



KEN GERDES III MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

APRIL 2022

Foundation Committee

Debbie Nason

Scott Richardson

Luke Pascale

Ben Gerdes

Bryan Barham

Cindy O'Toole Thompson

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Golf Outing Directors
Debbie Nason
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Mission and Contributions

The Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation was established by his family to support Illinois wrestlers and wrestling groups at all competitive levels. The generous donations made in Ken's honor allows us to carry out the contributions he intended to make to the Illinois wrestling community. It is our goal to support ALL Illinois wrestlers at all competitive levels.

Over the last 22 years, we have awarded each year at least five \$1000 Leadership Awards to high school seniors, provided assistance with travel expenses for Illinois Olympic hopefuls, including 2000 Olympic Greco-Roman Team Member Kevin Bracken, 2004 Olympic Freestyle Team Member Joe Williams, 2008 Olympic Greco-Roman Team Member T.C. Dantzer, Ellis Coleman, 2012 Olympic Greco-Roman Team Member, 2016 Olympic Women's Freestyle Team Member, Haley Augello & 2016 Olympic Men's Freestyle Team Member, Daniel Dennis. We have contributed to high school wrestlers trips to freestyle & Greco Roman Nationals and provided IL/USAW with commemorative towels for each Illinois National Freestyle & Greco Roman Team Member.

Ken Gerdes III—2022 IWCOA Hall of Fame Inductee

Ken was a part of my High School and College memories as a competitor, I will always remember the fight he had. I am honored to have been a Ken Gerdes Foundation Recipient. Like many recipients, the funds were used to travel internationally to compete. The foundation helped me to prepare for my competition and ultimately place in the Olympic Games. Thank you for honoring Ken's memory through the Ken Gerdes Foundation.

Kevin Bracken
USA Olympian - Wrestling

As head wrestling coach at Lincoln College, it was my privilege to have Kenny on my staff. At the time of his passing, Kenny was an Asst. Coach for the Lynx. Kenny's knowledge of wrestling and his outgoing, magnetic personality made him very popular with the student-athletes and a great asset to our program. In his brief time at Lincoln, Kenny made a huge impact on many wrestlers.

Dave Klemm

As a coach, I have had the opportunity to work with quite literally, thousands of athletes. Be it at the national or high school level, I have coached and interacted with some of the very best to call Illinois home. Throughout my years and experience, Kenny Gerdes ranks among the top of those athletes. Many kids are athletically gifted. Many kids are great leaders and all-around great people. Kenny Gerdes was the total package. He was not only a superior wrestler, but he was flat out a superior person. His character both on and off the mat is what I admired most, as he was always a teammate that the wrestlers could turn to for both compassion and encouragement. He was a wrestler that I knew would do the right thing even when no one was watching, and someone I could count on to have high moral standards. Kenny will always hold a special place in my heart because a wrestler like him is the reason I went into coaching, and the reason I continue to coach to this day.

Mike Polz
High School Coach

2022 Leadership Award Recipients



Pictured l to r: Bryan Barham, Debbie Nason, Braeden Wittkamp, Adam Gibbins, Dahlia Leighton, Adian McCain, Jacob Jordan & Scott Richardson.
Not Pictured: Owen Gerdes

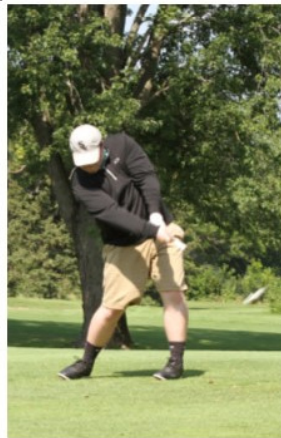
Leadership Award Applications & Assistance for Junior or Cadet Nationals can be made by contacting: Debbie Nason at debn4690@aol.com

Ken Gerdes III Annual Golf Outing

Dinner Sponsor - Fellowship of Christian Athletes/Wrestling

Golf Sponsor - Cody & Dru Goodman

2021 FOUNDATION SPONSORS



Express Electric

Orland Bakery

Ed Ewoldt Family

Midwest Nationals

BDR Properties

Besse Shirt Lettering

Trophies by George

Notre Dame Wrestling in Memory of Kevin McCann

Coal City Coalers, CC Warriors & Lil Coalers

National Wrestling Hall of Fame Illinois Chapter

Shepard Wrestling In Memory of Jim Craig

The Kozol Beer Distributors

Aurelios Pizza of Joliet

"A Friend of Wrestling"

John & Michelle Ward

The Cumbee Family

Beat the Streets-Chicago

Kewanee Wrestling "Go Boilers"

Ryan's Collison Service

*IWCOA in Memory of Hall of Fame Members
Ken Kraft, Ted DeRousse, Roy Conrad,
Donald Rumsfeld, Chuck Hanson,
Harold "Sam" Samorian*

Players' Pub & Grill/Prospect Heights

Cole & Young Jewelers

Ken Gerdes III Annual Golf Outing

Cocktail Hour Sponsor - Salvatore "Sammy" Fiorella
Hole-In-One Sponsor - D'Orazio Ford
Gift Bag Sponsor - Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Assoc.

2021 EVENT SPONSORS

Lee & Joyce Nagel

Jack Leese- "In Memory of:
Ken Kraft, Ted DeRousse, Roy Conrad,
Donald Rumsfeld, Chuck Hanson,
Harold "Sam" Samorian

Bill Murphy

George & Renee Dyche

The Polz Family

Bill Honeycutt

Joe & Laurie Cliffe

Tom Gens Family- Tom, Jamie,
Jacob, Andrew & Natalie

Jane & Dennis McCann

Tom Kelly's Chophouse/New Lenox

The Geselter Family in Memory of Troy Geselter

Debbie & George McClarence

Dr. Scott Kenny/
Integrated Physical Medicine

Christy's Child Care

Kathi & Jr. Richardson

Niall Collins

Dale Eggert

Glen Lid

Kelli & Tim Ruettiger

Cole & Young Jewelers





All Golfers are entered in the "Hole-In-One" Contest Sponsored by D'Orazio Ford , Wilmington. Additional "Hole-In-One Contests on the course and dinner in the Clubhouse. Raffle after dinner with tons of prizes including laptop computer, golf bags, gift certificates and more....
If you don't or can't golf, please join us for dinner at 4:30PM
ALL PROCEEDS support ALL Illinois wrestlers at All levels and styles.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS IMPORTANT

Wrestlers Receiving Foundation Donations Since 1997:

International and National Event Recipients: Kevin Bracken, St. Laurence; Steve Marianetti, Glenbrook North; Sean Bormet, Providence; T.C. Dantzler, Bremen; Joe Williams, Mt. Carmel; Jacob Hey, Dixon; Tom Ciezki, St. Laurence; Lindsey Durlacher, Buffalo Grove; John Kading, Glenbard South; Shannon Gillespie, Evanston; Mary Kelly, Mahomet-Seymour; Adam Eggleston, West Aurora; B.J. Bettlesman, Belleville East; Mark Stewart, Grayslake; Mike Polz, Sandburg; Seth Livingston, Bloomington; Israel Martinez, West Aurora; Tim Springs, Bremen; Billy Carroll, Conant; Dennis Narveaz, Granite City; Roy Nyberg, Oak Park; Lambros Fotos, United Township; Eric Tannenbaum, Naperville North; the Illini Wrestling Club; the Wildcat Wrestling Club; the Lynx Wrestling Club; Granite City Wrestling Club; DJ Bruce, Naperville North; Christian Brantley, Mt. Carmel; Matt Cusick, Sandburg; Mario Gonzalez, West Aurora; Kyle Hutter, Providence; Eric Tannenbaum, Naperville North; Max Nowry, Wheeling; Tom Ambrose, Providence; Thomas Hubert, Granite City H.S.; Gary Walliser, Granite City H.S.; Joe Foreman, Downers Grove North; James Nakashima, Dwight; Jake Curby, Lyons; Edwin Cooper, Providence; Joey Kielbasa, Crystal Lake Central. Ellis Coleman, Oak Park-River Forest HS; Peter Ogunsanya, OPRF; Cole Smith, Providence, Travis Ford-Melton, Marian Catholic; Haley Augello, Lockport HS; Daniel Dennis, Grant HS, Beat the Streets, Quiovany Santos, Carla Garcia, Melissa DeLaGarza, Nani Marie McFadden, & Kaliyah Harris. Additional support was extended to Asa Terrell, Mt Carmel, Mia Rodriguez, Malakye Rodriguez, Belvidere HS, Blah Dahnwei, DeKalb, Anthony King, E. St. Louis

Leadership Award Recipients: Juan Martinez, Proviso West; Mike Murphy, Providence; Tom LeCuyer, Plano; Lance Weber, Maine West; Brad Lynde, Hononegah; Tom Riggins, Roxanna; Joe Paun, Thornwood; Zach Emond, Lake Zurich; Dominic Valvano, Waubesa Valley; Chris Panio, Homewood Flossmoor; William Stanton, Notre Dame; Jeff Jesuit, St. Laurence; Chris Stuart, Oak Forest; Bill Murphy, Homewood Flossmoor; Sam Smith, Quincy; Marc Justice, Collinsville; Tony Marti, Ridgewood; Chester Hanson, TF South; Brian Gillham, St Pat's; Dean Martinez, Maine East; Jack Barnhisel, Glenbrook South; David Hilliard, Proviso East; Dan Kovats, Brother Rice; George Horvath, Niles West; George Kirgan, Granite City; Nathan Graumenz, Vandalia, Casey Alleman, HF; David Davilla, Lane Tech; Mark Dietzen, York; Terrence Normoyle, Burlington Central; Steven Peach, Granite City; Chris Ruffino, Fenwick; Murphy Mahalik, Joliet Catholic John Ugaste, Lake Zurich; Nick Paolilli, H-F; Mike Klinek, Providence Catholic; Lonnie Mollo, Marian Catholic; Chris Jordan, Fairfield Community; Jason Besse, T.F. South; Murphy Mahalik, Joliet Catholic; Andrew Lukanich, Lyons Twp.; John Herzog, Downers Grove South; Sean Washington, Proviso East; Jordan Broquard, Prairie Central; Eric Kruger, Carl Sandburg; Rashad Riley, Conant; Nick Fallico, Maine South; Anthony Robertson, Argo; John Bultman, Petersburg; Andrew Baker, Wauconda HS; Brandon Cleary, Mahomet-Seymour; Scott Dziedzic, Niles-Notre Dame; Dan Haeflinger, Harvard; Scott Wallace, Hinsdale South; Ben Youel, Crystal Lake Central; Christopher Darimont, Charleston; Michael Glielmi, Lincoln-Way Central; Clinton Polz, Sandburg; Michael Smith, Plainfield Central; Austin Wagoner, Granite City; John Doyle, Sandburg; Ryan Jahn, Bolingbrook; Andrew Mendoza, Eisenhower; Weldon Rogers, Oak Park & River Forest; William Seitz III, Downers Grove North; Nicholas Nowotarski, Niles-Notre Dame; Brandon Weber, Geneseo; Colby Kenney, Oregon; Daniel Kowalski, Lake Park; Bernard Futrell, Mt. Carmel; Michael Savage, Mundelein HS; Seth Welch, Prairie Central HS; Justin Farmer Lincolnway Central HS; Ryan Robinson Collinsville HS; Kevin Bialka, Lockport Township HS; Charles Johnson, OPRF; Cole McCormick, Mahomet-Seymour; Matt Bystol, Libertyville; Nick Haferkamp, Lincoln; Marcus Watson, St. Joseph; Dustin Elsbury, Byron HS; Andrew Hoselton, Prairie Central HS; Robert Kleinhans, York HS; James Nehls, Downers Grove HS; Jack Windmoeller, Lyons Township HS; Malcolm Watson Nazareth Academy HS; Zack Urbanski, Downers Grove North HS; Steven Congenie, Willowbrook HS; Austin Armetta, Mahomet Seymour HS; Matt Ormoff, Mundelein HS; Alex Brooks, Granite City HS; Nicholas Elsbury, Byron HS; Kyle Langenderfer, Lincolnway East HS; Chet McClure, GCMS High School; Joseph Nelson, Lincoln-Way Central HS; Dan Radcliffe, Lockport Township HS; Pernevon Sheppard, Glenbard West HS; Cameron Schwing, Fisher HS; Christopher McDermid, Libertyville HS. Carver James, Dakota HS; Cody Minnick, Coal City HS; Dawid Wojs, Taft HS; Kameron Irvin, Proviso East HS; Liliana Cortes, Riverside Brookfield HS; Patrick Kristin, Oak Forest HS; Steven Ciolek, Wauconda HS; Toby Hitchins, Mahomet Seymour HS; Jacob Silzer, St. Rita HS; Zach Krause, Plainfield East HS; Shayne Oster, Lockport HS; Kevin Stearns, Sandburg HS; Nolan Baker, Byron; Hunter Crowley, Mahomet Seymour HS; Jake Lanning, Pontiac HS; Jacob Blaha Collinsville HS; Austin Gomez, Glenbard North HS; Austin Mahar, Downers Grove North HS; Alexander Harvey, Rochelle, Sergio Villalobos, Downers Grove South, Jack Jessen, Willowbrook, Zachary Williard, Carbondale, Sam Grillo Notre Dame College Prep; Dahlia Leighton, Glenbard East HS; Aidan McCain, Round Lake HS; Braeden Wittkamp, Deerfield HS; Jordan Lewis, Downers Grove N HS; Adam Gribbens, Rochester HS; Owen Gerdes, Joliet Catholic Acad.

A Special Thanks to Frank & Linda Wolf and H & P Memorial for donating the printing of the Newsletter!

Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation

26th Annual Golf Outing

Silver Lake CC—Orland Park

Tuesday, June 21, 2022



Cost: \$150 per person
Pre-paid Foursome \$550
9:00AM Shotgun Start

Includes: Golf, Cart, Lunch

Lunch only \$65

Foundation Sponsorship
Includes Signage at Golf Hole
& Name on Event T-shirt

Event Sponsorship
Includes Name on Event T-shirt

Event T-shirt given to
all participants

GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me/us for the 26th Annual
Ken Gerdes III Memorial Golf Outing

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Golf & Dinner _____ Dinner only _____

Foundation Sponsorship _____ Event Sponsorship _____

Foursome Sign-Up:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

For More Information

Call Debbie Nason

815.347.5368 or

email debn4690@aol.com

Return with check Payable to K.G.III Memorial Fund
Mail to: Debbie Nason, P.O. Box 277, Orland Park, IL 60462



Golf Reservations must be in by June 10, 2022. Sponsorships must be in by June 3, 2022.

Please come and join us for our annual golf outing!

All proceeds of wrestling fund are dedicated to supporting ALL Illinois Wrestlers at All levels of competition.



The Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation

GOLF OUTING

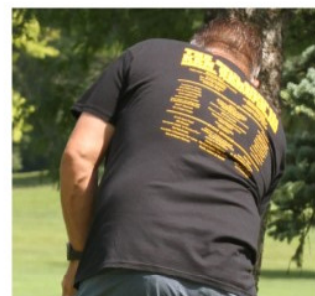
Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Silver Lake CC, Orland Park

Foundation Sponsorship & Foursome \$900 Prepaid
Includes Company Name & Logo on Sponsor Sign
& Company Name on Event Shirt

Foundation sponsorship \$400
Company name on sign at golf hole
& on event shirt given to all participants.

Event sponsorship \$200
Company name on event shirt
given to all participants.

We will send an invoice upon request for Golf and Sponsorship



The Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation relies completely on public contributions. The goal of the foundation is to support ALL Illinois wrestlers at all competitive levels. We have provided eighty \$1000 Leadership Awards to high school seniors, sent kids to wrestling camps, financed the trip to freestyle & Greco nationals, and paid travel expenses for Illinois Olympic hopefuls, including 2000 USA Olympic Greco-Roman Team Member Kevin Bracken and 2004 USA Olympic Freestyle Team Member Joe Williams, 2008 USA Olympic Greco Roman Team Member TC Dantzler and 2012 USA Olympic Greco Roman Team Member Ellis Coleman, 2016 USA Olympic Freestyle Team Member Daniel Dennis, 2016 USA Olympic Women's Freestyle Team Member Haley Augello. To insure having your name on sign or t-shirt, please return by 6/3/2022

RETURN TO:
P.O. Box 277
ORLAND PARK, IL 60462

Phone: 815-347-5368
Email debn4690@aol.com

Name

Address

Phone

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