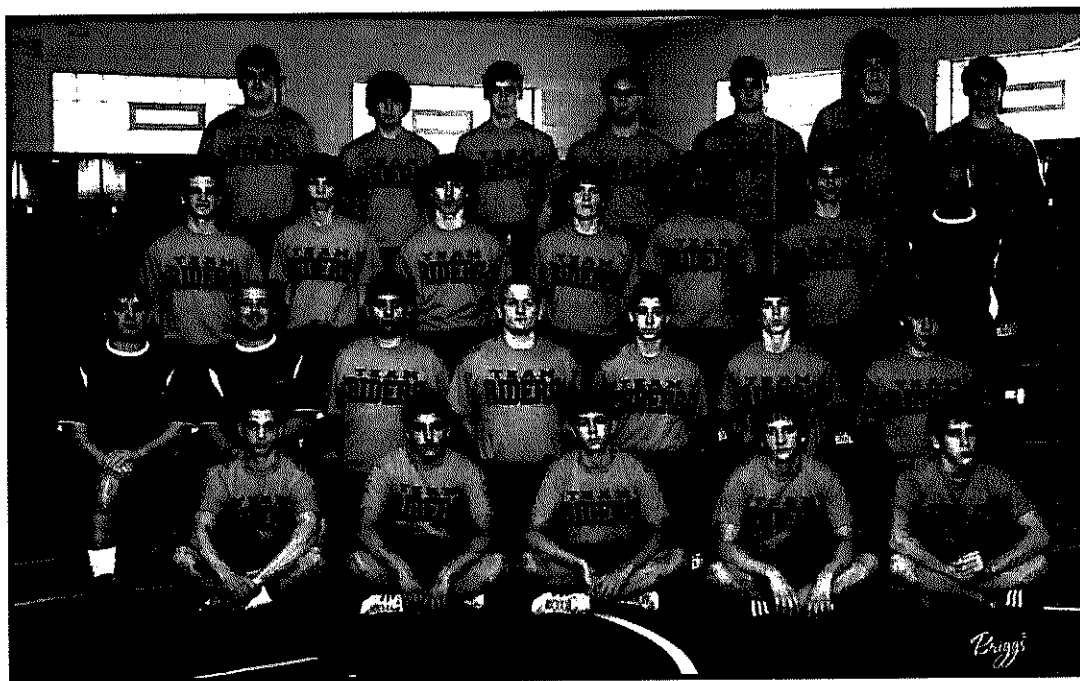
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Seated: Dalton Leach – Brad Mackey – Matt Shreve – Taylor Yoder – Scott Kaiser  
Kneeling: Zane McSwords – Dominick Driver – Ian Graham – Luke Zabitski  
Jeffrey Oberdick – Ryan Hotlosz  
3rd Row: Asst. Coach, Jeff Oberdick – Chevez Chambliss – Cody Jackson  
Mike Lemmon – Aaron Sperringer – Mike Rose – Asst. Coach, Babe Sidon  
Back Row: Asst. Coach, Scott Roth – Clay Johnson – Ronnie Anderson  
Michael Neavin – Cory Oliver – Coach, Lamont Tucker



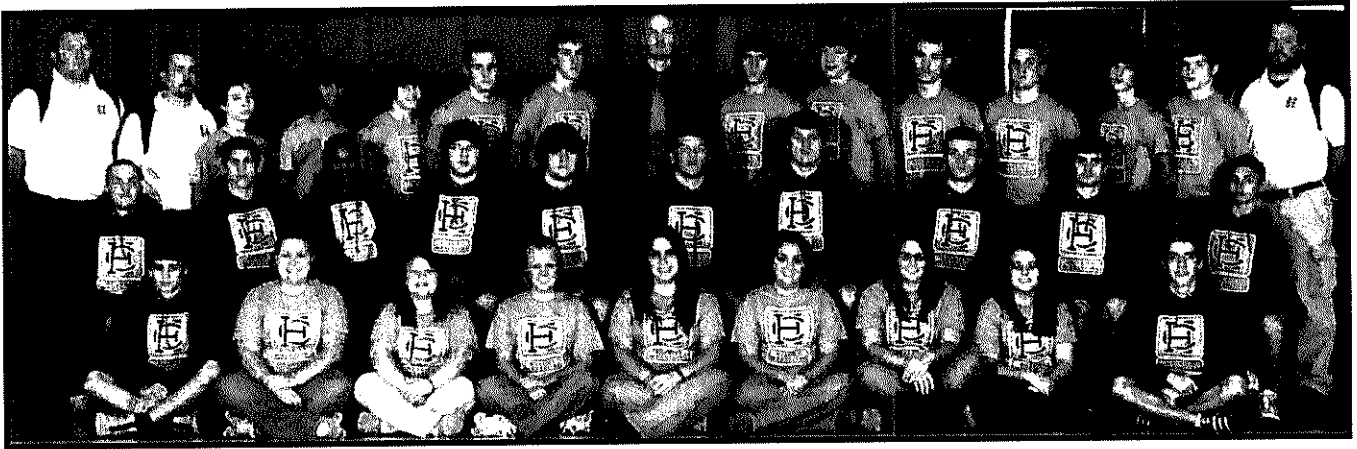
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Megan Goodrich – Kristina Brandon – Sarah Gilbert – Jacob Forrester  
**Middle:** Rob Eddy – Nick Risdon – Taylor Banks – Jordan Case – Ian Howell – Jake Mallernee  
John Eekroth – Cody Kaiser – Trevor Coffman – Darin Heavilin  
**Back:** Coach, Bill Bryant – Coach, Anthony Hayes – Trace Butler – Latif Arifudin – Mitch Riley  
Doug Eddy – Clayton Coffman – Coach, Todd Dunlap – Matt Shurina – Christian Roe  
Pedro Ortiz – Cody Sansoucie – Doug Forrester – Ricky Fleming – Coach, Brad Bryant

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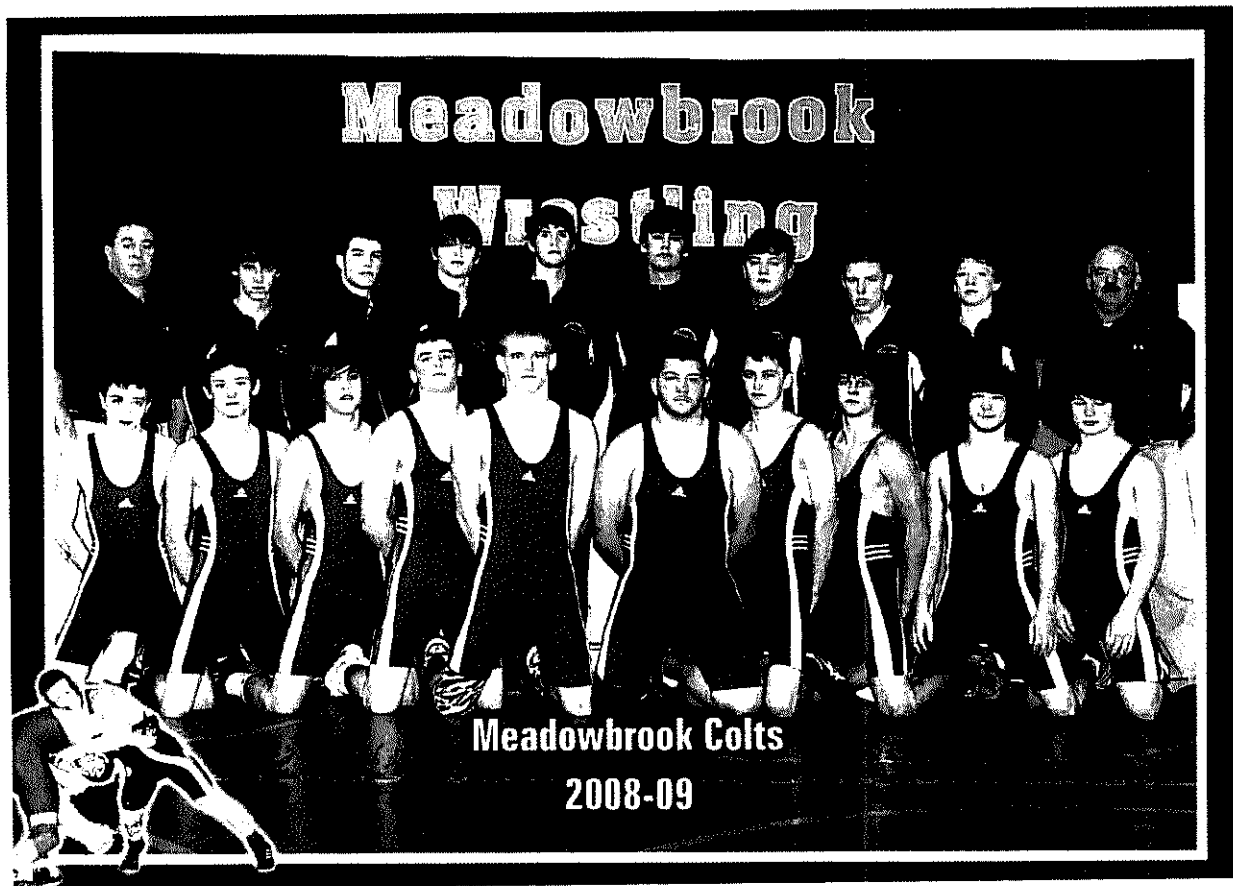
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Front: Will Larrison – Jordan Payton – Matt Smith – Eric Ravak – Kiefer Watson  
Justin Pierce – Derek Sisk – Cody Compton – Johnathon Smith – Anthony Gerdau  
Back: Coach, Troy Keith – Dillon Curry – Tate Richardson – Chance Stoney  
Shawn Hickman – Mike Haynes – Forest Kimmel – Tim Runyan – Zack Patterson  
Asst. Coach, Tom Lehotay

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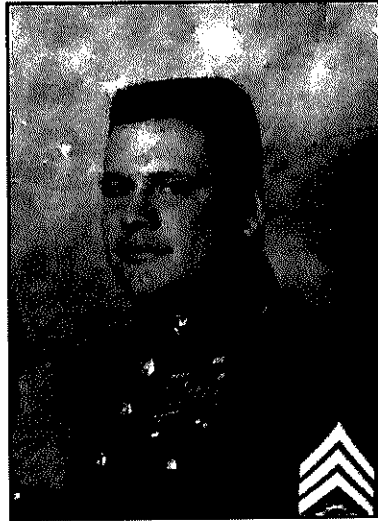
*As a former OVAC wrestling coach, I am aware of the unique role that this conference plays in the lives of the member schools' student/athletes. Your demonstrated emphasis on sportsmanship and scholarship are a tribute to your dedicated leadership and is rivaled by no other high school organization of which I am aware.*

*It is my honor and extreme pleasure to play a small part in your continuing success.*

*Congratulations, John Stephenson, fellow coach and friendly adversary, on having the gymnasium at Harrison Central High School named in your honor. This is an appropriate tribute to a gentleman whose profound influence on so many student/athletes can best be seen in the accomplishments of those who were willing to pay the price. You personify the adage that "coaching is teaching in its finest form".*

*George Kovalick gave life to the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, but you, Ron Mauck, provided the undying dedication and devotion that has made it the spotlight event of the OVAC.*

# **BRENT TAGGART**



**Congratulations, Brent. The hard work and dedication that made you a 2 time OVAC Champion has sustained you throughout these years. It was my privilege to know and coach you. Your relentless commitment to meet the challenges served to inspire and motivate all your teammates. Through it all, you never lost sight of your ultimate goal... to be the best that you could be!**

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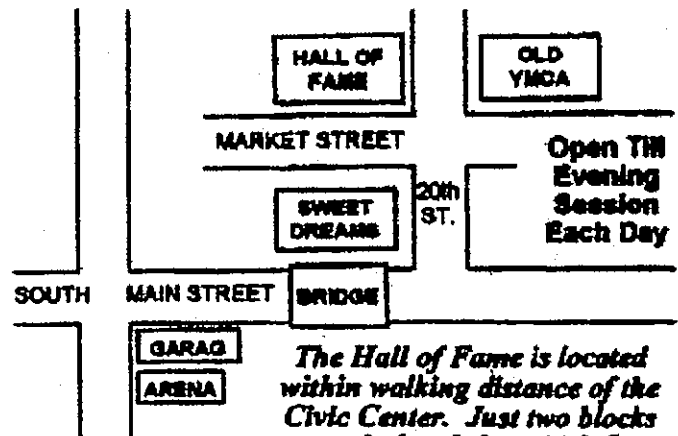
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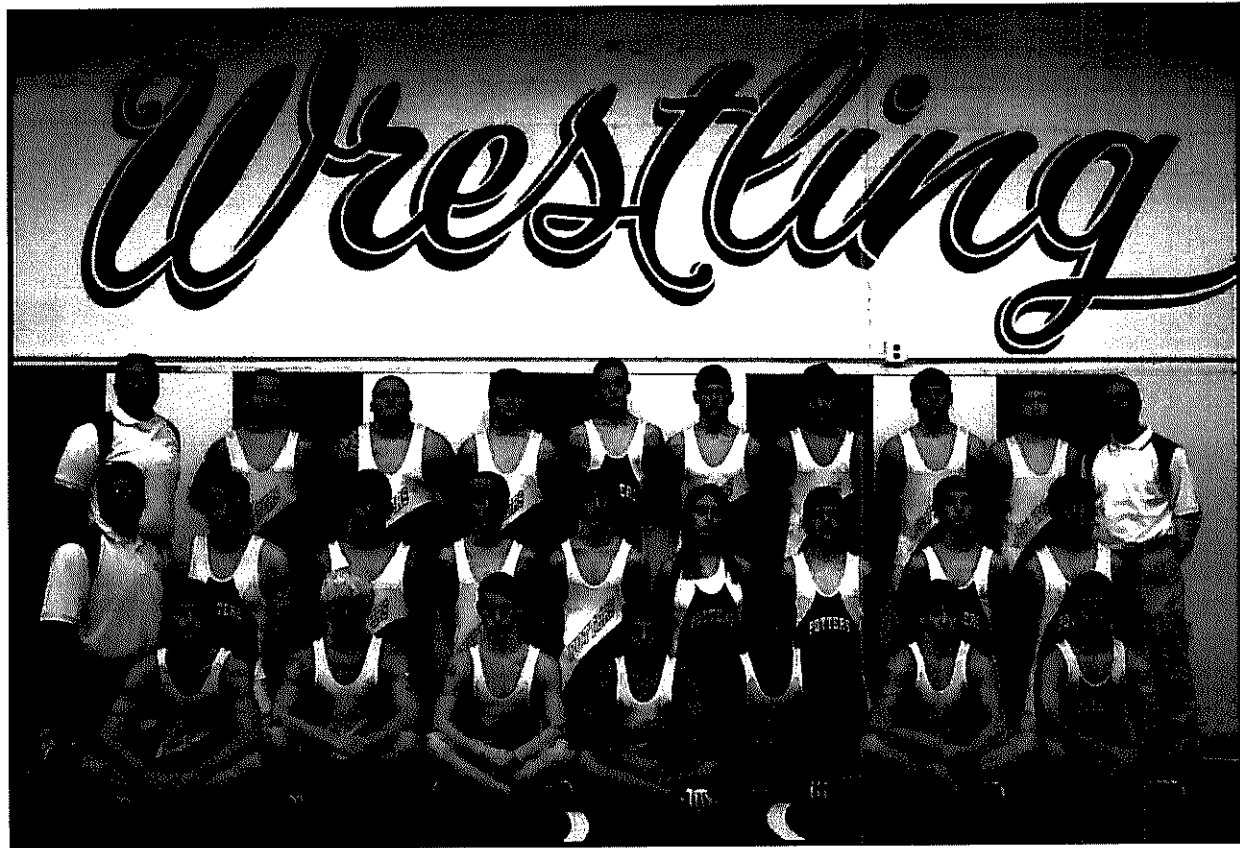
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Monte Gonzales

**Kneeling:** Coach, Jimmy Joe Savage – Kyle Holt – Zack Madison – T J Densmore  
Sean Densmore – Lauren Lisk – Shane Wright – Kyle Mecum – Ryan Milan

**Standing:** Coach, Chad Hager – Ethan Ludwig – Rob Rowe – Jim Dean – Jake Martin  
Chris Tatgenhorst – Anthony Ours – Jake Tatgenhorst – Mike Bucheit  
Coach, Dean Smith

**Not pictured:** Fred Lowe – Alex Morris – Pete McKinney – Caleb McKinnon – Jacob Burchett

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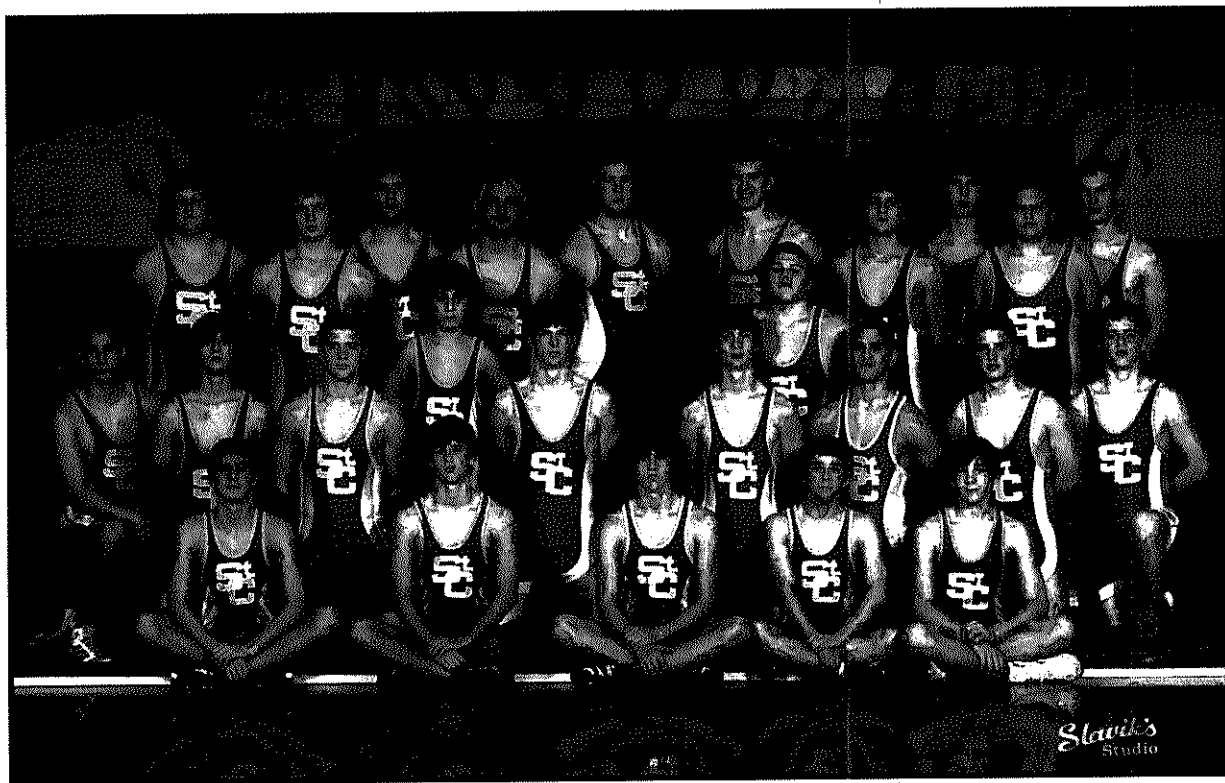
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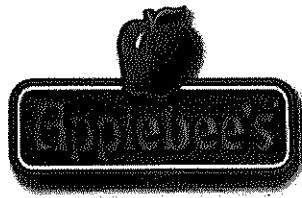
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Michael Yockey – Chase Holcomb – Dominic Prezzia – Michael May  
Fabio Cracolici  
Row 3: T J Knight – Chas Snider – Jonathan Howard – Corey McGarry  
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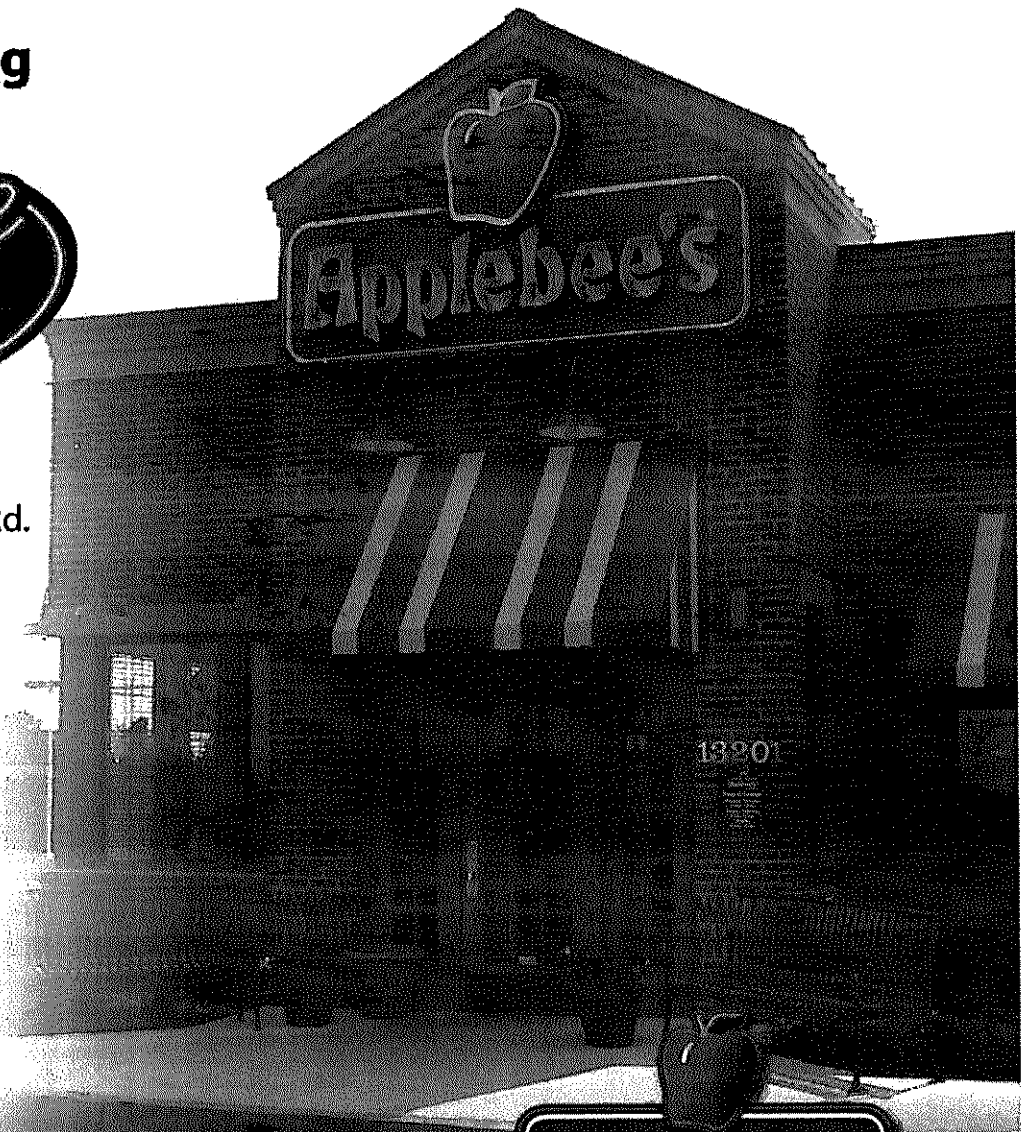
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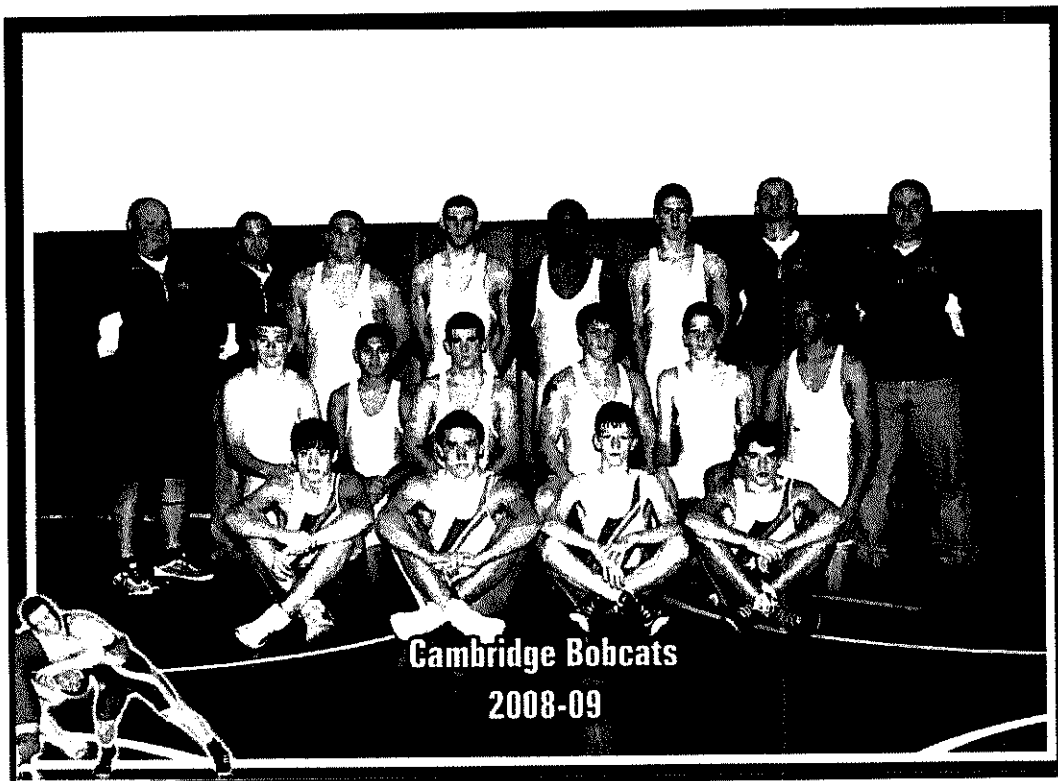


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140 – D. Alfman – Soph.  
145 – J. Beatty – Soph.  
152 – J. Coleman – Jr.  
160 – J. Scrudgers – Soph.  
171 – G. Fox – Soph  
189 – R. Moten – Sr.  
215 – C. Gann – Soph.  
285 – Z. Wojciechowski – Jr.

**Past OVAC Champions**

'81 & '82 – 155# - Brian Duff 5<sup>th</sup> State AA  
'83 – HWT - Jamie Price 5<sup>th</sup> State AAA  
'84 – 119# - Denis Daugherty  
'84 – 126# - Heath Beardmore - Bierkorte Award  
'84 – 132# - Tim Pontius  
'88 – HWT - Tom "Tank" Moore 3<sup>rd</sup> State Div II  
'92 – 171# - Kelly Stevens  
'93 – 152# - Jeremy Wilkinson – State Champ Div II  
'95 – 160# - T.J. King  
'96 - 171# - T.J. King  
'99 – 119# - Jose Smith  
'01 – 171# - Jake Sowers  
'06 – 119# - Dustin Daugherty – 6<sup>th</sup> State Div II  
'08 – 125# - Paul Rose - 8<sup>th</sup> State Div II  
171# - Chad Teague – 5<sup>th</sup> State Div II  
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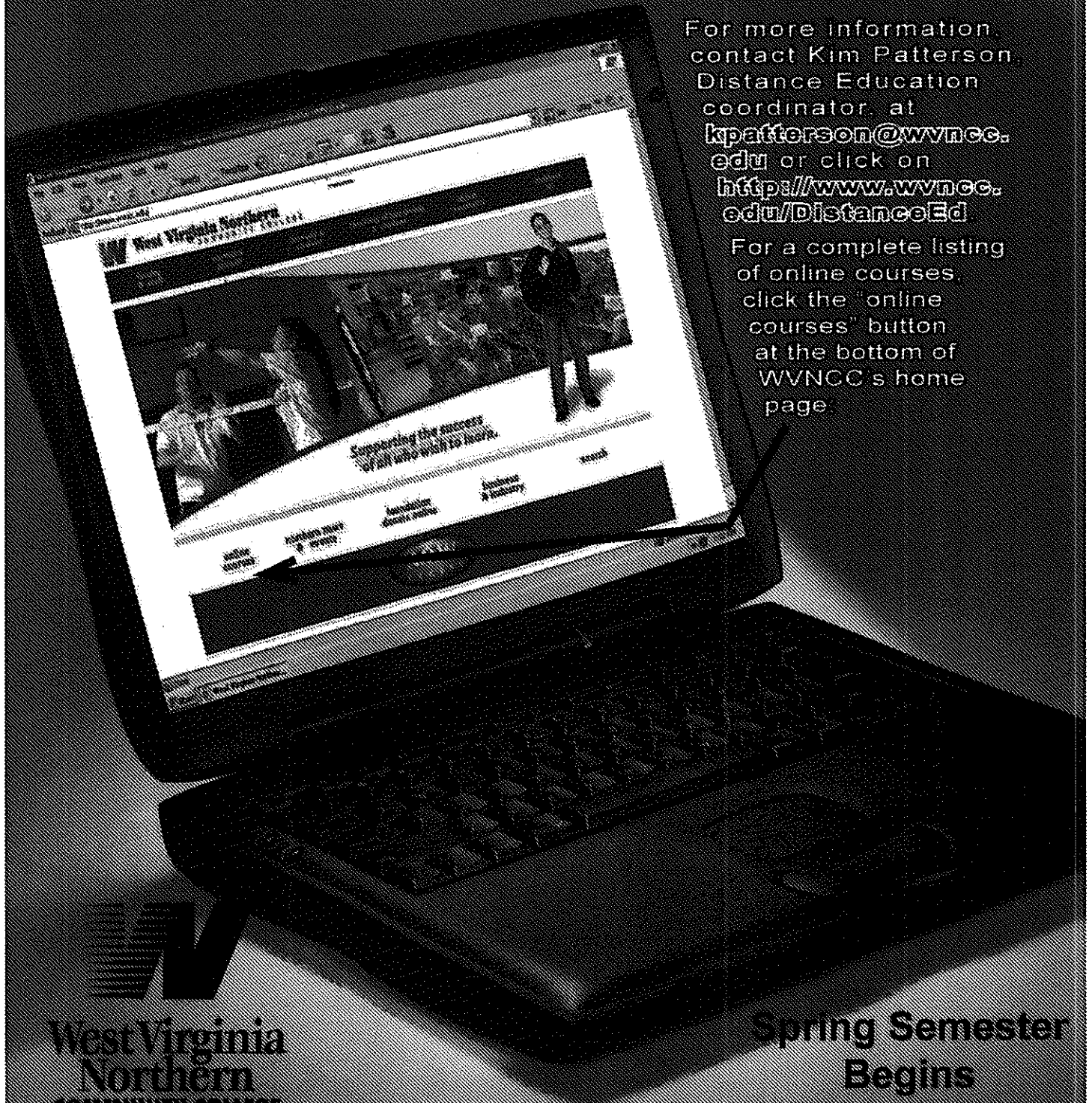
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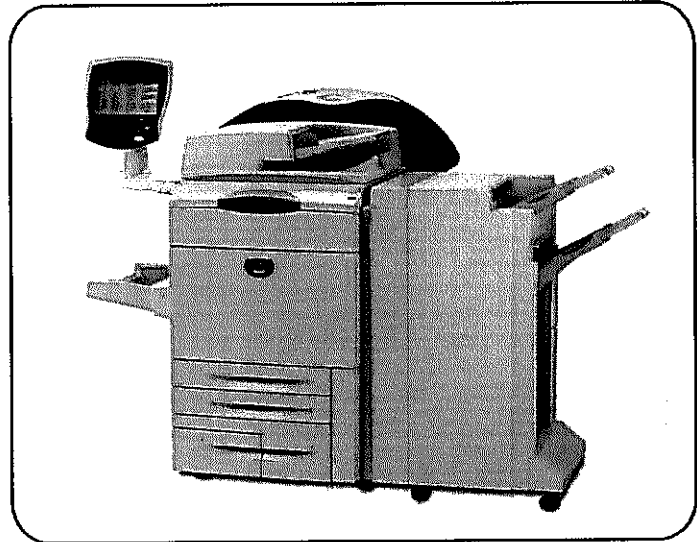
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## Hurray for the OVAC!

At Huntington we're kind of partial to H words. H is for honesty. Home. Harmony. Heart. And in this case, H is for Hurray. We say hurray for the OVAC and good luck to all the participants! We're so happy (another good H word) to be able to support something that makes our community a better place to be.

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