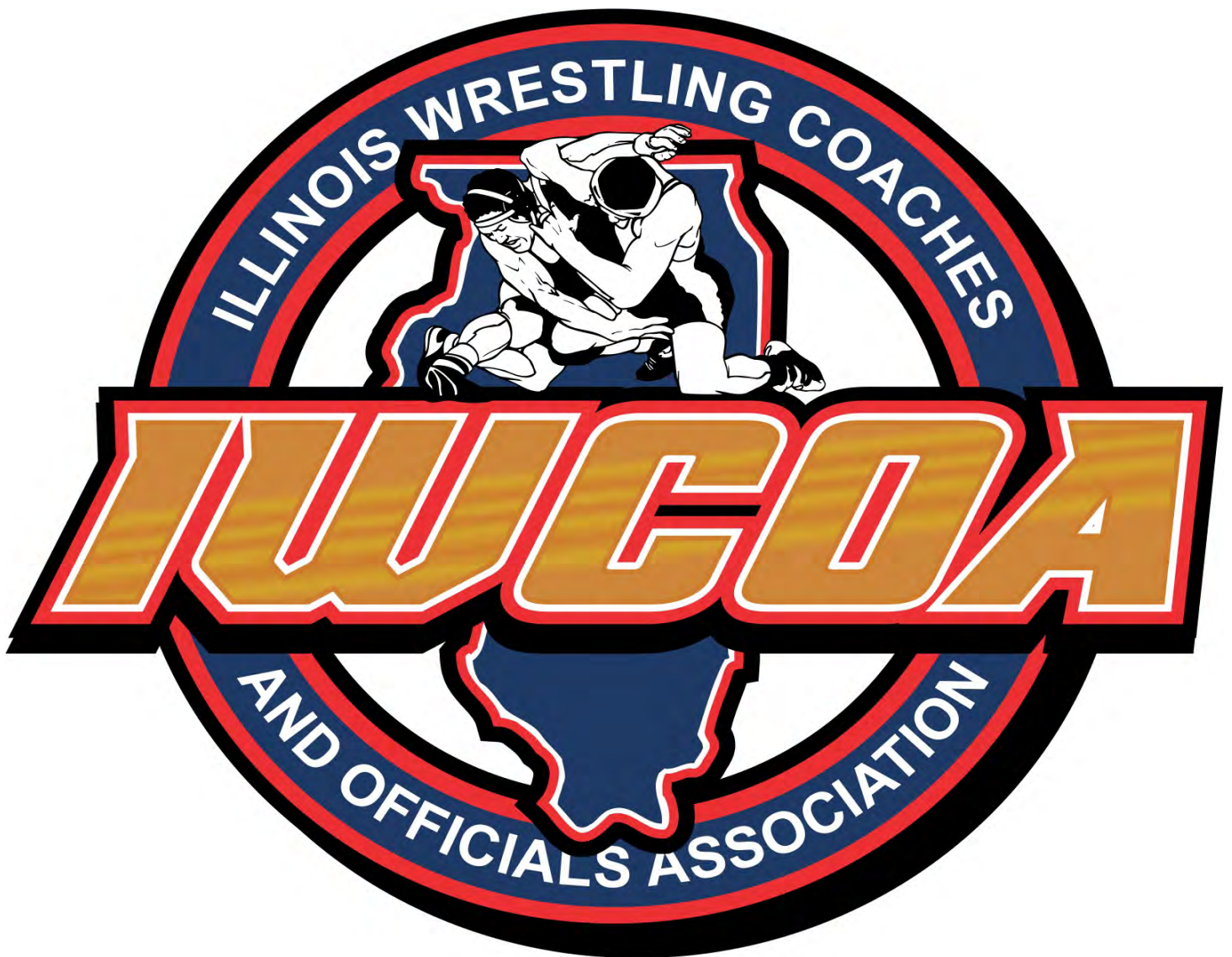


# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual

Lifetime Service Awards  
and  
Hall of Fame  
Banquet



Sunday April 27, 2025  
Doubletree by Hilton  
Alsip, Illinois

# The Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA)

## President's Greeting

Dear Wrestling Community,

Thank you for attending the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual IWCOA Lifetime Service Awards & Hall of Fame Banquet to celebrate our best in the Illinois wrestling community. Over the past year, the executive board of the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association and its committees have worked hard to promote wrestling. Here are some highlights:

- The IWCOA once again organized and supported the annual Boys Freshman and Sophomore and Girls State Tournament Series, as well as the inaugural Girls Dual Team State Tournament
- The IWCOA supported the Midwest Nationals and the Preseason Midwest Nationals.
- The IWCOA worked with the University of Illinois in the fall in a co-sponsored Illinois State Coaches Clinic.
- The IWCOA worked diligently to recruit, license and train wrestling officials across the state with preseason in-person clinics and in-season weekly webinars.
- The IWCOA supported the Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation which continues to provide leadership awards to high school seniors demonstrating excellence in leadership and service within their communities and provides financial support to many Illinois native wrestlers who pursue championships at the World and Olympic levels.

However, the highlight of the year for the IWCOA is why we are gathered here today. Your achievements, leadership, and contributions to the greatest sport on earth sets the standard of excellence. Each of you has committed to the highest levels of wrestling and you continue to give back to the sport we all love. Congratulations to our Lifetime Service honorees, our new Hall of Fame inductees and our winners of our Wrestlers, Coaches, Administrators, and Newsperson of the Year Award winners.

This year our Person of the Year is not a person, but rather an organization. The Lansdowne Park housing organization, called Lansdowne Up, is a housing development in East St. Louis which, according to their website, "...Aims to be a beacon of hope for the Lansdowne neighborhood in East St. Louis, IL. It's designed to pour energy and life into a neighborhood with amazing potential to spark revival in East St. Louis."

I'm excited to recognize Lansdowne Up and the amazing work they are accomplishing in Illinois.

Our executive board members have invested countless hours of volunteer time supporting events and making award selections. But we continue to need your support to keep moving forward with our mission. If you haven't already, please consider supporting the IWCOA by becoming a member. Please visit <https://iwcoa.net/membership>. Our membership year runs August 15 thru August 14 of the following year. We are proud that we have not increased our membership dues in over 16 years!

I also encourage you to donate to our association as you are able, we are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax deductible. Visit <https://iwcoa.net/> and click on the donate now button on the top ribbon, or speak to myself or any of your IWCOA board members.

Again, congratulations to all our award winners and honorees, and to our inductees...welcome to the IWCOA Hall of Fame!!

Yours in Wrestling,



Rob Porter

IWCOA President

## IWCOA Presidents

- 1971 – Steve Combs, Coach, Deerfield
- 1972 – Steve Combs, Coach, Deerfield
- 1973 – Wayne Miller, Coach, DeKalb
- 1976 – Jim Schultz, Coach, Glenbard South
- 1977 – George Dyche, Coach, West Aurora
- 1978 – Charles Anderson, Coach, Savanna
- 1979 – Charles Farina, Coach, East Leyden
- 1980 – Tony Parks, Coach, Addison Trail
- 1981 – Mark King, Coach, LaGrange
- 1982 – Steve Weiss, Coach, Fenton
- 1983 – Rick Mann, Coach, Hersey
- 1984 – Jim Cartwright, Coach, Conant
- 1985 – Bernie Botheroyd, Coach, Glenbard W.
- 1986 – Jerry Ancona, Coach, Lake Park
- 1987 – Tom Heniff, Official, Oak Lawn
- 1988 – Tom Heniff, Official, Oak Lawn
- 1989 – Mark Gervais, Coach, Marist
- 1990 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb
- 1991 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb
- 1992 – Augie Genovesi, Coach, Notre Dame
- 1993 – Augie Genovesi, Coach, Notre Dame
- 1994 – Joe Pedersen, Official, Naperville
- 1995 – Joe Pedersen, Official, Naperville
- 1996 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb
- 1997 – Gary Thacker, Coach, Belvidere
- 1998 – Gary Baum, Coach, Kaneland
- 1999 – Gary Baum, Coach, Kaneland
- 2000 – Dan Fulscher, Official, Lincoln
- 2001 – Dan Fulscher, Official, Lincoln
- 2002 – Mike Manahan, Coach, Stanford
- 2003 – Mike Manahan, Coach, Stanford
- 2004 – Mike Wilkey, Official, Oak Park
- 2005 – Mike Wilkey, Official, Oak Park
- 2006 – Joe Cliffe, Coach, Prairie Central
- 2007 – Joe Cliffe, Coach, Prairie Central
- 2008 – Mike Bukovsky, Coach, Montini
- 2009 – Mike Bukovsky, Coach, Montini
- 2010 – Rob Ledin, Coach, Mahomet-Seymour
- 2011 – Rob Ledin, Coach, Mahomet-Seymour
- 2012 – Mike Matozzi, Coach, Hinsdale South
- 2013 – Mike Matozzi, Coach, Hinsdale South
- 2014 – Rich Montgomery, Coach, Rock Falls
- 2015 – Rich Montgomery, Coach, Rock Falls
- 2016 – Rob Murphy, Coach, Wilmington
- 2017 – Rob Murphy, Coach, Wilmington
- 2018 – Don Mekeel, Official, Sterling
- 2019 – Don Mekeel, Official, Sterling
- 2020 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle
- 2021 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle
- 2022 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle
- 2023 – Nate Kessen, Official, Sugar Grove
- 2024 – Nate Kessen, Official, Sugar Grove
- 2025 – Rob Porter, Coach, Naperville Central

# IWCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Rob Porter** – President, Membership Chair, F/S & Girls State, Girls Wrestling Development

**Nate Kessen** – Immediate Past President, Finance, F/S & Girls State, Officials, Banquet & Banquet Program, Publicity, Ethics, Hall of Fame Selection, Girls Wrestling Development, Gerdes Leadership Award

**Joe Cliffe** – Treasurer, Past President, Midwest Nationals, Banquet, Banquet Program, Classic Dual, Publicity, Finance Chair, Fundraising, Membership, Special Awards Sub-Committee, Hall of Fame Selection Chair, Ethics

**Tony Clarke** – Secretary, Officials Chair, Publicity, Membership, Banquet, Hall of Fame Selection, Girls Wrestling Development

**Roy Snyder** – Past President, Officials Development, Hall of Fame Banquet

**Rob Murphy** – Past President, Banquet Program, Classic Dual, Publicity, Fundraising, Ethics

**Rich Montgomery** – Past President, Hall of Fame Banquet, Classic Dual, Fundraising Chair, Membership, Hall of Fame Selection, Gerdes Leadership Award

**Mike Bukovsky** – Past President, Classic Dual, Hall of Fame Selection, Special Awards Sub-Committee

**Dan Cliffe** – Past President, Membership, Hall of Fame Sub-Committee, Hall of Fame Selection, Ethics

**Ed Ewoldt** – Past President, Historian

**Augie Genovesi** – Past President, Classic Dual Chair, Hall of Fame Selection, Gerdes Leadership Award

**Rob Ledin** – Past President, Midwest Nationals Co-Chair, Publicity, Membership, F/S & Girls State, Hall of Fame Selection, Gerdes Leadership Award

**Debbie Nason** – Gerdes Leadership Award Committee Chair, Banquet, Banquet Program, Fundraising, F/S & Girls State Co-Chair, Hall of Fame Selection, Girls Wrestling Development

**Mike Wilkey** – Past President, Banquet Committee, Officials, Hall of Fame Sub-Committee, Hall of Fame Selection

**Mike O’Dea** – Publicity, Membership, Banquet Program, Banquet, Classic Dual

**Andy Gardner** – F/S & Girls State Co-Chair

**Matt Moore** – F/S & Girls State Co-Chair

**Scott Richardson** – Gerdes Leadership Award Co-Chair, Classic Dual

**Steve Amy** – Membership, Classic Dual

**Corey Christenson** – Midwest Nationals Co-Chair, F/S & Girls State, Classic Dual

**Eddie Collins** – F/S & Girls State, Fundraising, Finance

**Chris Jordan** – Hall of Fame Banquet, Banquet program, Publicity Co-Chair

**Colleen McGlynn** – Girls Wrestling Development, F/S & Girls State, Gerdes Leadership Award

**Fred Arkin** – Girls Wrestling Development Co-Chair, F/S & Girls State, Classic Dual

**Mick Torres** – Publicity Co-Chair, Hall of Fame Banquet

**Ryan Cumbee** – Classic Dual

**Ray Eickelschulte** – Officials, Hall of Fame Selection

**Mike Elsbury** – Classic Dual

**Mike Pila** – Membership

**Leonel Clark** – Girls Wrestling Development, Classic Dual

## Board Member of the Year

2011 – Joe Cliffe

2012 – Dan Cliffe

2013 – Rob Ledin

2014 – Dan Fulscher

2015 – Debbie Nason

2016 – Nate Kessen

2017 – Mike Wilkey

2018 – Rich Montgomery

2019 – Mike O’Dea

2020 – Eddie Collins

2022 – Rob Porter

2023 – Roy Snyder

2024 – Mick Torres

2025 – Augie Genovesi

# **53<sup>rd</sup> IWCOA HALL OF FAME BANQUET**

Sunday April 27, 2025

## **REGISTRATION & SOCIAL**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## **PRE-DINNER AWARDS**

3:00 p.m.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

3:30 p.m.

## **INVOCATION & DINNER**

3:45 p.m.

## **BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

## **PERSON OF THE YEAR**

## **LIFETIME SERVICE AWARDS**

5:00 p.m.

## **HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

5:30 p.m.

## **SOCIAL**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### **Table of Contents:**

- IWCOA 2024-25 Season Voting Award Winners
- 2025 IWCOA Special Award Winners
- 2025 Academic All-State Wrestlers
- Person of the Year
- Lifetime Service Award Recipients
- Lifetime Service Award Recipient History
- Hall of Fame Inductees
- Hall of Fame Member Listing
- Grand Marshals
- Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze Donor Recognition
- Corporate Sponsors
- In Memory

# Ken Gerdes III Memorial Golf Outing



Tuesday, June 17, 2025

**Cost: \$150 per player**  
**Prepaid Foursome \$550**

Silver Lake Country Club  
Orland Park

Enjoy 18 holes of golf (including cart), Event T-Shirt & Goodie bag and an exciting awards banquet...

All for just \$150 / player

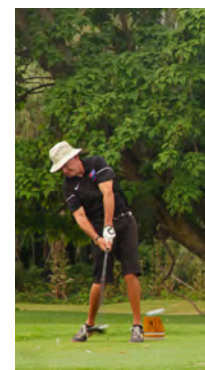
\* Longest drive contests

\* Closest to the pin challenge

\* Betting Holes

\* And A Chance to Win a New Car!

## 29th Annual Golf Outing



The Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation has been receiving donations from the wrestling community, friends and family since 1996 to honor the outstanding legacy that Ken left behind in wrestling and in leadership.

### Your contributions allow us to:

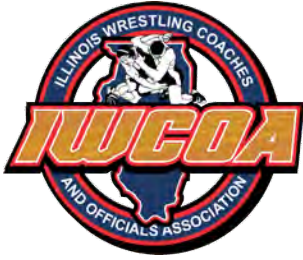
- Provide financial assistance to wrestlers in need
- Sponsor Olympic and World Team Members from Illinois
- Sponsor Junior, Cadet & Girl Illinois National Team Members
- \$1,000 Annual KGIII Leadership Awards
- Promote inclusivity and growth across Illinois wrestling

Your involvement makes everything possible. Whether it's a one-time donation, golfing or sponsoring the 29th Annual KGIII Memorial Golf Outing, or simply sharing our mission, you're helping us make a lasting impact.

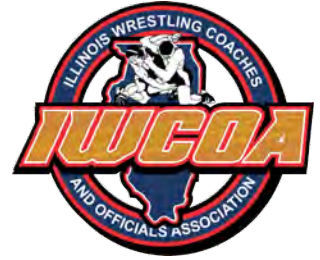
To Make a Donation go to: [kengerdesiiigolf.com](http://kengerdesiiigolf.com)

For Newsletter & Golf Outing Reservation Contact:  
Debbie Nason at [debn4690@aol.com](mailto:debn4690@aol.com)





# 2025 IWCOA Award Winners



**Class 3A Head Coach of the Year**

Tyler Demoss, Rockton (Hononegah)

**Class 3A Assistant Coach of the Year**

Justin Farmer, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)

**Class 2A Head Coach of the Year**

Jon Murray, Geneseo

**Class 2A Assistant Coach of the Year**

Jessie Montez, Geneseo

**Class 1A Head Coach of the Year**

Dan Willis, Chicago (C. Hope Academy)

**Class 1A Assistant Coach of the Year**

Zach Berman, Coal City

**Girls Head Coach of the Year**

Carley Rusk, Geneseo

**Girls Assistant Coach of the Year**

Robbie Precin, Tinley Park (Andrew)

**Class 3A Administrator of the Year**

Andrew Walters, Rockton (Hononegah)

**Official of the Year**

Dan McDonnell, Morris

**Class 2A Administrator of the Year**

Tom Ryerson, Geneseo

**Newsperson of the Year**

Izzy Martinez, Illinois Matmen

**Class 1A Administrator of the Year**

Brad Boresi, Coal City

**Classic Dual Outstanding Wrestlers**

Team Lincoln – William Cole, Round Lake  
Team Reagan – Drake Champlin, Wood River (E Alton-W.R.)  
Team Illinois Girls – Kameyah Young, Aurora (West)

**Outstanding Wrestlers**

Girls – Angelina Cassioppi, Rockton (Hononegah)  
1A – Tyson Waughtel, Vandalia  
2A – Wyatt Medlin, Washington  
3A – Seth Mendoza, Chicago (Mt. Carmel)

**Scholastic Wrestlers of the Year**

Girls – Nyah Lovis, Chicago (Lane Tech)  
Girls – Jasmine Mejia, Chicago (Rickover Naval Academy)  
1A – Carson Bissey, Olney (Richland County)  
2A – Deven Casey, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)  
3A – Kurtis Smith, Rockton (Hononegah)

# 2025 IWCOA SPECIAL AWARDS

## **Gold Level Awards**

Mark Masters, Coal City, 500 career coaching victories  
Jason Clay, Vandalia, 500 career coaching victories  
Mike Bukovsky, Lombard (Montini), 500 career coaching victories  
Seth Mendoza, Chicago (Mt. Carmel), 4x state champion  
Angelina Cassioppi, Rockton (Hononegah), 4x state champion  
Sandwich High School, 1000 program dual meet victories  
Lombard (Montini) High School, 1000 program dual meet victories  
Edwardsville High School, 1000 program dual meet victories  
LeRoy Isbell, Belleville, 40+ years of service  
Anthony Lombardo, Williams Bay, WI, 40+ years of service  
John McDonnell, DeWitt, IA, 40+ years of service

## **Silver Level Awards**

Todd Yegge, Seneca, 400 career coaching victories  
Scott Holbrook, Rock Falls, 15 state finals officiated  
Tyson Waughtel, Vandalia, 4x state medal winner, 2x champion  
Emmett Nelson, Richmond (R.-Burton), 4x state medal winner  
Vance Williams, Woodstock (Marian), 4x state medal winner  
Aiden Larsen, Yorkville (Y. Christian), 4x state medal winner  
Deven Casey, Elmhurst (IC Catholic), 4x state medal winner, 2x state champion  
Peyton Cox, Washington, 4x state medal winner  
Zachary Montez, Geneseo, 4x medal winner  
Brady Phelps, Schaumburg (H.S.), 4x state medal winner  
Evan Gosz, Palatine (Fremd), 4x state medal winner  
Victoria Macias, Burlington (Central), 4x state medal winner  
August Rottman, Highland, 4x state medal winner  
Harlee Hiller, Wilmette (Loyola Academy), 4x state medal winner, 2x state champion  
Gabiella Gomez, Carol Stream (Glenbard North), 3x state champion

## **Bronze Level Awards**

Derek Ryan, Kankakee, 5 state finals officiated  
Ted Timbrook, Colona, 5 state finals officiated  
Chloe Hoselton, Fairbury (Prairie Central), 2x state champion  
Sophie Bowers, Vandalia, 2x state champion  
Alicia Tucker, Plainfield (Central), 2x state champion  
Brayden Teunissen, Woodstock (Marian), 2x state champion  
Jackson Carrol, Glasford (Illini Bluffs), 2x state champion  
Will Denny, Chicago (Marist), 2x state champion





# ROBBIE PRECIN

**D230 GIRLS' WRESTLING  
ASSISTANT COACH**

**2025 IWCOA GIRLS' WRESTLING  
ASSISTANT COACH OF THE  
YEAR**



# 2025 IWCOA Academic All State Wrestlers

Nadia Anderson, Sherrard	Hunter Easton, Tolono (Unity)
Owen Anderson, Grayslake (North)	Luke Eganhouse, Normal (Community)
Randal Baker, III, Champaign (Central)	Matthew Elzy, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)
Luis Ballesteros, Plano	Emma Engels, Bartlett
Ashley Basmejjan, Aurora (Metea Valley)	Brenda Escobedo, Aurora (East A.)
Arrison Bauer, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton	Casey Etheridge, Princeton
Ruby Becerra, Aurora (East A.)	Cooper Floden, McHenry
Landin Benson, Coal City	Jaren Frankouliak, Normal (Community)
Carson Bissey, Olney (Richland County)	James Frugoli, Niles (Notre Dame College Prep)
Christohper Blackmore, El Paso (E.P.- Gridley)	Alexa Colin Garcia, McHenry
Terrance Boyke, Niles (Notre Dame)	Diana Garcia, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)
Bo Branum, Harvard	Mason Garner, Coal City
Matt Brown, Harrisburg	Daniel Goodwin, Chicago (St. Patrick)
Mikaela Busse, Oswego	Evan Greggain, Coal City
Briar Butler, Harrisburg	Sammie Greisen, Seneca
Jalen Byrd, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)	Cole Guntch, Normal (Community)
Deven Casey, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)	Simeon Hector, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)
Callie Carr, Darien (Hinsdale South)	Chloe Hoselton, Fairbury (Prairie Central)
Ethan Cavallo, Normal (Community)	Noah Houston, Coal City
Kiyah Chavez, Oswego	Mariella Hutar, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)
Austin Chieri, Normal (Community)	Hudson Ikens, DeKalb
Ace Christiansen, Princeton	Michael Keany, Niles (Notre Dame)
Scott, Cook, Niles (Notre Dame)	Aiden Kenney, Coal City
Caden Correll, Normal (Community)	Leyton Kenney, Oregon
Dylan Crouch, Dwight (Twp)	Matthew Kessel, Niles (Notre Dame)
Justin Curtis, Normal (Community)	Callen Kirchner, Schaumburg (H.S.)
Harrison Dea, Morton	Joseph Knackstedt, Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest)
Bowden Delaney, Tremont	Sean Kolkebeck, DeKalb
Shane Downs, Plano	Brady Krueger, Niles (Notre Dame)
Alejandro Duarte, Kewanee	Grace Laird, Joliet (J. Catholic Academy)

# 2025 IWCOA Academic All State Wrestlers

Eli Larson, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton  
Rider Larson, Plano  
Dean Lazaris, Niles (Notre Dame)  
Isaac Lee, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)  
Rikka Ludvigson, Oswego  
Gabriel Martinez, Peoria (Richwoods)  
Charvelle McLain, Oak Lawn (Community)  
Oliver McPeck, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton  
Jasmine Mejia, Chicago (Rickover Naval  
Academy)  
Jackson Messenger, Oregon  
Ismael Montero, Chicago (C. Hope  
Academy)  
Ian Morris, Princeton  
Maksim Mukhamedaliyev, Arlington Hts.  
(Hersey)  
Max Munn, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)  
Luke Munsterman, Coal City  
Lucas Nance, Palatine (Fremd)  
Molly O'Connor, Lemont (H.S.)  
Cade Odell, Princeton  
Catalina Pacheco, Seneca  
Isabel Peralta, Oak Forest  
Trevor Pomis, Normal (West)  
Cade Poyner, Coal City  
Carson Prunty, Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West)  
Abram Rader, Normal (West)  
Aydan Radke, Streator  
Aaliya Roldan, Oswego  
Caiden Ronning, Plano  
Noreidy Ruiz, Aurora (East A.)

Claire Shaw, Bethalto (Civic Memorial)  
John Sheehy, Niles (Notre Dame)  
Kendall Smith, Bethalto (Civic Memorial)  
Kinnley Smith, Canton  
Kurtis Smith, Rockton (Hononegah)  
Nathan Stanard, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)  
Jack Strezo, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way  
West)  
Maxwell Strong, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)  
Michael Tahaney, Oak Lawn (Richards)  
John Traub, Fairbury (Prairie Central)  
Gunner Varland, Seneca  
Benjamin Vasquez, Antioch  
Heidi Velazquez, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)  
Aiden Veltman, Riverside (R.-Brookfield)  
Yurithdzy Vilchis, Fairbury (Prairie Central)  
Alec Waliczek, Coal City  
Carson Weber, Joliet (West)  
Thomas Wells, Fithian (Oakwood/Salt Fork)  
Luke Werner, Sherrard  
Brody Widlowski, Coal City  
Amani Williams, Aurora (East A.)  
Riley Wilson, Oswego  
Charlie Wittmer, Warrensburg (W.-Latham)  
Timothy Young, Plano  
Lana Zimmer, DeKalb  
Liam Zimmerman, Lockport (Twp)

# IWCOA PERSON OF THE YEAR

1985 TED DeROUSSE, Antioch  
1986 ED EWOLDT, Wheaton Central  
1987 RICK MANN, Hersey  
1988 LARRY KRISTOFF, SIU-Edwardsville  
1989 ED LUETY, Melrose Park  
1990 CHUCK FARINA, Leyden  
1991 JOE CLIFFE, Plano  
1992 GENE SWIERCZEWSKI, Hoffman Estates  
1993 LARRY GASSEN, Downers Grove South  
1994 LON GERRISH, Sandwich  
1995 JOE PEDERSEN, Naperville  
1997 DEBBIE NASON, Orland Park  
1997 RON REICHERT, Indiana  
1998 STEVE COMBS, Mahomet  
1999 MARK JOHNSON, University of Illinois  
2000 DAN CLIFFE, Burlington Central  
2001 TOM HENIFF, Olympia Fields  
2002 LEO KOCHER, University of Chicago  
2003 DAN FULSCHER, Lincoln  
2004 KEN KRAFT, Northwestern University  
2005 MIKE MANAHAN, Olympia  
2006 GEORGE DYCHE, Aurora West

2007 MIKE POLZ, Sandburg  
2008 DAVE GANNAWAY, IHSA  
2009 JEFF PAPE, Schaumburg  
2010 MIKE BUKOVSKY, Montini  
2011 DR. MARTY HICKMAN, IHSA  
2012 RICH MONTGOMERY, Rock Falls  
2013 MIKE MATOZZI, Hinsdale South  
2014 ROB LEDIN, Mahomet  
2015 ROB MURPHY, Wilmington  
2016 CRAIG ANDERSON, IHSA  
2017 PAT O'CONNELL, Joliet  
2018 JACK LEESE, Northbrook  
2019 FRED ARKIN, Oak Park  
2019 COLLEEN MCGLYNN, Belleville  
2020 NATE KESSEN, Sugar Grove  
2020 MIKE POWELL, Oak Park  
2022 ROB PORTER, Naperville  
2023 ANTHONY CLARKE, Zion  
2024 MARK KING, LaGrange (Lyons Township)  
2025 LANSDOWNE UP, East St. Louis

## Lansdowne UP

2025

IWCOA

PERSON

OF

THE

YEAR



We often hear, "home is where the heart is," and we believe the Lansdowne neighborhood is a significant part of the heart of East St. Louis. Lansdowne's rich and storied history is a point of pride for both current and former residents. Today, the hope of the neighborhood radiates through the organizations and individuals who call Lansdowne home.

We greatly desire to see the Lansdowne neighborhood and its residents thrive well into the future. Lansdowne UP endeavors to partner with those who love this area and those who may just be getting acquainted with Lansdowne. Together, we hope to build avenues that help shine a bright light on the beauty of the community. Over the last eight years, Lansdowne UP has labored alongside incredible champions of the neighborhood. From abandoned property cleanup to employment opportunities, we have aimed to support the revival and revitalization of Lansdowne.

## Our Mission

To transform Lansdowne, East St. Louis, into a thriving neighborhood - one person, one property at a time.

## Our Vision

To spark a revival of people loving God, each other, and their neighborhood!

Once a vibrant city, East St Louis has suffered decline due to many factors - loss of industry, population, crime, economic impoverishment...

We began as East St. Louis Wrestling Club in 2008, bringing kids wrestling to East St. Louis at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center. Located in the Lansdowne neighborhood of East St. Louis, the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center offers kids and families hope. The JJK Center provides a safe haven, resources, and opportunities to rise above.

Beyond the JJK Center was a neighborhood marked with decline. Each block of the neighborhood was riddled with overgrown properties, derelict houses, illegal trash dumps and unsafe streets. The need for hope clearly continued beyond the campus of the JJK Center.

In 2013, East St. Louis Wrestling Club began the Lawns for Learning program. This program was designed to strengthen relationships between kids and coaches, provide workforce development and begin to clean up the neighborhood. Coaches and kids worked together to clear and mow lots. By 2021, our work had grown so vast that Lansdowne UP was established as a not-for-profit separate from East St. Louis Wrestling Club. We now employ 24 people full-time continuing our mission to transform Lansdowne into a thriving neighborhood one person, one property at a time.

Today Lansdowne UP strives to not only make the Lansdowne neighborhood clean and beautiful, but also to provide jobs, work force development, and housing for those who call East St. Louis home. At Lansdowne UP, we define success as honoring and glorifying God with our lives.

## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

### **Jeff Bowers Whitefish Bay, WI**

A 1980 graduate of Bloomington High School, Jeff Bowers was a four-year wrestler at BHS. He wrestled for his father, IWCOA Hall of Fame Member, National Hall of Fame and Museum-Illinois Chapter Lifetime Service Award Winner Jim Bowers. In 2012, Jeff became the thirteenth IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee whose father is also a member of the IWCOA Hall of Fame. He was a sectional champion as a senior and placed sixth at the state meet at 167 lb. and finished with a 76-24 varsity career record. Jeff was named Chuck Murdoch Central Illinois Outstanding Wrestler in 1980. He also played football and was named to the All-Area Team in baseball.

Jeff went on to attend George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he played baseball while being named to the All-Conference Team. Jeff received his B.S degree in economics in 1985.

Upon his graduation, Jeff returned to Illinois and began serving wrestling as an official where he has established himself as one of the state's elite officials over the past three decades. He received his first IHSA regional tournament assignment 1991 and has worked in 35 regionals since that time. He has also worked 29 individual sectionals and 18 dual team sectionals. In 1999 he was appointed to officiate the IHSA Dual Team State Finals and in 2001 he was appointed his first IHSA Individual State Finals. He has worked 9 dual team and 18 individual state tournaments. Jeff worked the IWCOA Regionals, Sectionals, State Finals held in Springfield during the 2021 COVID season. In addition, Jeff has worked the IESA State Finals 13 times, the IWCOA Championships 4 times, and the IKWF State Finals 2 times. In 2010, 2013 and 2017 Jeff was appointed to officiate the U.S. vs. Illinois All Star Meet.

Jeff served on the IHSA Official's Advisory Committee from 2008-2010. In 2005 and 2013 he was selected as IWCOA Official of the Year and in 2009 the National Federation of High Schools selected Jeff as Illinois Official of the Year. He was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Jeff currently lives in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin and serves as Corporate Accounts Manager for Reagent Chemical & Research. Jeff gives special thanks to his family for their love and support while he pursued his passion on the whistle. He has been married to his wife Stephanie for 27 years. Jeff is very proud of his five children: Cheyenne, Cameron, Eli, Caleb, and Chloe. When Jeff is not on the mat he can be found traveling to and attending their many events and contests.

### **Dave Durlacher Mundelein**

Born in Chicago, Dave Durlacher attended Buffalo Grove High School where he competed for IWCOA Hall of Fame Coach Bob Tipsword. With over 100 career wins, Dave was a two-time state qualifier and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 1986. Dave had 44 wins as a senior with 16 technical falls. He also placed in both the State Freestyle and State Greco-Roman tournaments which qualified him for the USA Junior Nationals in Fargo. Dave also competed in soccer for four years and gymnastics for one year. He finished his high school career at Buffalo Grove with a record of 108-21-4. He still ranks in the top ten in career wins, team points and winning percentage.

Dave went on to the University of Illinois to wrestle for another IWCOA Hall of Fame coach, Ron Clinton. While at Illinois he was a three-year letter winner and two-year starter. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Finance.



## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

Dave began coaching in 1991 with the Bison Wrestling Club in Buffalo Grove and he has continued coaching since that time. Being an out of building coach is difficult but Dave has found a way to make it work and continues to give back to our sport. He coached the Bison Wrestling Club for twenty-three years, most of this time as the head coach. He introduced hundreds of boys and girls to this great sport. He coached over 100 state place-winners and many more state qualifiers.

Dave started coaching at the high school level in 1994 when he joined the Buffalo Grove High School wrestling staff as an assistant. During his tenure as an assistant at Buffalo Grove, Dave coached twenty-three state qualifiers and two state place-winners. He later served as the head coach for Buffalo Grove High School from 2006-2014. As the head coach at Buffalo Grove High School, Dave coached one wrestler to a state championship in 2009. He played a major role in the development of all three of Buffalo Grove's state champions. His brother, Lindsey, an IWCOA Hall of Fame member, was the first state champion in Buffalo Grove history.

While working with the Bison Wrestling Club, Dave was instrumental in the development of other north suburban school wrestlers.

Dave moved on to Mundelein High School in 2014 as an assistant coach and remains there today as the head freshman coach. Aside from his son Dane, who was a 2x place winner, Mundelein produced 4 additional all-staters.

During his career, Dave has had a large influence in development of wrestlers in grade school, middle school, high school and off season as well as working with the Poeta Training Center.

### **Craig Fallico**

#### **Marist, Gordon Tech, Maine South, Maine West**

Craig Fallico attended Loyola Academy and Williams Bay High Schools where he was a three-sport athlete participating in football, wrestling, and baseball. He attended Marquette University and began teaching and coaching within days after graduation in 1981.

Craig's first coaching position was at Marist High School as an assistant varsity wrestling coach and head sophomore football coach. In 1982 he moved to Gordon Tech where he began his 30+ yr partnership with Coach Dennis McCann, IWCOA Hall of Fame Member and National Wrestling Hall of Fame Member. As an assistant, Craig worked and drilled with varsity wrestlers, helped recruit wrestlers from hallways and classes while adding a contagious brand of enthusiasm to the athletes and families of our great sport that he still delivers to this day. As an assistant at Marist, Gordon Tech and at Maine South; his contributions helped to establish numerous individual conference champions, state qualifiers, and state medalists. Not to mention a few Conference and Regional championship teams too.

In 1997 Craig and Dennis flipped roles and for the next 15 years Maine South wrestling enjoyed 10 Central Suburban League championships, a handful of IHSA Regional titles, dozens and dozens of state qualifiers, and numerous state medalists (to include Craig's son Nick ). Coach Craig Fallico's Dual Meet record is 268-88, for a .750 winning percentage. He was inducted into the Maine South Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010 and into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2012.

## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

For a dozen years Craig Fallico was instrumental in the success of Team Illinois Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. He served as a National Team Coach and Director and he personally sponsored our first Cadet National Dual Team in 2002. Throughout his tenure he traveled throughout the country coaching, directing, managing and supervising Cadet and Junior National teams. He hosted countless tournaments, ran many multi state opens and even represented Illinois as a FILA International referee. Speaking of Craig Fallico as Referee, he was an excellent IHSA Wrestling Official from 2012 to 2019.

Craig is no stranger to youth wrestling! Park Ridge District 64 had no Middle School Wrestling program, so Coach Fallico worked with the intramural wrestling, running clinics, donating mats and equipment, etc. and in 2008 it launched its first official wrestling team. From the 1980's and for more than 40 years he has coached, directed and volunteered in a kids' club. From the Ram Club to the Rosemont Cobras to currently the Maine Eagles, you probably bumped into him at a practice, a camp, and most likely at a tournament. He has hosted numerous kids' tournaments, more than a dozen IKWF Regionals and now cherishes his new role as “consultant”; coaching when needed, recruiting, promoting...being a positive and respected ambassador for our great sport.

Craig's passion and enthusiasm for wrestling, his dedication to athletes who he taught and coached, to kid wrestling still, to his colleagues, is exemplary. His competitive spirit and his work ethic are honored and admired by everyone who knows him.

Craig and his wife Jennie of 42 years, have 5 married children, and 7 grandchildren. Craig likes to say that he has a great life: he works and sees his grandkids, what could be better? He is proud of his 30+ year coaching career, his 30+ year teaching career, and his current 43 yr Real Estate Career. But Craig is most proud of his wife and family, and of the love that he shared and received over many decades through wrestling.

### **Will Gaddy**

#### **Woodstock**

Born in Bloomington, IL in 1957, Will Gaddy attended University High School in Normal, IL. While at U-High, he wrestled for Hall of Fame Coach George Girardi and was a two-time state place-winner, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> at 167 lb. in 1977 and winning the 185 lb. State Championship in 1978. He had a career record of 64-11-1. A three-sport athlete, Will was team captain in wrestling, football and baseball. He was all conference in both football and baseball and was a two-time conference champion in wrestling. He earned a total of 7 varsity letters in football, wrestling and baseball for the Pioneers and was MVP on the baseball team.

Upon graduation from U-High, Will attended Western Illinois University and wrestled for Dan Triveline. He earned his BS in Education from Illinois State University in 1988 and his MA in Education from North Park in 2003.

In 1989-90 wrestling season, Will took the role as head wrestling coach at Oak Park (Fenwick) and served as their coach for six years. He capped off the 1994-95 season with an 11-0 conference record in the CCL and was 14-5 overall. The Friars were Conference Dual Meet Champions and Will was named CCL Coach of the Year. His teams at Fenwick finished with a 48-74-1 dual meet record.

Will assumed the head coach position at McHenry at the start of the 1995-96 season. During the next twenty-one seasons at the helm of the Warriors, Will coached four unbeaten Fox Valley Conference teams. The 2012-13

## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

McHenry team put together a perfect 23-0 season. His dual meet record at McHenry was 295-135 and his total career record was 343-209-1. Over his 27-season coaching career, Will had nineteen winning seasons, 2 regional championship squad and six conference championships. He coached 30 state qualifiers, 9 state place-winners and 3 state runners-up. In addition to being selected as 1995 Chicago Catholic League Coach of the Year, Will was named 2000 Northwest Herald Coach of the Year.

Since his retirement as head coach, Will has served as an assistant coach for the Crystal Lake Wizards (2015-2017) and Marian Central Catholic (2017-2020). He helped coach Marian Central to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 2019 IHSA Dual Team State Championships. In 2019 Will coached his son to the 182 lb. IWCOA Fresh-Soph State Championship.

Will has been a Physical Education teacher for the past 36 years at Fenwick, McHenry and currently at Marian Central in Woodstock.

### **Connie Kessen Rochelle**

Connie Kessen was born and raised in Rochelle. She originally was brought into the sport of wrestling through her brother Chuck who was a 167lb wrestler for Rochelle Township High School during the early 1980's. From that point on she fell in love with the sport, a love which only grew when her son, IWCOA Hall of Fame official and past-president Nate Kessen, began wrestling.

Connie attended Rochelle Township High School and Kishwaukee College. She was a softball player, playing competitively in the elite circuit well into her 20's. She also coached youth softball for many years where she consistently produced championship caliber teams.

Throughout the past 40 years, Connie has served as a volunteer, organizer, bench official, bracket master, scorekeeper, timer, club director, coach, and most of all a fan and supporter of the sport. She has volunteered at the IHSA Individual State Wrestling Finals for the past two decades serving as a bench official, scorer, timer, and supporting the grand march organizing. For the past 10 years she has volunteered at the IHSA Dual Team championships in the same capacity, also working as a weigh-in official. She has volunteered at every Girls High School State Finals ever hosted, including those hosted by the IWCOA.

For the past 15 years Connie has served and supported the IWCOA in many capacities. She received a silver award in 2016 and again in 2019. From 2010 until her retirement she served as the IWCOA banquet programs printer, in 2011 bringing both the Hall of Fame and All-State program to their current color format. For the past two decades, she has served as a tournament worker and volunteer extraordinaire at the annual IWCOA championships held in Springfield, including volunteering for all 6 days of tournaments during the 2021 COVID season championships.

Connie served as a volunteer board member with the Rochelle Wrestling Club for 20 years, including serving as the club director for 15 years. She was an active member within the north section for both the IKWF and IWF, serving on many committees and as an alternate sectional director. During this time, she also coached and cornered wrestlers who specifically asked for her in their matches. Even after she passed the reigns of the Rochelle club onto her successors, she continued to volunteer at regular and postseason tournaments hosted by

## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

the club. For her dedication and impact, she received a Lifetime Service award from the Rochelle Wrestling Club Board of Directors. In addition, she served on the high school boosters helping organize fundraisers, concession stands and working conference and IHSA postseason tournaments that the school hosts. To this day she continues to travel to support the team at various dual meets and tournaments, and volunteers at any tournaments the program hosts. In 2024 the Rochelle High School program presented Connie with their Lifetime Service award.

For 31 years, Connie worked at Kishwaukee College where she managed the campus printing and mail services. During her time at Kish, she served as union president for 3 successful collective bargaining terms and then became an advisor as she moved into professional administration. She retired from Kish in 2020. For the past 39 years she has volunteered and worked at HOPE of Ogle County, a domestic violence agency. She continues to serve in the same capacity.

Connie lives in Rochelle where she continues to support her local sports teams. When she is not volunteering at a wrestling event she can be found spending time with her three granddaughters.

### **Shane Morgan Oswego**

Shane Morgan was born in Aurora and raised in Oswego. He started competing in the sport of wrestling at the age of 11 while in the 6th grade attending Traugher Junior High School in Oswego.

Moving onto Oswego High School Shane stayed with the sport and wrestled as a freshman. He weighed a mere 90 lbs and it was difficult to find other wrestlers that were his size, so he only wrestled 5 matches in which he went undefeated that freshman season. Moving onto his sophomore year Shane made the Varsity wrestling team, wrestling at the 98 pound weight class. He started 3 years on the Varsity at Oswego compiling a record of 104-29. Shane was a 3 time Little Seven All-Conference wrestler while earning the conference championship title at 112 pounds his senior year, wrestling up a weight class for his team in an attempt to win the team crown. He was a two-time regional champion, placed 3rd at sectionals as senior, and went on to Champaign where he earned all-state recognition taking 4th at the 105 pound weight class in 1986. Shane would like to make special mention to a man that had a great impact on his life and thinks of him like a second father, John Sammons. John was Shane's head coach at Oswego and is the all-time coaching wins leader for Oswego High School.

Shane wanted to wrestle in college however a nagging shoulder injury ended his career. Moving on from this Shane began his current 38 year and counting career entering the building trades where he joined Carpenters Union Local 1307 in 1987.

In 1992, Shane married his high school sweetheart Shelley. Ironically, this same year Shane began his current 33-year career as an IHSA official. He entered the officiating ranks to stay involved in the sport and to give back to the sport that gave him so much in his life. Shane credits wrestling for all of his accomplishments in life, he feels it saved him from wandering down the wrong direction in life and molded the strong work ethic Shane still exudes to this day.

Shane was assigned his 1st IHSA regional in 1997 and has since officiated 28 IHSA regionals, 23 IHSA Individual Sectional Tournaments, 20 Dual Team Sectionals. Shane has worked a combined 48 IHSA individual, Dual team/Girl, IESA, IWCOA, and IKWF State Tournaments. He has served as the Head Official for the IESA State

## **2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners**

Tournament and is a member of the IESA Wrestling Advisory Board. In addition, Shane has officiated 2 IWCOA Illinois/Indiana Classic Duals. He was also selected to officiate the USA vs. Illinois All-Star Dual. In 2009, Shane was selected as the IWCOA and IHSA Official of the Year. Currently, Shane is an IHSA Rules Interpreter and Clinician, a post which he has held for the past 15 years.

Shane resides in Oswego with his wife of 32 years Shelley and their three sons Devin, Jack, and Chase. Shane would like to acknowledge a special thanks to his wife and family for all their support as he spends a lot of time away giving back to the sport that he loves dearly.

### **Khris Whelan**

#### **Granite City, Univ of Missouri, Blackburn College**

A 1978 graduate of Granite City North High School, Khris Whelan was a three-time district and sectional champion and three-time Illinois High School Association state place-winner. He won a state title in 1977, placed second in 1978 and finished fourth in 1976. He had a three-year varsity record of 114-5 with 78 pins.

While in high school, Khris was a five-time USA Wrestling Junior National finalist and a four-time champion. Twice he was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler and twice he won the Most Falls award. At the age of 15, he was the fourth man on the ladder of the 1976 United States Olympic Greco-Roman team.

Following high school, Khris attended the University of Missouri and was the team captain and Outstanding Wrestler during the 1982-83 season. He became a four-time NCAA Division I tournament qualifier and two-time All-American at 126 and 134 pounds. He became Missouri's first wrestler to earn a #1 ranking, was a Midlands Champion, and was selected as the Outstanding Wrestler in the East-West All Star Meet.

From 1987 through 1994, Khris was the assistant coach at Missouri, developing eight Division I All-Americans and five Big 8 and Big 12 conference champions.

He was the assistant men's national freestyle coach for Great Britain from 1994 through 1997 and was also the head women's freestyle coach for that country.

From 1997 to 2000, he was the co-head wrestling coach at Hazelwood Central High School in St. Louis, where his teams had eight state place-winners and two state champions while finishing second in the state in 1999. Khris also coached for three years Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

While coaching a Cahokia from 2000-2025 Kris's tams won three conference championships and three regional titles. He coached one state champion and four state finalists as well as 3 other state place-winners. Kris retired from Cahokia as a business education teacher in 2021.

In 2023 Khris took over the helm of the newly created wrestling program at Blackburn College. He was instrumental in the starting of the Men's and Women's wrestling program at Blackburn. He has just retired from that position at the end of the 2025 season.

Khris was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Hall of Fame in 2001 and into the University of Missouri-Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2016 he was recognized by the Illinois Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for Lifetime Service to Wrestling.

## 2025 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Outside of wrestling, he has been a U.S. National judo champion, holding a third-degree black belt. When he's not coaching at Cahokia or at his Nation's Best Wrestling Academy in the St. Louis/Granite City metro area, Khris is a master instructor for the British Combat Association in the art of self-defense and a national law enforcement trainer.

*The IWCOA would like to congratulate all 2025 Lifetime Service Award inductees. Your dedication to wrestling will forever be remembered.*

**Congratulations Jeff, Dave, Craig, Will, Connie, Shane, and Khris!**

### Thomas & Beverly Cliffe Foundation Golf Outing



**July 19, 2025  
River Heights Golf Course  
1100 S. Annie Glidden Rd.  
DeKalb, IL**

**Contact Joe Cliffe via [jcwrestle5@gmail.com](mailto:jcwrestle5@gmail.com) or (630) 244-7425 to secure your golfing foursome and for sponsor opportunities.**



TEAM  
**FALLICO**  
— COUNT ON US! —

**DREAM TOWN**  
REAL ESTATE

*A Lifetime of Wrestling.*



*A Lifetime of Real Estate.*

**TEAM FALLICO | 847.226.0834 | TEAMFALLICO.COM**

Dream Town Real Estate | 7280 W Devon 

## IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipients

Adams, Vernon "Art"	2009	Gaddy, Will	2025
Anderson, Charles	2001	Gannaway, Dave	2017
Bay, Ott	2003	Gardner, Greg	2018
Bee, Floyd	2004	Gardner, Jack	2008
Bernard, Larry	2014	Gardner, James	2003
Bormet, Sean	2022	Gardner, Marilynn	2018
Botheroyd, Bernie	2010	Gardner, Mark	2022
Bowers, Jeff	2025	Garshelis, Renshaw	2012
Bowers, Jim	2007	Gassen, Larry	2009
Brooks, Greg	2011	Gauger, Ton	2016
Bukovsky, Mike	2020	Genovesi, Augie	2009
Carnahan, Jim	2015	George, Elias	2002
Cartwright, Bill	2006	George, John	2008
Cartwright, Jim	2005	George, Pete	2008
Chaloupka, James	2019	Gerrish, Lon	2013
Chihoski, Phil	2023	Gervais, Mark	2013
Clarke, Anthony	2016	Geselter, Morrie	2009
Cliffe, Dan	2004	Giese, Ed	2020
Cliffe, Joe	2003	Girardi, George	2002
Coit, Ron	2022	Goldstein, Lou	2016
Collins, Niall	2016	Haak, Tim	2015
Combs, Steve	2002	Hahn, Mark	2017
Conrad, Randy	2020	Heniff, Tom	2002
Conrad, Ray	2016	Hicks, Bob	2002
Conrad, Roy	2011	Holzer, Werner	2002
Cozzi, Greg	2011	Honeycutt, Bill	2018
Craig, Jim	2002	Hubbard, Jarrett	2022
Cummings, Ray	2006	Hurckes, Mike	2023
Curby, Dr. David	2020	Hurley, Allen	2008
Custer, Jim	2007	Johnson, Mark	2010
Cyzewski, Tim	2014	Jones, Robert I.	2012
Czech, Ted	2008	Jones, Sharron	2015
DeJarnatt, Carson	2012	Kanke, Larry	2016
DeRousse, Ted	2003	Kessen, Connie	2025
Dodge, Tim	2017	King, Mark	2005
Durlacher, Dave	2025	Klemm, Dave	2015
Dyche, George	2004	Kocher, Leo	2011
Easter, Bob	2007	Konstans, Randy	2019
Eggert, Dale	2017	Kraft, Art	2008
Eickelschulte, Ray	2024	Kraft, Ken	2001
Ewoldt, Ed	2001	Kraus, Bert	2012
Fallico, Craig	2025	Kristoff, Larry	2001
Farina, Charles	2001	Lazier, Murney	2012
Flanigan, Tom	2006	Ledin, Rob	2023
Flavin, Don	2002	Leese, Jack	2001
Flores, Carmelo	2023	Licocci, Tony	2011
Froehlich, Dave	2024	Luety, Ed	2005
Fulk, Bob	2009	Mammen, Wayne	2020
Fulscher, Dan	2012	Manahan, Mike	2005



## IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipients

Mann, Rick	2005	Rodgers, Kirby	2024
Marianetti, Steve	2022	Rosenthal, Todd	2023
Marino, Jack	2011	Ruettiger, Mark	2017
Marquardt, Bill	2009	Ruettiger, Mick	2020
Massery, Mark	2014	Rust, Ed	2018
Mathews, Dave	2013	Ryan, Ron	2017
Matozzi, Mike	2024	Samorian, Harold "Sam"	2004
McCann, Dennis	2014	Schaus, Jon	2007
McCann, Terry	2007	Schmitt, William "Red"	2001
McCauley, Neil	2016	Semetis, Ron	2018
McCausland, Ralph	2024	Shaw, Brian	2024
McGinnis, Harry	2019	Sherman, Walter	2010
McLaughlin, Eural	2012	Slimmer, Louis	2003
Mestemacher, Mark	2023	Snyder, Roy	2024
Miller, Wayne	2008	Stoudt, Elaine	2015
Montgomery, Rich	2014	Stoudt, Jack	2003
Morgan, Andre'	2016	Stevens, Sandy	2015
Morgan, Shane	2025	Strange, Robert	2010
Nason, Debbie	2017	Summerville, Joe	2019
Nighohossian, Haig	2018	Swalec, Dr. John	2011
O'Connor, Pat	2010	Swierczewski, Gene	2003
Oglesby, Ron	2014	TenPas, Larry	2006
Pedersen, Dr. Joe	2004	Therry, Robert	2003
Peterson, Bill	2013	Turner, Jim	2015
Pierre, Dale	2009	Vavrus, Joe	2009
Pillard, Henry	2010	Weick, Bill	2006
Pittman, Don	2013	Weiner, Neal	2019
Polz, John	2023	Weiss, Steve	2014
Polz, Mike	2017	Whelan, Khris	2025
Porter, Tom	2013	Whitlatch, Rex	2013
Portincaso, Mike	2014	Wilkey, Mike	2007
Puebla, Kevin	2019	Williams, Marty	2013
Raabe, Jim	3033	Willson, Pete	2003
Reichert, Ron	2017	Winesburg, Ray	2023
Robinson, Jack	2011	Young, William	2010



## Male & Female Wrestling Officials Needed

Have you ever considered becoming a wrestling official? Our sport is in dire need of those with wrestling knowledge to give back thru officiating! Officiating is a great way to stay connected to our sport while giving back. You can also make money for working meets and tournaments. If you are interested, visit the link, or scan the QR Code below and complete the google interest form. You will then be contacted about becoming a wrestling official and provided support to do so.

<https://tinyurl.com/39mbpcv5>



For more information visit: <https://iwcoa.net/officials/>

# 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Jason Clay, Vandalia Coach

Jason Clay stepped down as the head coach at Vandalia following a great run of success in which his program went 504-110 in 19 seasons since 2006-07 during which time the Vandals qualified for the IHSA Dual Team Finals on 15 occasions and captured six trophies, with three of those being for second-place finishes.

His 2024-25 team went 40-2 and its only loss to an Illinois team came in his final dual meet, when Coal City won 32-25 over the Vandals in the title meet of the IHSA Class 1A Dual Team State Tournament in Bloomington, giving the Coalers their second state title in three years.

Jason and the program had three IHSA champions for the first in its history when Tyson Waughtel, the state's all-time wins leader, took first place at 126 pounds to win his third title and first for the Vandals and Max Philpot added a title at 113 pounds as both finished unbeaten.

One week later, Sophie Bowers won her second-straight IHSA title at 125 pounds and she also finished unbeaten. She became the first individual in the new IHSA format to win a state title who was also on a team that was trying to capture a state championship.

That equaled the number of state champions that he had before the State Finals. The team just missed having another champion as Preston Waughtel lost 2-1 in the 120 finals. Jason also had career-bests for most medalists with seven and most qualifiers with 12.

He finished his career with 119 qualifiers, 44 placewinners and six champions, with Jo-E Smith (2007-157 in A) and Jarek Wehrle (2021 - 106 in IWCOA) being the other two boys title winners. He was selected as the IWCOA Coach of the Year in both 2016 and 2024.

In his first season, the Vandals lost 30-29 to Wilmington in the 2007 Class A title meet and in 2018, Vandalia fell 48-18 to Aurora Christian in the Class 1A title meet. They also took third place in 2019 and fourth place in both 2016 and 2024. The Vandals also qualified for the Dual Team Finals in 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2022 and won regional titles in each season, except for 2023.

Jason has also been the Vandals head football coach for the past nine seasons and they've gone 69-24 with eight IHSA playoff teams and three conference champions. He's taught Geography for 18 years and been Vandalia's athletic director for seven years and is also the district's athletic director. In the 2026-27 school year, he will become Vandalia's principal.

He competed for Vandalia in wrestling from 1996-98 and went 41-10 and was a state qualifier in his senior season of 1998 for coach Glenn Exton, a 2014 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. Jason also played football for Vandalia and was a two-time all-conference selection as well as being a two-time all-area honoree. Jason attended McKendree College in Lebanon and played football there and graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree of Arts in Secondary Education.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

### **Ryan Cumbee, Providence Catholic/Northwestern University Joliet Catholic Academy Wrestler/Coach**

Ryan Cumbee competed at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox from 1995-1999 for coach Keith Healy, a 2006 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. He went 168-22 during his career and placed three times at the IHSA Individual Tournament Finals, taking first place in Class AA at 135 pounds in 1999, fourth place at 125 pounds in 1998 and third place at 112 pounds in 1997.

He was also a member of three-straight Celtics teams that won IHSA Class AA Dual Team Championships in 1997, 1998 and 1999 after finishing in third place in 1996. During those four seasons, Providence Catholic went 108-10-1 in dual meets. That was the start of an historic streak in which the program captured six-straight IHSA Class AA championships. Ryan was a two-time team MVP and a two-time team captain. As a senior, he was selected as the Chicago Tribune's Athletes of the Month in February, 1999. He also won multiple Illinois Freestyle titles.

Ryan then went on to compete at Northwestern University in Evanston for coach Tim Cysewski, a 1991 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. He went 29-15 as a Wildcat and served as a team captain and led his team in pins, wins and takedowns. He graduated from Northwestern in 2003 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Communication.

After college, Ryan returned to Providence Catholic to serve as an assistant coach for Keith Healy from 2002-2011, and during that time the Celtics placed second in Class AA in the IHSA Dual Team Finals in 2003, 2004 and 2008. During those seasons, the Celtics went 202-24-1.

Ryan began his head coaching career at Marmion Academy in Aurora where his Cadets went 25-4 in 2012-13 and lost 38-17 to Carl Sandburg in the Class 3A title meet at the Dual Team Finals. In 2013-14, Marmion went 15-4 and placed third in Class 3A. In 2014-15, The Cadets were 16-3 and lost in the 3A quarterfinals. He had a 56-11 record in three seasons at Marmion.

In 2017-18, Ryan took over as head coach at Joliet Catholic Academy and by his third year, he led the Hilltoppers to their first regional title and from 2021-22 through this season, the program has made four-straight appearances in the IHSA Dual Team Finals. His 2021-22 team posted a 17-1 record and beat Deerfield 39-33 to win the IHSA Class 2A title. He was selected as the IWCOA Class 2A Coach of the Year in 2022.

In 2022-23, Ryan's Hilltoppers went 15-8 and were edged by Washington 28-27 in the Class 2A title meet. His 2023-24 team had a 14-4 record and lost in the Class 3A quarterfinals. And his 2024-25 team went 10-11 and took third place in Class 3A. He has a 96-52 record in seven seasons at JCA and a 152-63 overall record in 10 seasons.

During his career, Ryan has coached 70 state qualifiers, 45 placewinners and 17 champions. He also coached Team Illinois at the Illinois-Indiana All-Star Duals that JCA hosted in 2025 and is the owner and head coach of the youth wrestling program, Callan Wrestling Academy.



## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

### **Nick Fanthorpe, Naperville North/Iowa State University Wrestler**

Nick Fanthorpe started wrestling at eight years old for the Naperville Wrestling Club. He later joined the Fox Valley Wrestling Club and Martinez Fox Valley Elite Club under coach Jose Martinez. Nick was a four-time IKWF State Champion and was the recipient of the Outstanding Wrestler Award his final season.

He went on to wrestle at Naperville North under coaches Tom Champion, Tom Arlis, a 2008 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee, and assistant coach John Fiore. Nick finished his high school career with a record of 155-10, was a three-time Class AA state finalist and two-time state champion, winning in 2003 at 103 pounds and in 2005 at 119 pounds, while taking second at 112 pounds in 2004. He earned the Class AA Outstanding Wrestler Award his senior season.

Nick attended Iowa State University where he qualified for the NCAA Championships each year. During his career at Iowa State, he achieved All-American honors in 2008 at 133 pounds. He was a two-time Big 12 Champion (2008 and 2009 at 133 pounds) and a three-time Team Big 12 Champion (2007-2009).

He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Community and Regional Planning and was selected to the Academic All-Big 12 first team and was a NWCA Scholar All-American (2008, 2009 and 2010). Nick was also the recipient of the team's annual Total Commitment Award all four years that he competed for Iowa State.

He was coached at Iowa State by Cael Sanderson, Bobby Douglas, Kevin Jackson and assistant coaches Cody Sanderson, Casey Cunningham and Chris Bono.

Following his college career Nick wrestled for the Nittany Lion Wrestling Club in State College, Pennsylvania. He was a 2011 World Teams Trials qualifier at 60 kg and a 2014 World Teams Trials 5th place finisher at 65 kg.

He joined the Penn State University wrestling staff from 2012-2014 as an assistant coach where they received the Big Ten and NCAA team championships both years.

Nick currently resides in Naperville with his wife, Erin, and son, Wells.

### **Michael Grimes, Montini Catholic/Northern Illinois University Wrestler**

Michael Grimes is a native of Lombard and he began wrestling in 1993 for the Little Broncos Wrestling Club at Montini Catholic High School, led by head coach Mike Bukovsky, a 2020 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winner. By age 10, he learned the importance of good "ankle pick defense" from assistant coach Jeff Bukovsky.

The Bukovsky brothers helped forge the path for Michael's rise from an IKWF state qualifier to an IHSA Class A state champion at 119 pounds in 2001 and at 130 pounds in 2002 and as a member of Montini Catholic's IHSA Class A state champion teams in 2000 and in 2002, when he was a captain.

Michael graduated from Northern Illinois University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy and a Master of Science degree in Management Information Systems. During his time at Northern Illinois, Michael was a three-time captain of the wrestling team, an NCAA Division I National Qualifier in 2005 and a Midlands Champion.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

After Northern Illinois, Michael went on to work as a forensic Auditor at the U.S. Government and Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, D.C., where he obtained his license as a Certified Public Accountant.

In 2009, Michael commissioned in the United States Navy. First assigned to the United States Naval Academy as a Physical Fitness Instructor and wrestling coach under head coach Bruce Burnett, Michael ultimately became the head wrestling coach at the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School.

There, he was charged with developing young student-athletes' moral, mental, and physical strength and to prepare them for the rigors of the United States Naval Academy. Michael coached multiple National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) All-Americans and National Champions, including former Montini Catholic state champion, now Major Colton Rasche. Nine of Michael's wrestlers are now Navy Seals.

Michael went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate at the Washington College of Law at American University where he served as the volunteer wrestling coach under head coach Teague Moore. Following Law School, Michael began working as an attorney in the Division of Enforcement at the U.S. Securities and Exchange, and he was affiliated with the Navy Reserve.

In 2016, Michael mobilized to support Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, where he supported the Commander's Staff Judge Advocate's office as the officer-in-charge for tracking, assessing and investigating civilian casualty allegations in Iraq and Syria.

Michael is currently serving on active duty as the Deputy Manager for the U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps, and he is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at American University's Washington College of Law.

### **Chad Hay, Sandwich/University of Illinois/Mahomet-Seymour/Conant Wrestler/Coach**

Chad Hay has enjoyed success as a wrestler at Sandwich High School, in college at the University of Illinois, in high school coaching for 20 years with stops at Mahomet-Seymour, Conant and Lake Zurich high schools and also at the kids club level for 16 years.

He was a two-time IHSA Class A champion in 1996 and 1997 at Sandwich for coach Lon Gerrish, a 2013 recipient of the IWCOA's Lifetime Achievement Award. Chad also took fourth in A in 1995 and finished his four-year career with a 128-15 record with 50 pins.

Chad was also captain for Sandwich's 1996-97 team that won the IHSA A Dual Team Title and the 1995-96 team that was the state runner-up. He was a two-time conference wrestler of the year and won the IWCOA Scholastic Wrestler of the Year Award in 1997.

He went on to compete at the University of Illinois for coaches Mark Johnson, Jim Heffernan, Steve Marianetti and Adam Tirapelle. In 2002, he was an NCAA DI National Qualifier who placed in the top 16 at the NCAA Finals and he also took fourth in the Big Ten Tournament.

A four-time letter winner for the Illini from 1999-2002, he also won the Fighting Illini Spirit Award and Big Ten Wrestler of the Week Awards in 2002. A Midlands Placewinner in 1999 and 2000, he was a recipient of the Eric Siebert Most Courageous Award for saving the lives of an elderly couple from a burning building. He graduated

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 2002 and earned a Master's Degree from Northern Illinois University in 2011. He competed in Olympic weightlifting competitions in 2001-2002.

Chad was the head coach and a math teacher at Mahomet-Seymour High School from 2002-2006, then moved to Conant High School in Hoffman Estates, where he's been a math teacher since 2006. He served as the boys wrestling head coach at Conant from 2009-2021 and the school's girls head coach from 2017-2021. In 2024, he became head coach of the girls program at Lake Zurich High School and he has been a member of the Illinois Girls Wrestling Coaching Alliance since 2018.

In his 20 years as a head coach, he's collected 210 dual meet wins. He led Conant to third place in Class 3A in 2021 in the IHSA Dual Team Finals and also had teams that advanced to state in 2014 and 2017. Chad had eight teams win regional titles, six teams win conference titles and he was honored five times as the Mid-Suburban League West Coach of the Year. He has had 47 individual qualifiers, seven placewinners, one state champion and one Freestyle champion for his boys teams and six qualifiers and six placewinners, including three runners-up for the girls.

Since 2009, he's coached kid's clubs, including 12 seasons with the Conant Jr. Cougars. Since 2021, Chad has coached with the Lake Zurich Cubs, where he has enjoyed coaching his three daughters, Georgia, Fiona and Eleanora.

### **Curt Herron, Lockport Contributor**

Curt Herron attended Lockport Township High School where he began writing about high school sports as a junior in 1980. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the College of Communications in 1986 and started covering high school sports on a regular basis for The Star Newspapers in Chicago Heights.

He found his next job while working at the Sears store in Joliet. A co-worker convinced him to join Wayne Perry's Plainfield Enterprise so he could report on her son, a wrestler at Plainfield High School, and he was there from 1995-2000. Curt learned everything about the sport from Wildcats coach Mike Zbacnik, a 2002 IWCOA Hall of Famer, and his assistant, Marc Miller, who's now a top official. They nominated Curt for the first two of his 10 nominations for the Newsman of the Year Award, which he shared with The News-Gazette's Fred Kroner in 2000.

Curt returned to The Star Newspapers to report on the south suburbs, and he worked there from 2000-2008 for Al Macey, who allowed him to write a lot about the sport, which included covering many tournaments and running weekly honor rolls while also assisting the Daily Southtown with its wrestling coverage. He was recognized with his second Newsman of the Year Award in 2002.

Thanks to reporting on wrestling, Curt built a friendship that continues with Gary Larsen and Mike Garofola, a 2023 IWCOA Hall of Famer. They came up with the idea to start websites for soccer and wrestling, Chicagoland Soccer and Chicagoland Wrestling. Chicagoland Soccer got a boost from the soccer coaches association who gave it their top honor, Soccer Person of the Year, in 2009 and 2010. Dave Surico, who met them while covering wrestling for the Chicago Tribune, owns Chicagoland Soccer, a unique site sponsored by programs and Curt writes for it.

## 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Curt got the opportunity to write about the sport at the state level for a few years thanks to Mike Bare's Illinois Matmen, and he received the Newsman of the Year Award in 2013. The next year, he began working for Dick Goss at Joliet's Herald-News and stayed there until 2020. He again was allowed to write extensively and received the Newsman of the Year Award again in 2018.

In 2021, Curt reunited with Larsen and Garofola, thanks to the support of 2016 IWCOA Hall of Famer Mick Torres, to write tournament stories for the IWCOA website. An advocate for girls sports throughout his career, Curt is proud that he reported on the first IHSA girls tournaments and he's covered the most girls events. He's grateful to write in-depth tournament stories and roundups for all of Illinois and Curt won the Newsman of the Year Award for a fifth time in 2023.

Also in 2021, he was hired by the Joliet Area Historical Museum, where he's the go-to guy at the first Route 66 welcome center. A big fan of sports history, Curt was co-author of 100 Years of Madness, The IHSA Boys' Basketball Tournament, in 2006. He thanks his family, the athletes, coaches, athletic directors, officials, parents, fans and reporters he's known through the years.

### **Michael Kimberlin, Bishop McNamara/Northwestern University/Minooka Wrestler/Coach**

A standout at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, Michael Kimberlin was dominant on the wrestling mat as well as on the football field. During his tenure on the mat, he was a three-time Chicago Catholic League champion and took second in 1999. In his senior year of 2000-2001, he was honored with the distinction of being a recipient of the Lawless Award.

Michael was all-state four times in Class A, placing third at 140 pounds in 1998, second at 152 pounds in 1999 and winning IHSA titles at 152 pounds in both 2000 and 2001. He never allowed an opponent a takedown in 35 matches during his senior year and has a combined record of 145-14 during his high school career. In 2001, Michael earned the honor of being a Cliff Keen High School All-American.

In football, Michael was an all-conference selection three times and made the Illinois High School All-State team in 2000. Michael helped lead his team to a second-place finish to Glenwood at the IHSA Class 4A Finals in 1998.

During the second round of the playoffs in 2000, he rushed for 325 yards on 60 carries and scored four touchdowns against Normal Community. His rushing attempts is still an IHSA record for playoff games in all classes and his rushing yardage was an IHSA record at the time. And it's tied for the sixth-best total in the nation in any game.

After graduating from high school, Michael earned his Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern University where he was a four-year letter winner in wrestling and an NCAA qualifier at 157 pounds in 2004. Later, he received his Master's degree at Olivet Nazarene University, and during that time, he spent two years coaching wrestling at Lincoln-Way Central High School.

After earning a teaching position at Washington Junior High and Academy in Joliet, Michael spent eight years coaching wrestling with his father, Dale, and his brother, Jake Kimberlin, at Bishop McNamara. In 2016, Michael was inducted into the prestigious Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame.

To date, Michael has helped contribute to the success of 20 state qualifiers, 15 state placers, six IHSA state champions, and two IHSA Elite 8 Dual Team appearances. Currently, Michael is teaching and coaching wrestling at Minooka High School.

# **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

## **Doug Klein, Ida Crown Jewish Academy Coach**

For 33 seasons, Doug Klein has served as the head coach of the Ida Crown Jewish Academy wrestling team. Because of the school's challenging curriculum and its abiding by Jewish law and the Sabbath, his teams have been unable to compete from Friday evening until Saturday evening, but the Skokie school has had a competitive program with tough wrestlers.

Doug is from Tidewater, Virginia, the home of the Granby School of Wrestling. He wrestled 98 pounds and 112 pounds at Western Branch High School in Chesapeake, Va. He was a hard worker and joined the cross country team in order to prepare for wrestling season. He won the Most Dedicated Wrestler Award his senior year.

Following high school, Doug attended The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He walked onto the wrestling team and spent countless hours in the wrestling room and learned technique and wrestling strategies along the way. As a student, he was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship and a member of several academic honor societies. After graduating, Doug attended law school, also at William & Mary.

Doug joined a law firm in downtown Chicago, but missed the sport and the team dynamic. With a stroke of good fortune in 1992, he stumbled into the head coaching job at Ida Crown. At the time, the team was a second year program, one largely considered a joke by the larger student body. When Doug took the job, the team had a dozen wrestlers.

Applying the discipline and team ethos in which he was cultivated, the team had only four wrestlers for his second season as head coach. The team has grown from there. At one point, approximately one third of the boys in the school (out of 250) were on the wrestling team.

Over the years, Doug has amassed a dual meet record of 209-315. Ida Crown has produced a number of regional champions and dozens of sectional qualifiers. Four Ida Crown wrestlers have appeared in the Class 1A state rankings - a significant achievement given the lack of regular season opportunities against other ranked competitors.

In 2007, the IHSA moved a 1A regional tournament to Saturday night so that Ida Crown could participate. The team has performed admirably in this competition, and in 2012 claimed the regional title and thereby qualifying for the state dual team title.

Since 1996, Ida Crown has participated in the Henry Wittenberg Wrestling Invitational in the New York area, a competition which serves as the national championship for Jewish high schools. Ida Crown teams have won this competition 10 times, most recently in 2025.

In 2008, Doug was named Educator of the Year by Ida Crown. After the 2024 Wittenberg Championship, the Village of Skokie designated April 4, 2024 as 'Coach Doug Klein Day'.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

### **Dr. Dan McDonnell, Morris Official**

Dr. Dan McDonnell began his wrestling career at Morrison High School under 2013 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee coach Dan Drosopoulos. At Morrison, he was the first freshman to win a regional title and first to be a four-time regional champion and he placed fourth in Class A at 112 pounds in 1987.

Dan ended his high school career with the school career victory record of 128-26-1 and held the record until 2012 when one of his nephews and a two-time state champion, Mark McDonnell, eclipsed it with a 136-15 record, and his other nephew and a state champion, Matt McDonnell, came close with a 118-30 record.

Dan began officiating wrestling upon graduating high school in 1988, with his older brother, wrestling state qualifier and state official, Bob McDonnell. Following the death of his father and paying for college on his own, he attended Sauk Valley Community College and then transferred to Illinois State University and walked onto the wrestling team. Dan wrestled the remainder of his college eligibility of three years at ISU, earning a varsity letter.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Prairie Central High School, and then became head coach at William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Dan returned to Illinois as the head coach at Ottawa Township High School for seven years, earning a coaching record of 103-44-2. He had two state medalists, Casey Carrino (second in AA at 130 in 2003 ) and Matt Harding (third in AA at 189 in 2002) and 10 state qualifiers.

While coaching at Ottawa, Dan completed his doctorate in Education Administration and Leadership in 2003 from DePaul University in Chicago. In 2004-05, Dan moved up in school administration, gave up coaching, and returned to officiating wrestling.

Since then, Dan has officiated five IHSA Dual Team and five IHSA Individual State Tournaments. In 2022, Dan became an IHSA Wrestling Clinician.

In 2022, Dan's daughter, Ella, placed fourth at 105 pounds in the first IHSA Girls Wrestling Tournament in 2022, was fourth at 110 pounds in 2023 and also qualified for state in 2024 for Morris Community High School. His son, Eli, plays soccer as a sophomore at Morris. Dan has been married for 22 years to his wife, Anne, a school administrator, and they live in Morris.

### **Bob McGuinn, Grant/Eastern Illinois University Wrestler**

Bob McGuinn followed up on a fine career at Grant High School in Fox Lake that also featured plenty of success in both high school and offseason competition by not only being an NCAA Division II individual champion and a three-time All-American at Eastern Illinois University but he also helped the program to three-straight top-three team finishes in the NCAA Division II Finals, including one year when the Panthers missed winning the championship by less than one point.

Bob's best season with EIU was in 1978-79 when he was a sophomore and won the NCAA Division II championship at 134 pounds with a 20-9 victory over Nebraska-Omaha's Gary Baldwin in the title match in the

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

event, that was held at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. As a result, he was able to advance to the NCAA Division I Finals.

The Panthers scored 112.5 points in the competition, which was one-quarter point behind champion Cal State University-Bakersfield, who scored 112.75 to claim its third title in four years and it started a run of five-straight titles for CSUB that was halted by SIU-Edwardsville in 1984.

He is the fifth IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee who was All-American on that team. The others were Bob Holland (2001), Geno Savegnago (1998), Dave Klemm (1998) and Ralph McCausland (1996). A hall of famer in soccer, Randy Blackman (2018) and Bob Stout were the other All-American for EIU in its best-ever NCAA II showing.

Bob claimed third place at 134 pounds in 1980 and finished in sixth place at 134 pounds in 1978. In 1978 and 1980, Eastern Illinois took third place in the competition. The Panthers coach during that run of success was Ron Clinton, a 1998 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. Bob went 91-20-1 during his career with the Panthers and graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

At Grant High School, Bob competed for coach Don Rowden, a 1995 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. He went 122-15-2 during his career, with the highlight being a third-place finish at 138 pounds in the IHSA AA Finals in 1977 to cap a 43-2 senior season. Also in 1977, Bob was a state champion in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman in the offseason.

Bob taught for three years at Lake Zurich High School and also coached there and he also taught and coached at Bolingbrook High School for one season. He has also been a longtime volunteer for coach Mark Masters' Coal City Coalers, who won the IHSA Class 1A Dual Team title this season. He owns and operates a landscaping business in Braceville.

### **Jason Potter, St. Charles East/University of Illinois Wrestler/Coach**

Jason Potter has definitely established a high standard for wrestling in St. Charles not only as an athlete at St. Charles High School but also in coaching at the school that he attended, St. Charles East High School, as a coach.

Jason became the first two-time IHSA state champion for the Fighting Saints in 1999 when he captured his second-straight Class AA championship at 171 pounds after finishing fourth at 152 pounds in his sophomore season. He posted a 126-7 record during those three seasons.

He also was a member of the school's first team that advanced to the IHSA Dual Team Finals in 1997 that lost to eventual Clas AA champion Providence Catholic in the semifinals before winning 25-24 over Waubonsie Valley to claim third place and the program's first trophy, which was coached by Mick Ruettiger, a 2020 recipient of the IWCOA's Lifetime Service Award.

Then as a coach, he led his 2022-23 team to a 22-1 record and its first IHSA title after they defeated Marmion Academy 28-24 for the Class 3A championship. The next season, he led another team to the Dual Team Finals and they finished 22-1 after claiming third place in 3A, the first time the Fighting Saints had advanced to state in consecutive years.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Jason has also had the opportunity during the last few seasons to coach three individuals who won multiple state titles: Ben Davino (2021-2024), a four-time high school state champion (three-time IHSA champion and 2021 IWCOA title winner); Dom Munaretto (2022-2025), currently a two-time IHSA champion and three-time finalist; and Jayden Colon (2022-2024), a two-time IHSA title winner.

He started his career with the St. Charles Wrestling Club when he was five years old, and continues to coach with the club to this day.

Following his high school career, Jason went on to be a four-year letter winner from 2001-2004 for the University of Illinois, where he competed for IWCOA Hall of Fame coaches Mark Johnson and Jim Heffernan. Those teams all finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Tournament. Jason was an NCAA qualifier in 2002 and was one of three captains during his senior season.

He began his coaching career at Leyden High School in Franklin Park and he went 106-37 in his seven seasons with the Eagles. In 2012, he became the head coach at St. Charles East and now has had 19-straight winning seasons in his 20-year career. This was his 13th season with the Fighting Saints and his teams have gone 262-48 while his career record is 368-85.

His 2022-23 state championship team set several school records, with 11 state qualifiers, nine medalists, four finalists and three champions. He received the IWCOA's Class 3A Head Coach of the Year Award in 2023.

### **Mickey Pruitt, Chicago Contributor**

Mickey Pruitt is definitely a Chicago southside success story. A top football player at Robeson High School, he got the opportunity to continue his career at the University of Colorado where he had a hall of fame career. Then he made it to the National Football League and played for the Chicago Bears and the Dallas Cowboys, where he was on a team that won the Super Bowl before also being an assistant coach in college football.

With such an impressive resume, it's understandable why there was a strong interest in getting Mickey involved with helping to administer sports at high schools and grammar schools in Chicago and that's what he's done 27 years as the Senior Director of Sports Administration for the Chicago Public Schools. He's retiring from CPS at the end of the school year and is also handling duties as the acting Executive Director of CPS since September.

His experiences of being an athlete in CPS has driven him to assure that more resources would be provided, more opportunities would be available, and coaches and school administrations would continue to improve and that's what has happened in his tenure as sports administrator.

One of Mickey's biggest influences has been his high school coach at Robeson, Roy Curry, who won 240 games between 1969-2000 and was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame while he was still coaching in 1992.

Mickey and his teammates made history in 1982 when Robeson advanced to the IHSA Class 5A title game and was leading Rockford Guilford, but a late turnover resulted in a 16-12 defeat. It's the only time that a CPS team has been able to accomplish that feat and Mickey played throughout the entire game as a running back and defensive back.



## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Another inspirational and hall of fame coach that Mickey got to play for was Bill McCartney, who turned around the fortunes at Colorado and led it to a share of the national title in 1990.

Mickey was a four-year letter winner as a strong safety for the Buffaloes from 1984-87 and one of seven players in the program's history to be a three-time first-team all-conference selection and was a second-team All-American in his senior season. He was selected as a member of Colorado's All-Century Team and the Big Eight All-Decade Team for the 1980s. In 2021, Mickey was inducted into University of Colorado Athletic Hall of Fame.

He played 62 games in the NFL and was with the Bears from 1988-90 and the Dallas Cowboys from 1991-92. He won the Brian Piccolo Award as a rookie for the Bears and received a Super Bowl ring when the Cowboys beat Buffalo 52-17 in Super Bowl XXVII.

Mickey was a graduate assistant at Colorado in 1995 and 1996 and then became an assistant coach at the University of Hawai'i. He also worked in player personnel for the Bears before being hired by CPS in 1998.

### **Sean Reynolds, Providence Catholic Wrestler**

Sean Reynolds wrestled at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox for 2006 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee Keith Healy. He was a three-time IHSA state placewinner, finishing third at 130 in his sophomore year in 2002-03 and then completing back-to-back undefeated seasons in 2003-04 and 2004-05 to claim Class AA titles at 140 as a junior and at 152 as a senior.

Sean ended his high school career with a 103-match win streak, and a final record of 179-15. He was also named the Dave Schultz Award recipient for Illinois.

He was also a three-time Junior Freestyle All-American, including a runner-up finish, and was third at the UWW Junior National Tournament. After high school, Sean went on to attend the University of Illinois under coach Mark Johnson, where, unfortunately, a series of injuries ended his college career before it began.

With his competition career over, he turned to coaching and assisted Mark Gardner, a 2013 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee, at Bloomington High School where he coached multiple IHSA state placewinners and champions. Sean also helped found the Iguana Wrestling Club while coaching at BHS to help grow the Bloomington-Normal area's youth wrestling.

Sean then turned to the college ranks, coaching for a few years at Lincoln College, then helping as an assistant at Millikin University for three seasons before finally landing at Illinois Wesleyan University in 2024 as an assistant with their newly-reinstated Men's program and brand new Women's program.

He was just recently named the head coach of the Fightin' Titan RTC to help high school, college, and post-college wrestlers further opportunities in national and international freestyle competition.

His brother Donald Jr., a 2022 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee, was a two-time IHSA champion and four-time medalist at Providence Catholic who wrestled at the University of Illinois and then took four teams to state, including a second-place finisher in Class 3A in 2016, as head coach at Marmion Academy and he currently is the head coach at Providence Catholic. And his father, Donald Sr., has been a longtime successful coach with Team Illinois and also an assistant coach at Providence Catholic.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Sean has also coached the Team Illinois Freestyle National Team over the past 15 years making trips to Fargo and some of the Dual Team National Tournaments.

### **Eric Roberson, Roxana/SIU-Edwardsville/Alton Wrestler/Coach**

Eric Roberson got his start in wrestling his fifth-grade year at the Roxana Park District and wrestled for coaches Glenn Exton, Don Milletello and Joe Huff in the Roxana kids club.

He wrestled for coach Larry Milazzo at Roxana High School and qualified for the IHSA state tournament three times, placing fourth in Class AA at 138 pounds in 1987, and accumulated 143 wins in his high school career. He was a four-time regional champion, a four-time conference champion and won a sectional title in his junior year at 126 pounds.

After high school, Eric earned a scholarship to wrestle at SIU-Edwardsville, an NCAA D-II national power at that time. He was a four-year starter at 142 pounds and qualified for the national tournament all four years of his career and won over 100 matches at SIUE. Eric was a two-time NCAA D-II All-American, placing fifth in 1991 and fourth in 1992, both times at 142 pounds. He was inducted in the SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame in 2018 as a member of the 1988 NCAA D-II National third-place team.

Eric caught the coaching bug when he was a student assistant coach at SIUE during the 1992-93 season. He then went on to coach at Roxana Junior High for one season, then moved to the assistant role at Roxana High School with his friend and mentor, Mike Kurth. Eric coached at Roxana from 1994-1996, where he helped Tom Riggins win an A title at 189 pounds in 1996.

Eric then left Roxana to restart the wrestling program at Alton High School. The program was dropped in 1982 but he started it back up from scratch in 1996 and has been coaching there ever since. At Alton, he has amassed 390 dual meet wins and has had 21 winning seasons there. Eric has had an individual state tournament qualifier 46 times with 10 of those earning All-State honors, including one state champion, Antonia Phillips, who won the title at 140 pounds in the inaugural IHSA Girls Wrestling State Tournament in 2022.

He has also been a two-time nominee for the IWCOA Class 3A Coach of the Year in 2017 and 2018. He has served on the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Board on two separate occasions, in 2015-17 and 2022-24. Eric is currently teaching Honors Anatomy and Physiology and Biology at Alton High School and serves as the Assistant Athletic Director.

Eric would like to thank all of the assistant coaches, present and past administration who have been a key part of his coaching career, and have been very supportive throughout the years. He would especially like to thank his family for providing an outstanding support system and providing him with all of the opportunities to pursue his passion. Eric would like to especially thank his wife Raelene, who has not only married him, but also chose to marry the sport of wrestling, and he appreciates everything she has done to allow him to coach the sport he loves. He will never forget all of the relationships that were formed with his past teammates, coaches and wrestlers.

## **2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

### **Dion Wiley, Richton Park Official**

Dion Wiley has participated in the sport of wrestling for over 42 years. He wrestled for one year before high school, then for four years at Bloom Trail High School in Chicago Heights for coach Ron Ray, a 1984 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. He also was on the wrestling team at Illinois State University for one season but was unable to compete due to injury. After college, he coached for 12 years as an assistant at Bloom Trail High School.

Dion has officiated in wrestling for 20 years. During that time, he was a two-time South Suburban Conference Wrestling Coaches Association Official of the Year and was nominated for three consecutive years for the IWCOA Official of the Year award.

He served four years on the IHSA advisory board as the wrestling representative. During his career, he's officiated 17 IESA regional tournaments, 15 IESA individual sectional tournaments, and six IESA individual State Tournaments. He's also officiated two IKWF Dual Team State Tournaments and two IKWF Individual State Tournaments.

Dion officiated the IWCOA Frosh/Soph Individual State Tournament for eight years and served as the Coordinator of Officials for three years. He was the first official to work the IESA, IKWF and IWCOA Frosh/Soph Individual State Tournaments.

He has officiated in 17 IHSA individual regional tournaments, 13 IHSA individual sectional tournaments, 11 IHSA Dual Team sectional tournaments, four IHSA Dual Team State Tournaments and six IHSA Individual State tournaments.

Dion has also had the privilege to officiate in 11 Al Dvorak Invitational Wrestling Tournaments, five Cheesehead Invitational Wrestling Tournaments in Kaukauna, Wisconsin and five Geneseo Invitational Wrestling Tournaments.

Some of his notable offseason tournaments include six Disney Dual tournaments in Orlando, Florida and six Middle School Dual tournaments in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dion earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees at ISU in 1992, 2013 and 2020 and is an Information Technology Director for Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163.

***THE IWCOA WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO THESE  
FINE INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE 2025 HALL OF FAME  
CLASS!***

**Congratulations Jason, Ryan, Nick, Mike, Chad, Curt, Michael, Doug, Dan, Bob, Jason,  
Mickey, Sean, Eric, & Dion!**

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
1976	Adams, Vern "Art"	Normal	2019	Blaha, Tom	Tinley Park/SIUE
2014	Alber, Peter	Dakota	2019	Blankenship, Scott	Milan
2013	Aldridge, Terry	Eureka	2003	Blew, Jerry	Roselle (Lake Park)
1997	Allen, Andre	Lane Tech	1981	Blunk, Clarence	Blue Island
2005	Amy, Rick	Rockridge	2008	Bormet, Sean	Providence
2020	Amy, Steve	Rockridge	2016	Borrero, Wilbur	Antioch
1998	Ancona, Jerry	Roselle (Lake Park)	1996	Botheroyd, Bernie	Glenbard West
2011	Anderson, Greg	Geneseo	1985	Bowers, James	Bloomington
2000	Anderson, Dave	Palos Hills (Stagg)	2012	Bowers, Jeff	Bloomington
1979	Anderson, Charles	Savanna	1994	Bowman, Randall	LeRoy
2012	Andreotti, Paul	Marist/Northwestern	2020	Boyd, James	Port Byron (Riverdale)
1999	Anthonisen, Norman	Chicago (Bowen)	2001	Bracken, Kevin	St. Laurence
1997	Antonacci, Dr. Robert	Lindblom	2013	Bradley, Greg	Mt. Zion
1990	Antonides, Robert	Morgan Park	1994	Branum, Rex	Lincoln JC
2010	Arkin, Fred	Oak Park	2015	Bringe, Ken	Chicago Bowen & Ag Sci
2008	Arlis, Tom	Naperville N./Batavia	1999	Brooks, Gregory	Chicago (Fenger)
1978	Armer, Max	LaGrange	2002	Brost, David	New Lenox
2003	Armes, Les	Normal/Joliet JC	1985	Brown, George	Rock Island
2014	Axelrod, Steve	Tinley Park	2008	Bukovsky, Mike	Montini Catholic
2014	Baker, Robert A.	Byron	2003	Bulow, Allen	Glenbrook South
2023	Baima, Nicholas	Glenbard West	2014	Busser, James	Polo
2018	Bales, Joei	Joliet C./Northwestern	2014	Bybee, Mark	Burbank (St. Laurence)
2006	Ball, Dave	Hillsboro	1990	Byram, Howard	Niles East
1980	Bandy, Lester	Danville	2020	Byrd, Tyrone	Clinton/Univ of Illinois
1979	Barbaro, Tony	Tilden Tech	2006	Camden, Brett	Mahomet-Seymour
1996	Bartosz, Bruce	Antioch	2008	Campbell, Robert	Rich Central
2016	Bate, Eric	Normal (U-High)/ISU	2018	Carlson, Kevin	Lombard (Glenbard East)
2006	Baum, Urban	Belleville (East)	1996	Carmody, Tom	Jacksonville
2002	Baum, Russ	Cahokia	2001	Carnahan, James	Rock Island
2006	Bay, Mike	Waukegan	2019	Carrick, Chauncey	Sycamore
1972	Bay, Ott	Waukegan	2010	Carroll, Dan	Chicago (St. Rita)
1973	Bay, Rick	Waukegan	2017	Cartwright, Alan	OPRF/Nebraska (Omaha)
2006	Bay, Steve	Waukegan	1993	Cartwright, William	Proviso East
1995	Becker, Howard	Wilmington	1993	Cartwright, James	Conant
1989	Bee, Floyd	Lincoln	2014	Casey, Chris	Tinley Park
2022	Beebe, Chase	Lombard (Montini)	2010	Chaloupka, Jim	Chicago
2024	Beebe, Connor	Lombard (Montini)	2015	Chapman, Mike	WIN Magazine
1975	Behm, Don	New Trier	2013	Cheeseman, Pat	Mt. Carmel
2023	Behnke, Mike	Villa Park (Willowbrook)	2000	Christenson, Curt	Pontiac
2017	Benford, Booker	SIUE	2024	Clark, Scott A.	Hoffman Estates
2001	Benion, Ernest	Romeoville/U of IL	2010	Clarke, Terry	Elmhurst (York)
1995	Benner, William	Peotone	2005	Clarke, Tony	Zion
2018	Berger, Ryan	Mahomet/U of IL	2025	Clay, Jason	Vandalia
2001	Berman, Al	Palatine	1993	Cliffe, Dan	DeKalb
2000	Bernard, Larry	Bolingbrook	1993	Cliffe, Joe	Plano/Prairie Central
2003	Bessemer, Ron	Harper JC	1998	Clinton, Ron	Univ of Illinois/EIU
2020	Betterman, Joe	Lake View/Team USA	2010	Coit, Ron	Farmer City
1987	Billberg, Bob	Libertyville	1989	Coldren, Dick	Northwestern
2024	Billman, Bill	St. Joseph	1999	Collins, Niall	Oak Park
1988	Bishop, Fred	Proviso	2023	Collum, Matthew	Nequa Valley

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2022	Collum, Paul	Romeoville	1987	Dyche, George	West Aurora
2023	Combes, Todd	Coal City	2022	Dziewiakowski, John	Lombard (Montini)
1975	Combs, Steve	Moline	1985	Easter, Bob	Peoria (Richwoods)
1987	Coniglio, Frank	Murphysboro	2017	Easter, Greg	Chillicothe (IVC)
1975	Conrad, Roy	Chicago (Schurz)	2009	Eberhard, Dave	Oswego
2000	Conrad, Randy	East Leyden	2000	Eggert, Dale	Libertyville
1989	Conrad, Ray	River Grove	2017	Eickelschulte, Raymond	Fowler
2003	Cook, Gary	Argenta-Oreana	1998	Eiter, Rob	St. Viator
1998	Cookas, Mike	Joliet (West)	2007	Elliott, Trevor	Sandwich
2017	Cooper, Dr. Benjamin	Stephen Decatur/SIUC	1979	Ellis, John	Palatine
2011	Corwin, Lloyd	Rock Island	2018	Elsen, Paul	Winnebago/Wheaton Coll
2008	Cotter, Kevin	Byron	1973	Emmons, Robert	Lawrenceville
1995	Cozzi, Greg	Palatine	2020	Endsley, Steve	IESA
1987	Craig, James	Oak Lawn	1996	Erikson, Tom	Bloom Township
2022	Crandall, Kip	Tremont/Millikin	2015	Evans, Mike	Bloom Trail
1980	Crisler, Ben	Thornton	2002	Everett, Gene	Gibson City
2020	Culbertson, Bob	Vandalia	1975	Ewoldt, Ed	Wheaton (Central)
2025	Cumbee, Ryan	Providence/Northwestern/JCA	2014	Exton, Glen	Vandalia/O'Fallon
1990	Cummings, Ray	Tolono	2005	Fallen, Phil	Chicago (Amundsen)
2008	Curby, Dr. David	LaGrange	2012	Fallico, Craig	Park Ridge (Maine So)
1974	Custer, James	Pekin	2025	Fanthorpe, Nick	Naperville North
2002	Cutlip, Jack	Arlington Heights	1973	Farina, Charles	East Leyden
2015	Cysewski, Dan Jr.	Cary Grove	2004	Farina, Jim	East Leyden
1991	Cysewski, Tim	Glenbrook South/NU	1985	Farina, Mike	Elmhurst (York)
1973	Czech, Ted	Thornton	2000	Farinosi, Dan	Hoffman Estates
1990	Dallman, Glen	Byron	2018	Farris, Paul	Wheaton
1998	D'Ambrosio, John	Bremen	2012	Feldman, Dr. Bernard	Palos Park
1991	Dannehl, Wayne	Antioch	2022	Fellinger, Dave	Chicago
2007	Dantzler, T.C.	Thornwood/NIU	2014	Ferguson, Ryan	Roselle (Lake Park)
1994	Dare, George	Coal City	2020	Ferry, Cal	Machesney Park (Harlem)
2008	Davis, Jon	Edwardsville	1994	Feutz, Charles O.	Conant
2011	Davis, Tony	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)	2011	Filippi, Frank	Glen Ellyn
2024	Dennis-Kengott, Daniel	Grant/Univ of Iowa	1982	Finn, Terry	Oak Lawn/SIUC
1978	DeJarnatt, Carson	Sterling	2012	Fiorella, Sammy	Burbank St. Laurence
2017	Dergo, George	Morris	1974	Fitzgerald, John	Burbank (Reavis)
2024	Dergo, John	Morris/Univ of Illinois	1993	Flanigan, Tom	U of I - Loop Campus
1978	DeRousse, Ted	Antioch	1977	Flavin, Don	DeKalb/NIU
1991	Deutschmann, Archie	Urbana	2001	Fletcher, Charles	Machesney Park
1991	Devine, Pat	Tilden Tech	2005	Flores, Carmelo	Chicago (Lakeview)
2012	Devine, Don	Crystal Lake	1988	Fowley, Roy	East Aurora
1996	Dickason, Donald	Champaign	2003	Fox, Ed	Wheeling
1985	Diewald, Emil "Butch"	Homewood-Flossmoor	1993	Foy, Michial	Thornwood
2008	Dodge, Tim	Lindenhurst	1988	Friberg, William	Leyden
2007	Douglas, David	Luther S/Thornridge	2020	Friedl, Pete	Sandburg/Univ of Illinois
1981	Downing, Wirt	East St. Louis	2011	Froehlich, Dave	Rolling Meadows
2004	Drendel, Gene	Naperville	1985	Fulk, Bob	Glenbard North
2013	Drosopoulos, Dan	Morrison	2000	Fulscher, Dan	Lincoln
2012	Dunn, Jim	Lawrenceville	2014	Futris, Tom	Crystal Lake
1993	Dunn, Leo "Skip"	Rich East	2006	Gannaway, Dave	Normal/IHSA
2007	Durlacher, Lindsey	Buffalo Grove/U of I	2024	Gardner, Andrew	Springfield

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2024	Gardner, Greg	Springfield	2005	Handlin, Robert	Mahomet
1989	Gardner, Jack	Springfield	1986	Hanke, Al	Elmhurst College
1986	Gardner, Jim	Springfield/EIU	2001	Hankenson, Lou	Charleston
2013	Gardner, Mark	Bloomington	2007	Hanley, Reid	Clarendon Hills
2001	Garland, Mike	Granite City	1988	Hanlin, Bert	East Moline
1987	Garner, Don S.	Wheaton Community	1978	Hanson, Charles	Glenbrook North
2023	Garofola, Mike	Palatine	2005	Harrell, Quintroy	Harvey Twisters
2004	Garrett, Harold	Bloomington	2013	Harsh, Jim	Bloomington
1994	Garshelis, Renshaw	Charleston	2013	Hasty, Bryon	East Peoria
1995	Gassen, Larry	Downers Grove South	2015	Hattendorf, Mark	Elgin
2001	Gauger, Tom	Burbank St. Laurence	2025	Hay, Chad	Sandwich/Univ of IL
2014	Geist, Ryan	Fox Lake (Grant)	2006	Healy, Keith	Providence Catholic
1994	Genovesi, Augie	Niles (Notre Dame)	2017	Heffernan, Jim	Univ of IL
1982	George, Pete	Bensenville (Fenton)	1982	Heniff, Tom	Oak Lawn (Richards)
1973	George, Elias	Evanston	2012	Herman, Jevon	St. Charles/U of IL
1977	George, John	Evergreen Park	2009	Hernandez, Emiliano	Maine East
2013	Geraci, Sam	Roselle (Lake Park)	2025	Herron, Curt	Joliet
2002	Gerber, Walt	Rock Island	2019	Hey, Jacob	Dixon/USAF
2014	Gerdes, Ben	Providence/Sandburg	2019	Hiatt, Sam	DeKalb/NIU
2022	Gerdes, Ken III	Providence/Univ of IL	2014	Hickman, Marty	Bloomington/IHSA
1997	Gerrish, Lon	Sandwich	1972	Hicks, Bob	Chicago Tilden Tech
1995	Gervais, Mark	Chicago (Marist)	1979	Hill, Eugene	Illinois State Univ
1993	Geselter, Morrie	Deerfield	2011	Hill, Jeff	Petersburg (PORTA)
2015	Gholar, Darrell	Dunbar/U of Minnesota	2018	Hoerr, Grant	Morton/U of Wisconsin
2015	Giannamore, Frank	Mundelein	2017	Holbrook, Scott	Sterling (Newman)/Orion
2008	Giardini, Gary	Rockford (East)	2020	Holland, Dana	Glenbard North/Ariz St. U
2009	Gibson, Ron	Naperville	2001	Holland, Robert	East Leyden/EIU
1994	Giese, Ed	Bensenville (Fenton)	2017	Holler, Dave	Rockton Hononegah/ISU
1999	Gilbert, Joey	Tinley Park Andrew	1994	Holm, Dan	Libertyville
2017	Gillespie, Shannyn	Evanston/Lock Haven	1993	Holtfreter, Richard	Harvard
1978	Girardi, George	Normal (U - High)	1976	Holzer, Werner	Chicago Schurz/U of IL
2017	Gitcho, Jan	Granite City/SIUE	2003	Honeycutt, Bill	Woodridge
1993	Giura, John	Oak Park	2022	House, Herbert	Conant
1976	Glass, Brad	Winnetka New Trier	2012	Houston, Rod	Camp Point Central
2016	Gluck, Mike	Palatine/U of Wisconsin	1993	Houston, Ken	Oak Lawn/SIUC
2020	Glynn, Brian	Providence/Univ of IL	1979	Hubbard, Jarrett	Joliet (West)
2019	Goldstein, Matt	Conant	2008	Hughes, Matt	Hillsboro/EIU
1993	Goransen, Perry	Joliet Township	2018	Hurckes, Michael	Ringwood
1991	Govoni, Don	Joliet	2017	Hurry, Tyler	Port Byron (Riverdale)
1974	Greene, Kenneth	Rock Island	2013	Hunt, Gary	Decatur
2017	Greenfiled, Mike	Belleville (Althoff)	1973	Hurley, Allen	Winnetka (New Trier)
2001	Gremer, John	Urbana	1984	Isaacson, Terry	Oak Park
1998	Griffin, Jack	Stagg/Northwestern	2016	Izzo, Jim	Lombard (Montini)
2025	Grimes, Mike	Montini/Naval Academy	2007	Jackson, David	Burbank (Reavis)
2010	Grizzi, Bob	Burbank (Reavis)	1981	James, Joe	Chicago (Tilden Tech)
1974	Gross, Charles	Peoria	1988	Jarman, Tom	NU/Wheaton College
2003	Gruszka, Stan	Naperville North	2024	Johns, Phil II	East Peoria/SIUE
2009	Guzak, Ray	Blue Island/NIU	2012	Johnson, Fred	Augustana/Waubonsie
2001	Haak, Tim	Harvard	2003	Johnson, Tom	Bismarck-Henning
2006	Hahn, Mark	Glenbard North	2007	Johnson, Tom	Chatham-Glenwood

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2012	Johnson, Gerald A.	New Lenox	2023	Langley, Greg	Harrisburg
2008	Johnson, Johnny	North Chicago/NIU	2002	Larsen, Ron	Joliet
1987	Johnson, Mark	Rock Island (Alleman)	1976	Law, Glen "Newt"	Univ of Illinois
2005	Johnston, Gene	Oak Forest	1984	Lazier, Murney	Evanston
1980	Jones, Amos	North Chicago	2008	LeCuyer, Tom	Plano
1994	Jones, Robert I.	Decatur	2009	Ledin, Don	Chicago
2023	Jones, Sharron L.	Decatur	2011	Ledin, Rob	Mahomet/Clinton
1988	Kachiroubas, Lou	University of Illinois	1980	Leese, Jack	East Leyden
2000	Kading, John	Glenbard South	2002	Lester, Harry	Moline
2010	Kaiser, Marty	Rockton (Hononegah)	1989	Licocci, Tony	Rock Falls
1993	Kaltofen, Alvin	College of DuPage	2016	Lid, Glenn	Maywood (Proviso East)
2016	Kamp, Kris	Deer Creek	1996	Llewellyn, Jon	Hinsdale Central/U of IL
2019	Kane, John	Conant	2008	Lockhart, John	Mahomet/Univ of IL
2002	Kanke, Larry	Geneseo	2001	Loffredo, Fred	Tilden Tech
1998	Kelly, Billy	Oak Lawn (Richards)	2010	Long, Bob	Yorkville
1998	Kelly, Jerry	Oak Lawn (Richards)	1997	Lovelace, Norman	Harper JC
2019	Kelly, Mary	Mahomet-Seymour	1999	Lovellette, Richard	Litchfield
2024	Kennedy, Jimmy	Grant/Univ of Illinois	1991	Luety, Ed	Melrose Park
1972	Kenney, Harold "Hek"	Univ of Illinois	1987	Lundy, Al	Calumet City
2004	Kerby, Richard	Chicago Kelvyn Park	1999	Magruder, Ronald	Wheaton Central
2022	Kessen, Nate	Sugar Grove	2011	Mahar, Jim	Amboy
1999	Kienlen, Donald	Joliet Township	2020	Malley, Mark	Stephen Decatur/MSU
2025	Kimberlin, Michael	Bishop McNamara/Northwestern	2001	Mammen, Kirk	Urbana
1994	King, Mark	LaGrange-Lyons Twp.	1991	Mammen, Wayne	Urbana
2011	Kirgan, Allen	Granite City	1997	Manahan, Michael	Olympia
2025	Klein, Doug	Skokie (Ida Crown)	1986	Mann, Bobby	Danville
1998	Klemm, Dave	Lincoln/EIU	1993	Mann, Richard	Hersey
1975	Klootwyk, Ray	Joliet (West)	1984	Mann, William	Maine South/U of IL
1995	Kocher, Leo	University of Chicago	2020	Mansell, Ken	Lincoln-Way/Quincy ND
2004	Kody, Scott	Inverness	2011	Marchello, Jack	Thornton
1992	Koehler, Bob	Illinois State University	1983	Marcucci, Vic	Burbank (Reavis)
1992	Koenig, Tom	Bloom Township	1999	Marianetti, Steve	Glenbrook N/U of IL
1986	Konovsky, Bob	Morton Township	1975	Marino, Jack	Proviso East
2014	Konstans, Randall	North Aurora	2009	Markwell, Dave	Fithian (Oakwood)
1973	Kraft, Arthur	Northwestern/Triton	1977	Marlin, Kenneth	Champaign/Rockford
1978	Kraft, Ken	Northwestern	1999	Marquardt, Bill	Bloomington
1976	Kraus, Bert	LaGrange	2018	Martelli, Charles	Naperville N/U of Mich
2001	Kristine, Alex	Barrington	2020	Martinez, Israel	West Aurora/Montini
2002	Kristoff, Kip	Bethalto/SIU	2009	Martinez, Lino	Stevenson
1974	Kristoff, Larry	Carbondale/SIU	2019	Martinez, Nathan	West Aurora
2013	Kristoff, Mark	Bethalto	2022	Marx, Peter	Conant
2020	Kroner, Fred	Mahomet/News-Gazette	1985	Massery, Mark	Savanna/NU
1987	Kruempelstaedter, James	Winnetka New Trier	2022	Masters, Mark	Coal City
1995	Krupke, Ralph	Roselle (Lake Park)	2000	Mathews, Dave	Naperville
2017	Kuykendall, Bob	Mundelein (Carmel)	2011	Matozzi, Mike	Hinsdale (South)
2013	Laccone, Frank	DeKalb	1988	McAdams, Ben	Moline
2009	Lackey, Matt	Moline/Univ of IL	1997	McCann, Dennis	Park Ridge (Maine So)
2001	Lahey, Tom	Tinley Park Andrew	1972	McCann, Terry	Chicago (Schurz)
1992	Lambros, Tony	Chicago (Calumet)	2010	McCarthy, Foster	Champaign
1992	Lancaster, Jerry	Port Byron Riverdale	2008	McCauley, Lawrence	Granite City

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2000	McCauley, Neil	Naperville North	1992	Nordin, James	Palatine
1996	McCausland, Ralph	Wheaton Central/EIU	1994	Nordquist, Ken	Rich South
2007	McCoy, Terry	DeKalb/Kaneland	1977	Norman, Robert	Morton East/U of IL
2006	McGinnis, Harry	Triton Junior College	1989	Norris, Bernadette	Chicago (Lakeview)
2024	McCullough, Tod	Erie-Prophetstown	2020	Norton, Dr. Seth	Wheaton College
2025	McDonnell, Dr. Dan	Morris	2018	O'Connell, Patrick	Joliet Central
2025	McGuinn, Bob	Fox Lake (Grant)/EIU	1994	O'Connor, Pat	Glasford-Illini Bluffs
2024	McKillip, Donald J.	Minooka	1994	Oglesby, Ronald	Oak Lawn
1991	McLaughlin, E. Mac	Joliet (Central)	1978	Olson, George	Wheaton College
2014	McMahon, Patrick	Tinley Park	2020	Owens, Brad	Mt. Zion/Univ of Wisc.
2014	McMorrow, Gary	Prospect	2014	Paar, Ron	Crystal Lake/U of Wisc.
2022	McTague, Brian	Morris/Reed Custer	2013	Pape, Jeff	Franklin Park
2023	Mears, Ed	Champaign (Centennial)	1992	Parker, Norman	Highland Park
1993	Meeks, Major Richard	Champaign/U of IL	1986	Parker, Ted	Deerfield
2012	Mekeel, Donald	Sterling	1985	Parks, Tony	Addison Trail
2009	Mena, Bob	Sterling Newman	1978	Patacsil, Joseph	Chicago Tilden Tech
2000	Mena, Mike	Sterling Newman	2017	Patrick, Nate	Naperville (North)/UofIL
2023	Merzian, Charles	Granite City	1974	Patterson, Buell "Pat"	University of Illinois
2011	Mestemacher, Mark	Edwardsville	1995	Patton, James	Woodstock
1998	Milazzo, Larry	Roxana	1999	Pearson, Fred	Chicago Tilden Tech
2020	Milder, Kevin	Lena-Winslow Stockton	1996	Pedersen, Joe	Naperville
1985	Millard, Don	Pekin/SIUC	2023	Pero, Cassio	Mt. Carmel/Univ of IL
2000	Miller, Don	Mundelein	2002	Peterson, Jon	Grayslake
1981	Miller, Wayne	DeKalb	1984	Peterson, William	Chicago (Lakeview)
2011	Miller, Jim	Tolono	1983	Pickens, Robert	Evanston
1990	Minot, George	Harvard/U of IL	1976	Pickerill, Ken	Oswego
2001	Mirabella, Jeff	Elgin	1984	Pierre, Dale	Wheaton (North)
2005	Mitton, Bob	Orion	1986	Pillard, Henry	Joliet Junior College
1983	Monroe, Ken	East Leyden	1987	Pinther, Harold	Eastern Illinois Univ
2002	Montgomery, Rich	Rock Falls	1982	Pittman, Don	Champaign
1991	Moore, Ken	Thornton	2004	Platt, Rollie	Quincy
2015	Morgan, Shane	Oswego	1973	Plaza, Arnold	Chicago (Tilden Tech)
2012	Morris, Ben	Bensenville (Fenton)	2023	Poeta, Michael	Highland Park/Univ of IL
2002	Morrison, Allie	University of Illinois	2005	Polz, John	Morton
2012	Morrissey, Don	Rosemont/Putnam	1999	Polz, Michael	Sandburg/Providence
1993	Mottleson, Dr. Ben	LaGrange	2019	Porter, Brett	Mahomet-Seymour/Edinboro
2017	Moxley, Jim	Fisher/Mahomet-Seymour	1983	Porter, Tom	Hersey
1984	Mudge, Richard	Prospect	1990	Porter, Robert	Niles (West)
2005	Mueller, King	Bolingbrook	2011	Porter, Rob	Naperville (Central)
2016	Mulrenin, Terry	Oak Lawn/SIUE	1996	Portincaso, Mike	Bloomington
2005	Murphy, Bill	Homewood	2025	Potter, Jason	St. Charles E/Univ of IL
2011	Murphy, Rob	Wilmington	1994	Powell, David	St. Charles
2023	Murray, Jon	Geneseo	2014	Powell, Michael	Oak Park
1977	Musgrove, Homer	Sterling	2008	Powers, Rich	Marian Catholic
1982	Nacin, Al	Burbank (Reavis)	1990	Prehn, Paul	Illinois University
2007	Nason, Debbie	Orland Park	2015	Prichard, Greg	Morton
2013	Nesbit, Bob	Springfield	2011	Pronga, Lou	Chillicothe (IVC)
1993	Newlon, Gary	Prophetstown	2025	Pruitt, Mickey	Chicago Public Schools
2004	Nighohossian, Haig	Granite City	1997	Puebla, Kevin	Augustana College
2016	Nino, John	Kelvyn Park/Triton JC	2013	Pustelnik, Mark	East Moline (United Twp)



# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
1994	Querciagrossa, James	Peoria (Woodruff)	1998	Savenago, Geno	Glenbard North/EIU
2017	Quirk, Pat	Hinsdale (Central)/U of IL	1989	Schaus, Jon	Geneva
2016	Quigley, Chris	Aurora/ISU	1992	Schmadebeck, Bill	Glenbrook
2023	Raabe, Jim	Jacksonville	1973	Schmitt, William "Red"	Granite City
2024	Ragan St. John, Alli	Carbondale/King Univ	2009	Schneider, Russ	Gurnee
2012	Ragan, Dennis	Carbondale	2009	Schroeder, Steve	Metamora/El Paso
2022	Ramirez, Mike	Chicago	1988	Schult, James	Glenbard South
1984	Ray, Ron	Orr/Bloom Trail	2013	Schultz, Neil T.	Harvard
2016	Reed, Tom	Cahokia	1992	Schultz, Donald	Carl Sandburg
1999	Reichert, Ronald	IL Wrestling Federation	2003	Schultz, Chet	Rock Island
2000	Reif, Gary	Jacksonville/Carlinville	1977	Schwartz, Marty	West Leyden
2025	Reynolds, Sean	Providence/Univ of IL	1986	Sciacca, John	Harvard
2007	Richards, Jim	Hoopeston	2001	Scordino, Joe	Carmel H.S.
1993	Richoz, Arch	DeKalb	2014	Scully, Bill	Hoffman Estates
1974	Riley, Jack	Northwestern	1987	Seabrooke, Ted	Proviso East/U of IL
2018	Risley, Jim	Mahomet-Seymour	2015	Sears, Al	Wheaton/SIUE/Belleville
2025	Roberson, Eric	Alton/SIUE	2023	Seeger, Roy	Lake Forest
1993	Robinson, Donald	Normal	2010	Seeman, Tom	Crystal Lake
1979	Robinson, Jack	Thornton	1994	Semetis, Ron	Dixon
1997	Rockwood, Joe	Thornton	1985	Shapiro-Weissman, Dave	Joliet Twp/U of I
2017	Rodgers, Kirby	Lincoln	1986	Sheets, Cliff	Decatur
2013	Roesler, Karl	Providence/Univ of IL	1986	Sherman, Dan	Deerfield
2000	Rolak, Mike	Chicago Tilden Tech	1984	Sherman, Walter	Glenbrook North
1990	Roman, Ronald	Chicago Tilden Tech	2002	Sherman, Winfred	Proviso
1976	Romanowski, Walter	Chicago Tilden Tech	2006	Sherrill, Rob	Illinois Best Weekly
2001	Rosenthal, Todd	Moline	2001	Siebert, Eric	LaSalle-Peru/U of IL
1998	Ross, Paul (Pete)	Lincoln	2003	Siebert, Mark	LaSalle-Peru
2002	Rossetti, Chuck	Willowbrook	2019	Silverstein, Max	Chicago/Naval Academy
2023	Rossiano, Tom	Waubensee Valley	1977	Silverstein, Ralph	Crane Tech/ U of IL
1974	Rauth, Walther	Belleville	1991	Silverstein, Ron	Niles
2022	Reynolds, Donnie	Providence/Univ of IL	2010	Simon, Jeff	Peoria (Richwoods)
2022	Richardson, Scott	Providence/Shepard	2004	Simons, Terry	Wheeling
1995	Rowden, Don	Fox Lake (Grant)	2014	Skelnik, Rich	East Leyden
2004	Rubiano, Tony	Park Forest	1972	Slimmer, Louis	Proviso
2016	Rucker, Kenny	Harvey (Thornton)	1991	Smith, Brad	Hersey
2009	Ruettiger, Bernie	Minooka	2003	Smith, Chuck	Homewood
2002	Ruettiger, Dominic	St. Charles/Neuqua Valley	2014	Snyder, Roy	Rochelle
2003	Ruettiger, John	Lisle	2013	Sorensen, Jeff	Bloomington
1995	Ruettiger, Mark	Providence/EIU	1976	Sowinski, Joe	TF South
1996	Ruettiger, Tim	Providence	2002	Stalhut, Warren	Edwardsville
2003	Rumchak, Bill	Bolingbrook	2007	Stearns, Steve	Oak Lawn/SIUE
1990	Rumsfeld, Hon. Donald	Winnetka New Trier	2015	Stevens, Don	Carl Sandburg/SIUE
1994	Ryan, Ron	Mt. Olive	2000	Stevens, Sandy	Glen Ellyn
2016	Salinas, Rudy	Chicago	2018	Stoltz, David	Hersey/U of IL
2020	Salley, Jason	Elgin	1990	Stonitsch, Larry	Joliet
2016	Sammons, John	Oswego	1983	Stoudt, Jack	Pekin
1984	Samorian, Harold	Glenbrook North	1972	Strange, Robert	Lawrenceville
1999	Santana, Frank	Gordon Tech	2003	Stuart, Don	Oak Forest
1991	Sapora, Dr. Allen	Illinois University	2003	Stuart, Ron	Oak Forest
1994	Sapora, Dr. Joseph	Illinois University	2017	Stumpf, Don	Arlington/SIUC

# IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2005	Summers, Dan	Hersey	1977	Weick, Clarence	Chicago Tilden
2004	Summerville, Joe	Tolono	1973	Weick, William	Chicago Tilden
1981	Swalec, John	Libertyville	2010	Weiner, Neal	Wheeling
1984	Swierczewski, Gene	Hoffman Estates	1986	Weiss, Steve	Bensenville (Fenton)
1974	Swindell, Roy	Champaign	2006	Welter, Steve	Fox Lake (Grant)
2005	Swinford, Randy	Princeton	1999	Wetzel, Eric	Chicago (Dunbar)
2022	Tannenbaum, Eric	Naperville N./U of Mich	1997	Wheeler, Al	Oswego
1994	Taylor, Lawrence	Cahokia	2018	Whelan, Keith	Granite City/U of Mizzou
1975	TenPas, Larry	Waukegan/U of IL	2001	Whelan, Khris	Granite City
2018	Thacker, Gary	Belvidere	1992	Whelan, Robert	Chicago (Hirsch)
1975	Therry, Robert	North Chicago	1992	Whitaker, Walt	Granite City
2004	Thompson, Ernie	Oak Park	1979	Whitlatch, Rex	Urbana
2003	Tiffany, Mark	Waukegan/NIU	2015	Wiesneth, Jack	Libertyville
2005	Tipsword, Bob	Buffalo Grove	2025	Wiley, Dion	Richton Park
2016	Torres, Mick	Libertyville	1980	Wilkenson, Dr. James	Southern Illinois
2013	Trizzino, Mark	Joliet	1997	Wilkey, Mike	Oak Park
2008	Trizzino, Scott	Joliet (Central)	2015	Williams, Joe	Lockport
1998	Trost, Kirk	Lincoln-Way	1999	Williams, Joseph	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)
2023	Truemper, Ross	Pinehurst, NC	1992	Williams, Marty	Yorkville
2006	Tschannen, Morris	Roxana	2006	Williams, TJ	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)
1994	Tschudi, Dick	Dakota	1981	Williams, Willie	Bloom Township/ISU
1999	Turner, Alvin	Chicago (Parker)	1979	Willson, Pete	Wheaton College
2007	Turner, Jim	Marion	2006	Wilson, Raphael	Waubonsie/Augustana
2023	Urwin, Michael	Orland Park	2016	Wilson, Reggie	Bloom Trail/Triton/OK St/Chi St
2004	Vail, Bill	Oak Lawn/Joliet JC	2018	Wilson, Ron	Chicago (Bowen)
2019	Vatch, Ed	Addison Trail/Wisconsin	2007	Winesburg, Ray	Elgin
1973	Vavrus, Joe	Moline	2023	Wise, John	Pittsfield/Univ of IL
1990	Vega, Al	TF North	2004	Wiser, John	Delevan
2019	Vercelli, Jake	Joliet Catholic/Purdue	1997	Wisniewski, Dan	Highland Park
2023	Vermillion, Ron	Crystal Lake	2022	Witzig, Russ	Troy (Triad)
2022	Villareal, Ruben	Plano	2003	Woods, Jim	Bloom/WIU
2004	Wachenheim, Lee	Elmhurst (York)	2017	Wright, Reggie	Proviso (East)/OK State
2019	Wagner, Jon	SIUE/Edwardsville HS	2006	Wright, Tim	Rock Island/SIUE
1996	Waldroup, Derrick	Bremen	2003	Young, John	Peotone
2013	Walker, Jim	Westmont	1990	Young, William	Naperville (Central)
1988	Walker, William	Downers Grove N	2017	Zajac, Shane	Lincoln-Way/OR St/UofOK
2004	Warner, Andy	Savoy	2002	Zbacnik, Michael	Plainfield
2012	Wasserstrom, Sam	Ridgewood	2016	Zeman, Bill	LaGrange (Lyons)/U of IL
2016	Watkins, Kenneth	Maywood	2000	Zeman III, Otto	Riverside-Brookfield
2010	Watson, Dr. Wayne	Chicago	2019	Zielinski, Rob	McHenry
2018	Weber, Dan	Conant/Wheaton College	2004	Ziemek, Thomas	Maine South
2000	Weber, Rory	Proviso E/Northwestern	1988	Zimmer, William	Lockport
2003	Wehmeier, John	Belleville	2005	Zinke, Al	Crown
2018	Welter, John	Fox Lake (Grant)			

## GRAND MARSHALS



### 2025 IHSA State Tournament Grand Marshals – Mike Hurckes, Jerry Kelly, Billy Kelly, Dave Froehlich, and Joe Cliffe (Supervisor of Grand Marshals)

Six individuals who have reached the pinnacle of high school wrestling in Illinois, either as athletes, coaches, or supporters of the sport, will be honored by serving as Grand Marshals during the respective IHSA Boys & Girls Individual Wrestling State Finals in February and March of 2025.

Four Grand Marshals will lead the annual Grand March of finalists on Saturday, February 22 prior to the championship bouts of the 87th annual IHSA Individual Boys Wrestling State Final Tournament at the State Farm Center in Champaign-Urbana.

Two Grand Marshals will lead the procession of finalists in the Grand March of finalists on Saturday, March 1 prior to the championship bouts of the 4th annual IHSA Individual Girls Wrestling State Final Tournament at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington-Normal.

The Grand March of finalists was first introduced at the boys state tournament in 1975, with the IHSA and Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) working together to select the Grand Marshals who lead the parade. The tradition carried over into the girls state tourney when it debuted in 2022.

The Grand Marshals play an important role in the color and pageantry of the events, as they lead the individual

# GRAND MARSHALS

finalists and their coaches in a procession around the arena floor just prior to the championship bouts.

Here is a closer look at the Grand Marshals in 2025:

## DAVE FROEHLICH



Coach Froehlich attended East Leyden High School, wrestling for Hall of Fame Coach Chuck Farina. Dave placed third in the state his senior year in 1971 at 155 pounds. Four of the top five wrestlers at his weight that year went on to become Division 1 All-Americans, including a second, two fourths and an NCAA champion. That 1971 East Leyden team produced five wrestlers who later became head high school wrestling coaches in Illinois.

Attending Northwestern University after graduation, Dave was a four-year starter and eventual team captain for Hall of Fame Coach Ken Kraft. Dave placed second in the Big 10 his junior year and placed fourth in the NCAA in 1974. The next year Dave won the Big 10 title and finished in the top 8 at the National tournament. Graduating in 1975 with a degree in Education, Dave was selected for several awards at Northwestern, the most prestigious of which was the Big 10 Conference Medal of Honor, given to only one athlete at each Big 10 school annually.

Dave began teaching and coaching immediately after graduation at Rolling Meadows High School as an assistant to John Ellis. He assumed the Head Coaching job for the 1979-80 season and remained in that position for 36 more years before retiring in 2014. He finished his Head coaching career with 380 wins, 39 state qualifiers and 10 state place-winners.

Dave taught Health and Physical Education and served for 14 years as the school's Boys Athletic Director and coached Cross Country and Track for 18 years. Dave has two Masters' Degrees as well as certification as a personal trainer.

After retiring, Dave started coaching as an assistant to Shane Cook at Stevenson and still coaches there. He has also worked for 11 years as a substitute teacher. His hobbies include boating with his family and performing as an accordionist.

Dave and Sharon, his wife of 42 years, have two married sons, Steve (Brianne) and Mike (Sara) and a married daughter, Colleen (Patrick). They have been blessed with seven grandchildren, ranging in age from seven years old to six months old.

# GRAND MARSHALS

## MIKE HURCKES



The youngest of seven boys, Mike was born and raised in McHenry, Illinois. Athletics was an integral part of the Hurckes family. Attending games, matches, and practices was a way of life. Mike's love for the sport of wrestling began in high school. As a standout three-sport athlete, he was the first wrestling state qualifier to represent Johnsburg High School. A graduate of Monmouth College, Mike excelled in football during his four years and wrestled for two years.

In 1988, Mike renewed his passion for wrestling when he was hired as a teacher and head coach at Forman High School in Manito, Illinois, a position he held for three years. Mike was hired as the Head Wrestling Coach and assistant Football coach at McHenry High School in McHenry, IL. In four seasons as Head Coach of the McHenry Warriors, his teams dominated the Fox Valley Conference, winning 3 Conference championships, while losing only two Conference meets in that four-year span. Mike's 1994-1995 team finished undefeated 20-0 and ranked in the top ten. During his 7 years as Head Coach, Mike and his teams amassed a 113-30 record, along with producing 13 state qualifiers and 3 state champions.

Mike transitioned from coaching to officiating after the 1994-1995 season and is completing his 30th season as a state level wrestling official at the 2025 Dual Team State Tournament. Mike has officiated 15 IHSA State Finals, 9 IESA State Finals, and also serves as an IHSA Wrestling Rules Interpreter and Clinician. His knowledge, contributions and utilization of video technology plays an important role in educating and developing other officials. In 2021, Mike played an important role in the making of a NFHS educational officiating video.

In 2018, Mike was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame. Mike was honored as IESA Official of The Year in 2019, IHSA Official of The Year in 2020, received the (IWCOA) Lifetime Service Award in 2023 and was named (IWCOA) Official of The Year in 2024.

For the past three years Mike has served as a special consultant and assigner for the IESA. His primary role is to help with rules interpretations and questions along with assigning officials for the Regional, Sectional, and State Tournament.

Mike and his wife Nancy are both retired educators and reside in Ringwood, Illinois. They are the proud parents of four children and two grandchildren, Shelby, Austin, Chloe, Stori, Mirra and Myla.

# GRAND MARSHALS

## BILLY KELLY



Billy Kelly is arguably the best wrestler in Richards High School history, where the Oak Lawn native became a two-time IHSA state champion in 1980 and 1981 at 112 and 119 pounds, respectively. A four-time state place winner, he finished his high school career with a record of 138-4, including posting a perfect 75-0 record in duals en route to receiving All-American honors.

Kelly continued his wrestling career collegiately at Iowa State University, where he was a four-time NCAA National Tournament qualifier. His career culminated in 1987, when he won an NCAA National Championship while also helping the Cyclones win the national team title.

In Billy's final college match at the NCAA Finals, he faced Iowa's returning national champion. With Dan Gable's team on the verge of making history as the first to claim 10 straight team titles, Billy delivered a stunning upset, pinning his opponent with the infamous spladle. His victory not only denied Iowa its record-breaking title, but also secured the team championship for the Cyclones.

Kelly has been enshrined in the IWCOA, National Wrestling, and Glen Brand Wrestling Halls of Fame of Iowa Halls of Fame, while also receiving Iowa State's prestigious Walt Smith Ring for Most Outstanding Career. He collected 106 wins in his collegiate career, becoming one of 39 Iowa State records to break the century mark.



# GRAND MARSHALS

## JERRY KELLY



Jerry Kelly set the stage for the family's famed wrestling lineage at Richards High School in Oak Lawn, where he won a pair of IHSA Individual State Titles in 1977 and 1978 at 112 and 119 pounds respectively. During high school, he was also a five-time place winner and freestyle champion in the USA Junior National Tournament, while also placing sixth in the US Olympic Team Trials.

Jerry wrestled collegiately at Oklahoma State University, where he became a two-time All-American after placing second in 1980 and third in 1981.

After graduating, he set his sights on coaching, as he joined the coaching staff at Iowa State University, where he had the opportunity to coach his younger brother and fellow 2025 Grand Marshal, Billy.

Jerry returned to Illinois and joined the high school coaching ranks in the early 1990's, as he spent over a decade coaching at Monticello High School. He was named the Illinois Assistant Coach of the Year in 1996 by the IWCOA and was elected to the organization's Hall of Fame two years later.

Jerry went to serve as the head coach at MacMurray College in Jacksonville from 2003 to 2007, before starting a 17-year stint as the head coach of the Iron Sharpens Iron Wrestling Academy. He also served simultaneously as an assistant coach at Addison Trail High School for over a decade beginning in 2010.

Jerry's daughter, Mary Kelly, was a trailblazing female wrestler in the state and will serve as a Grand Marshal at the 2025 IHSA Girls Individual Wrestling State Finals on March 1.

# GRAND MARSHALS

## MARY KELLY



Mary attended her first wrestling event in her first week of life, riding the bus along with the Iowa State wrestling team to Nebraska for a tournament that her Uncle Bill was competing in. She was born into a wrestling family with deep roots in Illinois. Her father and Uncle were from the south side of Chicago and earned induction into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame for their respective careers. Mary followed them with her own Hall of Fame induction in 2019.

Mary began her wrestling career at the age of nine when her parents, Jerry and Beccie, decided to sign her brother Chris up for the local kid's club wrestling team. Mary followed suit and began competing on the all-boys Mahomet-Seymour kids club team until joining the Mahomet-Seymour Junior High team in 7th grade. Mary went undefeated until the State Tournament (31-1) in seventh grade. With the same undefeated scenario in 8th grade, she placed third in the IESA State Finals (36-1).

As a high school wrestler, Mary was a varsity starter from her sophomore through her senior year and was elected a team captain her senior year. She was the first female to win a match at the IHSA Dual Team State Tournament, where she helped lead the Bulldogs to third and fourth places finishes in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Mary won 75 varsity matches as a three-year starter. She was coached by IWCOA Hall of Fame Coaches, Rob Porter, Tom Porter, and Steve Combs. Combs had a huge influence on her summer freestyle wrestling.

While still in High School she became involved with women's wrestling competitions. She represented the USA competing in age group World Championships, winning silver in 1998 at Cadet Worlds and gold in 1999. She won silver in the 2000 Junior World Championships and a bronze in 2003. Mary also took home a bronze in the 2005 World University Games. All told, Mary was a Cadet World Champ and she would win five total world level medals.

After high school Mary attended multiple colleges pursuing her wrestling endeavors, including the U.S. Olympic Education Center at Northern Michigan University. She eventually moved on to become a resident athlete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Mary placed fourth in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Trials. She won the USA World Team Trails in 2006 and finished ninth at the Senior World Championships in Guangzhou, China. She competed on the 2007 World Cup Team, placing fifth. Mary was on the U.S. National team for seven years, representing the U.S. internationally in tournaments in 15 countries during her career.



# GRAND MARSHALS

After Mary's career came to an end due to injury, she continued on the road to recovery earning her degree in Community Health Education. She has turned her love of athletics and fitness into the health and wellness realm with Personal Training and CrossFit. Mary is now engaged to her fiancé Jeremy. Together they reside on the Big Island in Hawaii.

In 2025, the Mahomet-Seymour girls wrestling program began hosting the Mary Kelly Invitational.

## FRED ARKIN



Fred was introduced to wrestling in 1970 as a freshman at Oak Park & River Forest High School (OPRF) and eventually went on to compete collegiately at Washington University in St. Louis.

It was after college when Fred returned to the Oak Park area that he found his true calling in wrestling as a coach, administrator, and advocate for the sport. He organized and built the OPRF Little Huskies Wrestling Club and then did the same with Junior Cougar Wrestling Club at JB Conant High School.

Fred became very active in the IKWF and the Illinois Wrestling Federation (IWF). He coached and officiated Freestyle and Greco Roman programs, participating in state, regional, national and international events.

Fred went on to hold multiple leadership positions for IWF, providing much needed organization and vision. Under his leadership as the State Chairman, he oversaw IWF growth that saw its membership swell to the second largest in the nation. The IWF successfully hosted the 1994 Cadet World Championships and developed USA Wrestling's Junior National Dual Meet Championships. Under Fred's leadership, IWF also went on to found the Freshman/Sophomore State Tournament Series.

Fred's work with USAWrestling brought him to the 1995 World Championships and 1996 Olympic Games where he contributed as a volunteer staff member in the wrestling venue. For the past 15 years Fred has managed bench operations for the Midlands Wrestling Championships. He was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2010 for his contributions to the sport of wrestling.

In 2008, Fred returned to OPRF as a member of the of the coaching staff that won four IHSA 3A Dual Team Wrestling State Championships.

Then in 2017, Fred turned his attention to Girls Wrestling. He helped create the IWCOA Girls State Championships.

## **GRAND MARSHALS**

He went on to build a girls wrestling program at OPRF, where he hosted the first-ever high school girls wrestling tournament in Illinois, which consisted of 14 girls in three brackets. Together with leaders of the West Suburban Conference, Fred also went on to run the first girls conference wrestling tourney in state history.

As the Co-Chairman of the IWCOA's Steering Committee for Girls Wrestling, Fred used a grassroots approach to provide assistance to schools and coaches as they created opportunities for girls to participate on teams and in competitions.

Fred supported the IHSA by drafting the by-law to officially add Girls Wrestling as a sport. Fred's facilitation of growth and participation in Girls Wrestling for IHSA member schools lead to the establishment of and IHSA Girls State Tournament Series in 2022.

It is only fitting that the first girl to win a match at the inaugural IHSA Girls State Tournament in 2022 was coached by Fred.

# GRAND MARSHALS

## 1975

Joe Vavrus, Moline  
John Fitzgerald, Reavis

## 1976

Ted Czech, Thornton  
Elias George, Evanston

## 1977

Lou Slimmer, Proviso East  
Bill Schmitt, Granite City

## 1978

James Custer, Pekin  
Bob Hicks, Tilden Tech

## 1979

Art Adams, Normal  
Bob Strange, Lawrenceville

## 1980

Charles Farina, East Leyden  
Jack Marino, Proviso East

## 1981

Steve Combs, Moline  
Werner Holzer, Schurz

## 1982

Art Kraft, Sterling/Northwestern  
Ken Kraft, Sterling/Northwestern

## 1983

Charles Anderson, Savanna

## 1984

Ed Ewoldt, Wheaton Central  
Jack Riley, Northwestern

## 1985

Ken Marlin, Champaign  
Bob Therry, North Chicago

## 1986

John George, Evergreen Park  
Pete George, Fenton

## 1987

Robert Emmons, Arlington Heights  
Don Flavin, DeKalb  
Amos Jones, North Chicago  
John Swalec, Libertyville

## 1988

Max Armer, LaGrange  
Larry Kristoff, Carbondale  
Murney Lazier, LaGrange  
Bill Weick, Chicago

## 1989

Roy Conrad, Chicago  
Robert Mann, Park Ridge  
William Mann, Park Ridge  
Larry TenPas, Waukegan

## 1990

Ted Rousse, Antioch  
Carson DeJarnett, Sterling  
Harold Samorian, Northbrook  
Gene Swierczewski, Hoffman Estates

## 1991

Rick Bay, Waukegan  
George Girardi, Normal  
Jack Leese, Leyden  
Pete Willson, Wheaton

## 1992

Jarrett Hubbard, Joliet  
Mark Johnson, Rock Island  
Mark Massery, Savanna  
Dick Mudge, Arlington Heights

## 1993

James Gardner, Springfield  
Jack Gardner, Springfield  
Tom Heniff, Oak Lawn  
Marty Schwartz, Leyden

## 1994

Bob Fulk, Glenbard North  
Dale Pierre, Wheaton North  
Ron Ray, Bloom Trail  
Jack Stoudt, Pekin

## 1995

Floyd Bee, Lincoln  
Bob Easter, Peoria Richwoods  
Wayne Miller, DeKalb  
Willie Williams, Country Club Hills

## 1996

James Craig, Oak Lawn  
Mike Farina, York  
Tom Porter, Champaign  
Jon Schaus, Geneva

## 1997

George Dyche, Aurora West  
Bert Kraus, LaGrange  
Henry Pillard, Joliet  
Walter Sherman, Glenbrook North

## 1998

Bob Billberg, Libertyville  
Ed Luety, Melrose Park  
Steve Weiss, Bensenville  
Rex Whitlatch, Urbana/Hinsdale

## 1999

Dr. Tom Flanigan, New Lenox  
Brad Glass, Winnetka  
Rick Mann, Hersey  
Don Robinson, Bloomington

## 2000

Dan Cliffe, DeKalb  
Joe Cliffe, DeKalb  
John Ellis, Palatine  
Bob Pickens, Evanston

## 2001

Jim Bowers, Bloomington  
Ray Cummings, Pesotum  
Tony Parks, Addison Trail  
Jack Robinson, Harvey

## 2002

Mark King, LaGrange  
Terry McCann, Chicago  
Dr. Joseph Pedersen, Darien  
Dr. Dan Sherman, Deerfield

# GRAND MARSHALS

## 2003

Bill Cartwright, Proviso East  
Jim Cartwright, Conant  
Augie Genovesi, Niles Notre Dame  
Jim Krueplestaedter, New Trier

## 2004

Greg Cozzi, Palatine  
Mike Manahan, Stanford Olympia  
Mac McLaughlin, Joliet  
Norm Parker, Chicago

## 2005

Renny Garshelis, Charleston  
Larry Gassen, Downers Grove S.  
Morrie Geselter, Deerfield  
Mike Wilkey, Oak Park

## 2006

Bernie Botheroyd, Glenbard West  
Tim Cysewski, Northwestern U.  
Marty Williams, Mahomet  
Bill Young, Naperville

## 2007

Bruce Bartosz, Antioch  
Lon Gerrish, Sandwich  
Bill Marquardt, Bloomington  
Mike Portincaso, Glendale Heights

## 2008

Greg Brooks, Chicago  
Dan Fulscher, Lincoln  
John Gremer, Urbana  
Pat O'Conner, Glasford

## 2009

Niall Collins, Oak Park  
Mark Gervais, Marist  
Robert Jones, Decatur  
Tony Licocci, Rock Falls

## 2010

Dave Mathews, Crown Point  
Dennis McCann, Maine South  
Rich Montgomery, Rock Falls  
Jim Patton, Woodstock

## 2011

Larry Bernard, Joliet  
Ed Giese, Elmhurst  
Ron Oglesby, Alsip  
Robert Whelan, Salisbury, NC

## 2012

Don Pittman, Champaign  
Neil McCauley, Naperville  
Leo Kocher, University of Chicago  
Jim Carnahan, Rock Island

## 2013

Dave Gannaway, Mackinaw  
Tim Haak, Harvard  
Mike Polz, Orland Park  
Don Schultz, Burbank

## 2014

Bill Honeycutt, Woodridge  
Dale Eggert, Libertyville  
Anthony Clarke, Zion  
Don Behm, East Lansing, MI

## 2015

Wayne Mammen, Urbana  
Steve Marianetti, Elmhurst  
Ron Reichert, Lowell, IN  
Tim Dodge, Lindenhurst

## 2016

Howard Becker, Wilmington  
Ron Bessemer, Harper JC  
Randy Conrad, East Leyden  
Joe Summerville, Tolono Unity

## 2017

Mike Bukovsky, Lombard  
Jim Chaloupka, Berwyn  
Dave Curby, LaGrange  
Ray Winesburg, Elgin

## 2018

Alvin Kaltofen, College of DuPage  
Rob Ledin, Mahomet  
Ralph McCausland, EIU  
Todd Rosenthal, Moline

## 2019

Ron Coit, Farmer City  
Don Mekeel, Sterling  
Rob Murphy, Wilmington  
Ron Ryan, Mt. Olive

## 2020

Dave Klemm, Lincoln College  
Debbie Nason, Orland Park  
Mike Matozzi, Hinsdale South  
Kevin Puebla, Augustana

## 2022

Bernie Ruettiger, Minooka  
Johnny Ruettiger, Lisle  
Mark Ruettiger, Providence/EIU/Lincoln Way  
Dominic Ruettiger, St. Charles/Neuqua Valley  
Tim Ruettiger, Providence

## 2023

Mike Garland, Granite City  
Larry Kanke, Geneseo  
Randy Konstans, Downers Grove  
Roy Snyder, Rochelle  
Debbie Nason, Orland Park (Girls)

## 2024

Mark Hahn, Carol Stream (Glenbard N.)  
Rob Porter, Naperville  
Harry McGinnis, Triton  
Jeff Hill, Petersburg (PORTA)  
Tony Clarke, Zion (Girls)

## 2025

Dave Froehlich, Rolling Meadows  
Mike Hurckes, Ringwood  
Billy Kelly, Richards/OK St.  
Jerry Kelly, Richards/Iowa St.  
Mary Kelly, Mahomet (Girls)  
Fred Arkin, Oak Park (Girls)

**The IWCOA wishes to thank the following level  
sponsors for their generous donations**

**Platinum Level  
\$500 and above**

Dale Eggert  
Greg Gardner  
Frank Giannamore  
Mike Hurckes

Marty Kaiser  
Mark & Carol Mestemacher  
Rich Montgomery  
Daniel Weber

**Jack Leese, in recognition of Joe Cliffe, Dan Cliffe and Randy Conrad**

**Gold Level  
Up to \$500**

Rick Bay  
Joe & Laurie Cliffe  
Bob Culbertson  
Ray Cummings  
Dan Cysewski

Craig Fallico  
Mark Gervais  
Rod Houston  
Richard Kerby  
Ralph McCausland

Kirby Rodgers  
Walter Sherman  
Rob Sherrill  
John Wiser

**Silver Level  
Up to \$100**

Russ Baum  
Larry Bernard  
Sean Bormet  
James Carnahan  
Scott Clark  
Ron Coit  
Niall Collins  
Randy Conrad  
Kevin Cotter  
Bobby Culbertson  
Raymond Cummings  
Dave Eberhard  
Steve Endsley  
Ed Ewoldt  
Dan Fulscher

Tom Futris  
Mark Gardner  
Lon Gerrish  
Morrie Geselter  
Kris Kamp  
Jerry Kelly  
Glenn Lid  
Richard Lovelette  
Rick Mann  
Dennis McCann  
Terry McCoy  
Sandra McLaughlin  
Ed Mears  
Don Mekeel  
Rob Murphy

Todd Rosenthal  
Tom Rossiano  
Russ Schneider  
Neil Schultz  
Roy Snyder  
Warren "Babe" Stahlhut  
Sandy Stevens  
Ron Stuart  
Don Stumpf  
Mick Torres  
Jon Wagner  
John Wehmeier  
Robert Zielinski  
Harrisburg Schools

**The IWCOA wishes to thank the following level  
sponsors for their generous donations**

**Bronze Level  
Up to \$50**

Greg Anderson  
Robert Baker  
David Brost  
Mike Chapman  
Gary Cook  
Stan Gruszka  
Bill Honeycutt  
Thomas Johnson  
Vic Marcucci

Tod McCullough  
King Mueller  
James Raabe  
Charles Rossetti  
Ronald Semetis  
Ross Truemper  
Ronald Vermillion  
William Walker  
John Young

**The IWCOA also wishes to thank the  
following for their generous donations to  
the 2024 Hall of Fame Banquet**

Rick Bay  
Larry Bernard  
Joe Cliffe  
Dan Cysewski  
Brenda Dergo  
Dave Gannaway

Frank Giannamore  
Jevon Herman  
Richard Mann  
Vic Marcucci  
Mark Massery  
Charles Merzian

Shane Morgan  
Jon Schaus  
Roy Snyder  
Sandy Stevens  
Dan Wisniewski

**Congratulations to  
the Class of 2025 on  
your Induction into  
the IWCOA Hall of  
Fame.**

**Sponsored by**

**Lon Gerrish**

**The IWCOA wishes to thank the following corporate sponsors for their generous donations and encourage everyone to frequent their businesses.**

**Trophies by George**

**Resilite**

**RUDIS**

**Varsitee Screenprinting**

**Aftershock Decals**

## *MEN OF COURAGE*



*Kevin McCann and Brett Harman were outstanding athletes and great young men. Brett wrestled at Maine South High School for Hall of Fame Coaches Craig Fallico and Dennis McCann while Kevin wrestled at Notre Dame High School for Hall of Fame Coach Augie Genovesi and played football for Coach Mike Hennessey. Both were teammates and best friends from their youth wrestling day, and both went on to excellent college wrestling careers - Kevin at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Brett at the United States Naval Academy. Kevin and Brett were champion wrestlers, team captains, and true leaders by accomplishments, attitude, and example.*

*In September 2004, Kevin and friends from Chicago visited Brett in North Carolina. Brett was now a Marine Lieutenant ready to leave for Iraq. They went to a college football game and stopped a drug crazed; drunken driver was recklessly driving through the parking lot, endangering the life of everyone. The driver came back later, and with his brother, lured Brett and Kevin into a trap. They shot Brett in cold blood, and when Kevin courageously went to defend him, they murdered Kevin. Brett and Kevin died valiantly defending others and each other.*

*Brett and Kevin have left a legacy of honor, love, and courage to the many, many people whose lives they touched. Their heart, sensitivity, toughness, warmth, and love are remembered daily. They will never be forgotten.*



Since the last Hall of Fame Banquet the wrestling community has lost several Outstanding Hall of Fame Members. These gentlemen have made a huge impact on the sport of wrestling in Illinois. Illinois Wrestling thanks you for your service. Rest In Peace.



Eric Bates



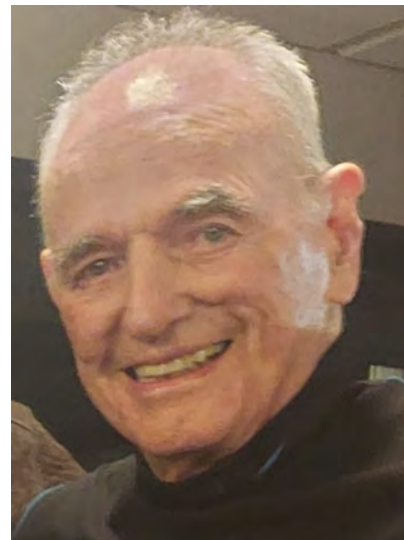
Bob Fulk



Norman Lovelace



Charles Merzian



James Patton

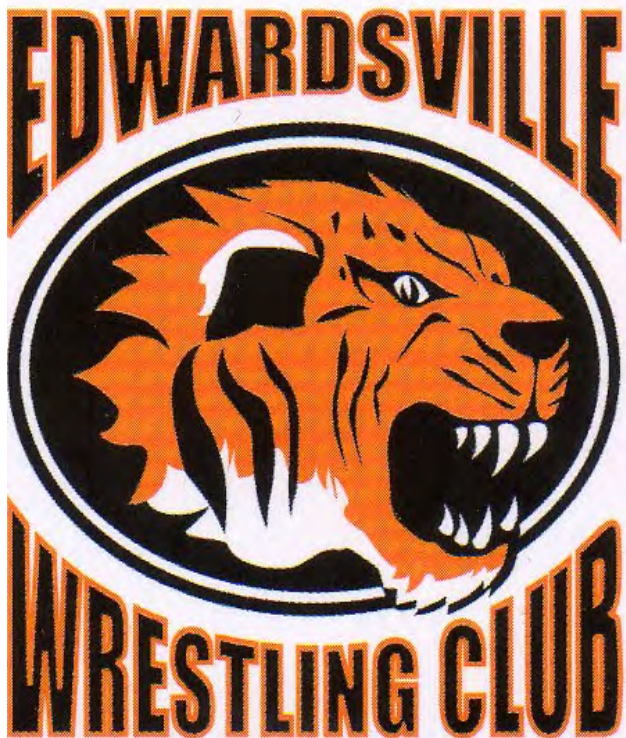


Warren "Babe" Stalhut



Al Zinke





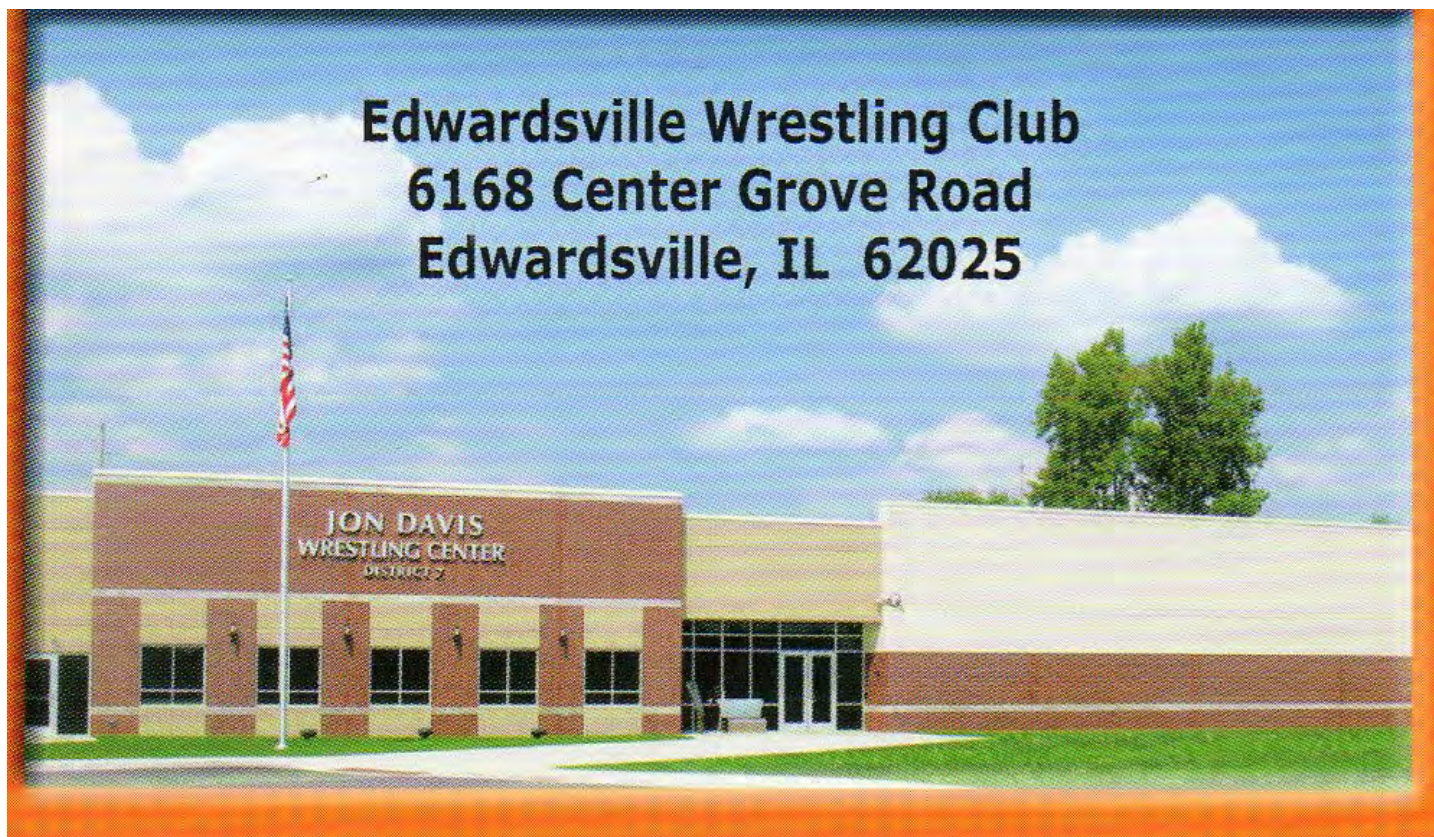
**Mark Mestemacher**  
Edwardsville Wrestling Club

[markewc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markewc@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: 314-422-0159

Fax: 618-692-9482

**Edwardsville Wrestling Club**  
**6168 Center Grove Road**  
**Edwardsville, IL 62025**





ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SHIRK CENTER - BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL

2025



JUN. 28, 2025

NOV. 1, 2025

MIDWEST NATIONALS & PRE-SEASON OPEN

WRESTLING



Tournament

CHAMPIONS ARE MADE IN THE OFF-SEASON

