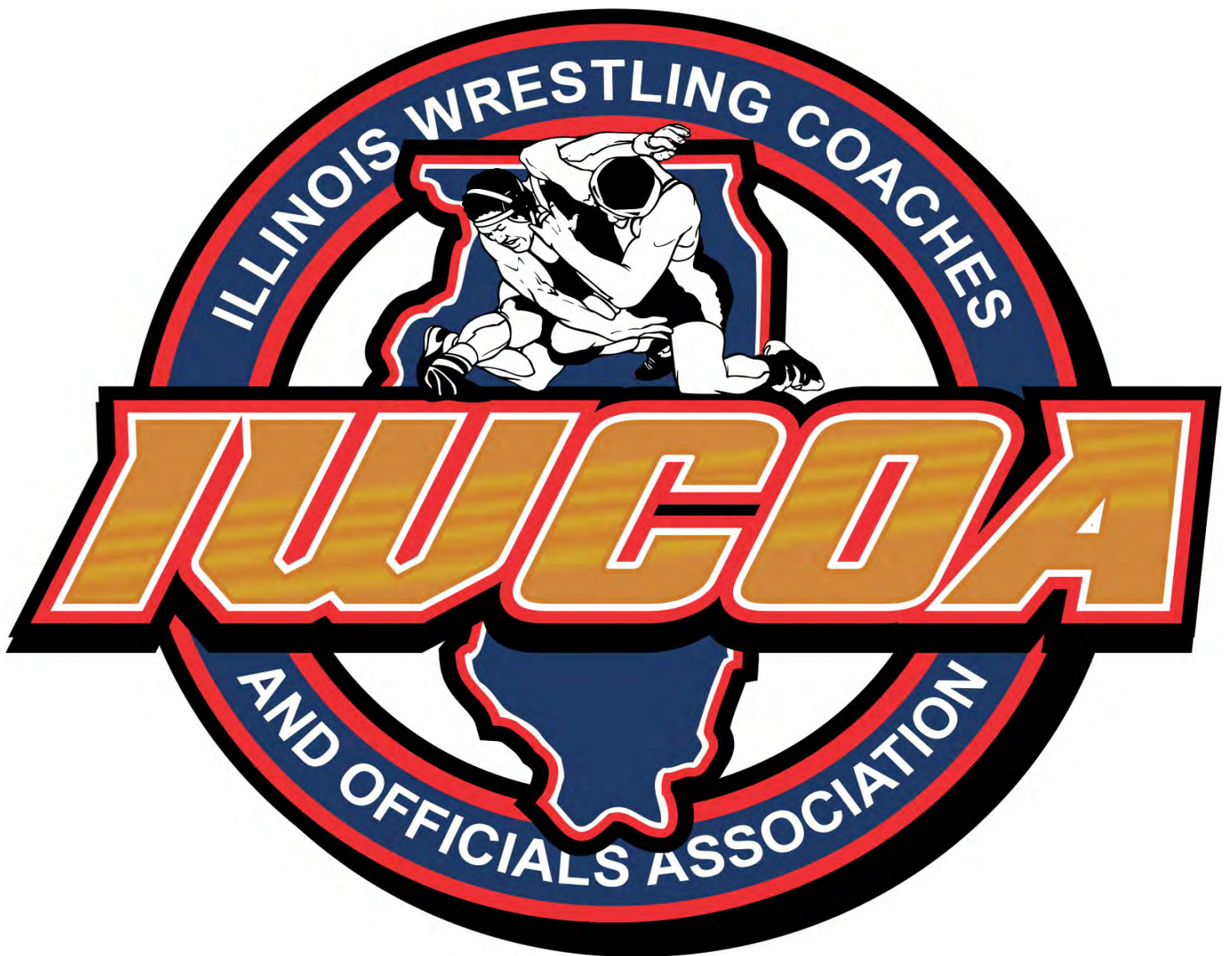


54th Annual

Lifetime Service Awards
and
Hall of Fame
Banquet



Sunday April 19, 2026
Doubletree by Hilton
Alsip, Illinois

The Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA)

President's Greeting

Dear Wrestling Community,

Thank you for attending the 54th 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 –

- Organizes and helped purchase new mats at the IHSA State Tournaments
- Organizes and supports the second annual Girls Dual State Tournament, hosted by DeKalb High School
- Secures, finances and posted Rob Sherril's Illinois Best Weekly
- Posts wrestling articles covering wrestling news throughout the state of Illinois
- Updates our website to include an article archive with articles dating back to 2019.
- Finances Hall of Fame and State Champion Interviews by Paul Garcia, Garcia Video Productions and a hype video produced by JD Oliva, BarbCast
- Organizes and supports the annual Boys Freshman and Sophomore and Girls State Tournament Series with record numbers competing at the state tournament this year.
- Works with the University of Illinois in the fall to promote the Illinois State Coaches Clinic.
- Works diligently to recruit, license and train wrestling officials across the state with preseason in-person clinics and in-season weekly webinars.
- Supports 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 Achievement Award winners, our new Hall of Fame inductees and the winners of our Wrestlers, Coaches, Administrators, and Newspersons of the Year Award winners.

This year we have two Persons of the Year Award winners. I'm excited to recognize both Kennedy Blades and Matt Gruska. Both Kennedy and Matt have worked tirelessly to advance women's wrestling in the state of Illinois, albeit in different ways. Kennedy, an Olympic Silver medalist, has shown girls and women throughout the state what is possible through constant hard work and determination at the highest levels. Matt, a teacher and coach at Schaumburg High School, has continuously worked with the IHSA and IWCOA, along with advisory committees to advance and improve girls wrestling in Illinois, all while coaching state caliber teams year in and year out.

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 through 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 | 2001 – Dan Fulscher, Official, Lincoln |
| 1972 – Steve Combs, Coach, Deerfield | 2002 – Mike Manahan, Coach, Stanford |
| 1973 – Wayne Miller, Coach, DeKalb | 2003 – Mike Manahan, Coach, Stanford |
| 1976 – Jim Schultz, Coach, Glenbard South | 2004 – Mike Wilkey, Official, Oak Park |
| 1977 – George Dyche, Coach, West Aurora | 2005 – Mike Wilkey, Official, Oak Park |
| 1978 – Charles Anderson, Coach, Savanna | 2006 – Joe Cliffe, Coach, Prairie Central |
| 1979 – Charles Farina, Coach, East Leyden | 2007 – Joe Cliffe, Coach, Prairie Central |
| 1980 – Tony Parks, Coach, Addison Trail | 2008 – Mike Bukovsky, Coach, Montini |
| 1981 – Mark King, Coach, LaGrange (Lyons) | 2009 – Mike Bukovsky, Coach, Montini |
| 1982 – Steve Weiss, Coach, Fenton | 2010 – Rob Ledin, Coach, Mahomet-Seymour |
| 1983 – Rick Mann, Coach, Hersey | 2011 – Rob Ledin, Coach, Mahomet-Seymour |
| 1984 – Jim Cartwright, Coach, Conant | 2012 – Mike Matozzi, Coach, Hinsdale South |
| 1985 – Bernie Botheroyd, Coach, Glenbard W. | 2013 – Mike Matozzi, Coach, Hinsdale South |
| 1986 – Jerry Ancona, Coach, Lake Park | 2014 – Rich Montgomery, Coach, Rock Falls |
| 1987 – Tom Heniff, Official, Oak Lawn | 2015 – Rich Montgomery, Coach, Rock Falls |
| 1988 – Tom Heniff, Official, Oak Lawn | 2016 – Rob Murphy, Coach, Wilmington |
| 1989 – Mark Gervais, Coach, Marist | 2017 – Rob Murphy, Coach, Wilmington |
| 1990 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb | 2018 – Don Mekeel, Official, Sterling |
| 1991 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb | 2019 – Don Mekeel, Official, Sterling |
| 1992 – Augie Genovesi, Coach, Notre Dame | 2020 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle |
| 1993 – Augie Genovesi, Coach, Notre Dame | 2021 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle |
| 1994 – Joe Pedersen, Official, Naperville | 2022 – Roy Snyder, Official, Rochelle |
| 1995 – Joe Pedersen, Official, Naperville | 2023 – Nate Kessen, Official, Sugar Grove |
| 1996 – Dan Cliffe, Coach, DeKalb | 2024 – Nate Kessen, Official, Sugar Grove |
| 1997 – Gary Thacker, Coach, Belvidere | 2025 – Rob Porter, Coach, Naperville Central |
| 1998 – Gary Baum, Coach, Kaneland | 2026 – Rob Porter, Coach, Naperville Central |
| 1999 – Gary Baum, Coach, Kaneland | |
| 2000 – Dan Fulscher, Official, Lincoln | |

IWCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Tony Clarke – President-Elect, Officials Chair, Publicity, Membership, Banquet, Hall of Fame Selection, Girls Wrestling Development

Nate Kessen – Immediate Past President, Secretary, 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

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

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 Pila – Membership

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

2026 – Andy Gardner

54th IWCOA HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Sunday April 19, 2026

REGISTRATION & SOCIAL

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

PRE-DINNER AWARDS

3:00 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

3:45 p.m.

INVOCATION & DINNER

4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

PERSON OF THE YEAR

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARDS

5:00 p.m.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

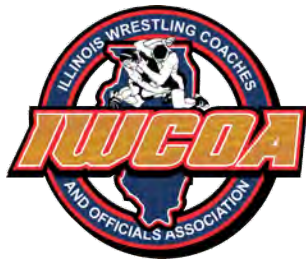
5:30 p.m.

SOCIAL

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Table of Contents:

- IWCOA 2025-26 Season Voting Award Winners
- 2026 IWCOA Special Award Winners
- 2026 Academic All-State Wrestlers
- Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation
- 2026 IWCOA Special Recognition Awards
- Persons 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
- NHSACA Award Announcements



2026 IWCOA Award Winners



Class 3A Head Coach of the Year

Tyrone Byrd, Lincoln-Way (Central)

Class 3A Assistant Coach of the Year

Spartak Chino, Aurora (Marmion Academy)

Class 2A Head Coach of the Year

Rob Ledin, Mahomet-Seymour

Class 2A Assistant Coach of the Year

Crag Acree, Mahomet-Seymour

Class 1A Head Coach of the Year

Josh Carter, Gibson City Melvin-Sibley

Class 1A Assistant Coach of the Year

Bob McGuinn, Coal City

Girls Head Coach of the Year

Matt Todd, Hampshire

Girls Assistant Coach of the Year

Chris Gochis, Maple Park (Kaneland)

Class 3A Administrator of the Year

Mike Dwyer, Lockport (Twp.)

Official of the Year

Russell Henson, Rochelle

Class 2A Administrator of the Year

Matt Hensley, Mahomet-Seymour

Newsperson of the Year

Mike Garafola, Daily Herald & IWCOA Features

Class 1A Administrator of the Year

Corey Mikula, Coal City

Classic Dual Outstanding Wrestlers

Team Lincoln – Brody Kelly, Elmhurst (IC Catholic);
Lucas Nance, Palatine (Fremd)
Team Reagan – Alec Del Toro, East Peoria; Lucas
Nance, Palatine (Fremd)
Team Illinois Girls – Nadiia Shymkiv, Lombard
(Glenbard East)

Outstanding Wrestlers

Girls – Claudia Heeney, Lockport (Twp.)
1A – Garrett VerHeecke, Decatur (Unity Christian)
2A – Wyatt Medlin, Washington
3A – Dom Munaretto, St. Charles (East)

Scholastic Wrestlers of the Year

Girls – Zoe Dempsey, Lincoln-Way (West) D210 Coop
1A – Oliver McPeck, Lena Winslow Stockton
2A – Logan Makiney, Washington
3A – Zev Koransky, Oak Park-River Forest

2026 IWCOA SPECIAL AWARDS

Gold Level Awards

Austin O'Connor, St. Rita / Univ. of North Carolina, 2X NCAA Division I Champion
Kennedy Blades, University of Iowa, Olympic Silver Medalist
Rich Montgomery, Rock Falls, NHSACA Hall of Fame Inductee
Pekin High School, 1000 dual meet victories

Silver Level Awards

Todd Yegge, Seneca High School
400 Career Wins

Dale Kimberlin, Bishop McNamara High School
40+ Years or Coaching Service

Foley Calcagno, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Four Time State Medalist

Kai Calcutt, Wilmette (Loyola Academy)
Four Time State Medalist

Nicolas Garcia, Aurora (Marmion Academy)
3 Time State Champion, Four Time State Medalist

Jason Hampton, Joliet (Catholic Academy)
Four Time State Medalist

Dillon Hinton, Vandalia
Four Time State Medalist

Josh Hoffer, Washington
Four Time State Medalist

Wyatt Medlin, Washington
3 Time State Champion, Four Time State Medalist

Dom Munaretto, St. Charles (East)
3 Time State Champion, Four Time State Medalist

Jonathan Rulo, Belleville (East)
Four Time State Medalist

Aaron Stewart, Gurnee (Warren)
3 Time State Champion, Four Time State Medalist

Zach Stewart, Aurora (Marmion)
Three Time State Champion

Clinton VerHeecke, Decatur
(Lutheran/Unity)
Four Time State Medalist

Garrett VerHeecke, Decatur
(Lutheran/Unity)
Four Time State Medalist

Dean Wainwright, Port Byron (Riverdale)
Four Time State Medalist

Justin Wardlow, Lockport (Twp.)
Four Time State Medalist

Brody Widlowski, Coal City
Four Time State Medalist

Sydney Cannon, Mt. Zion
Four Time State Medalist

Lily Enos, Batavia
Four Time State Medalist

Claudia Heeney, Lockport (Twp.)
3 Time State Champion, Four Time State Medalist

Jasmine Rene, Wheeling
Four Time State Medalist

Nadiia Shymkiv, Lombard (Glenard East)
Four Time State Medalist

Dave Fellingner, Chicago
15 State Finals Officiated

2026 IWCOA SPECIAL AWARDS

Bronze Level Awards

Natalie Beaumont, Toledo (Cumberland)
Two Time State Champion

Brody Kelly, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Two Time State Champion

Eli Larson, Lena (L.-Winslow)
Two Time State Champion

Liam Kelly, Chicago (Mt. Carmel)
Two Time State Champion

Jaxon Penovich, Mt. Prospect (Prospect) / St. Viator
Two Time State Champion

Ted Brandon, Canton
5 State Finals Officiated

Rich Vine, Aurora
5 State Finals Officiated

Jim Earner, Chicago
5 State Finals Officiated

Terry Morgan, Chatham
5 State Finals Officiated

Blake Ohren, Highland
5 State Finals Officiated

Torry Caniglia, Addison
5 State Finals Officiated

Son Ho, Bloomington
5 State Finals Officiated

2026 IWCOA Academic All State Wrestlers

Grace Aeschliman, Metamora	Julian Collins, Jr., Chicago (UIC College Prep)
Christian Allen, Poplar Grove (North Boone)	Jasper Cook, Mt. Zion
Brooklyn Anderson, McHenry	Evan Cox, Clifton (Central)
Tala Asad, Springfield (H.S.)	Jacob Crandall, Joliet (West)
Aksel Avila Rodriguez, Beardstown	Max Cumbee Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Zahabia Badru, Chicago (Lane)	Jose Curiel, Chicago (Lane)
Gavin Bafia, Gardner (G.-South Wilmington)	Sam Cushman, Barrington
Makiya Baker, Fairbury (Prairie Central)	Ben Cyrkiel, Minooka
Vincent Baker, Mt. Zion	Addison Davis, Minooka
Arrison Bauer, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton	Harrison Dea, Morton
Natalie Beaumont, Toledo (Cumberland)	Zoe Dempsey, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)
Oluwafemi Belagun, Chatham (Glenwood)	Lilly Disanto, Urbana (H.S.)
Logan Biles, Machesney Park (Harlem)	Declan Dolan, Durand
Coper Bode, Sycamore	Dermot Dolan, Durand
Ciara Bolf, Ottawa (Twp.)	Brody D'Orazio, Coal City
Kian Bramer, Kankakee (McNamara)	Gavin Farley, Fox Lake (Grant)
Bo Branum, Harvard	Shane Downs, Plano
Mason Bruce, Springfield (H.S.)	Elsie Dozier, Chatham (Glenwood)
Bryce Bryant, Springfield (H.S.)	Luke Eganhouse, Normal Community
Jalen Byrd, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)	Cameron Engels, Bartlett
Foley Calcagno, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)	Therese Escano, Minooka
Sydney Cannon, Mt. Zion	Hannah Falster, McHenry
Mason Caraway, Normal Community	Mason Garner, Coal City
Callie Carr, Darien (Hinsdale South)	Analiese Garretson, Yorkville (H.S.)
Giselle Castillo, Bensenville (Fenton)	Anya Geltz, Tremont
Ethan Cavallo, Normal Community	Caleb Greer, Mackinaw (Deer Creek-M.)
Ben Chaffer, Morton	Evan Greggain, Coal City
Austin Chiesi, Normal Community	Sammie Greisen, Seneca
Natalia Cordova, Chicago (Lane)	Lincoln Hager, West Chicago (Wheaton Academy)
Seraphine Coduiha, IV, Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West)	Jason Hampton, Joliet (J. Catholic Academy)
Alexa Colin-Garcia, McHenry	Kamden Hawkins, Chatham (Glenwood)

2026 IWCOA Academic All State Wrestlers

Landon Hebel, Seneca	Maja Makowska, Bensenville (Fenton)
Aiden Hennings, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)	Bianco Mangalindan, McHenry
Max Herman, New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)	Nicholas Marchese, Crystal Lake (Central)
Mathew Hutchison, Georgetown (G.-Ridge Farm)	Payton McCoy, Beardstown
Noah Houston, Coal City	Tannen McKerg, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge)
Brian Hunt, Wauconda	Oliver McPeck, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton
Cecilia Irwin, Springfield (H.S.)	Maddox Medrano, Beardstown
Avery Jaime, Bethalto (Civic Memorial)	Hunter Meeker, Georgetown (G.-Ridge Farm)
Trey Jones, Durand	Braden Monahan, Chatham (Glenwood)
Tyler Jones, West Chicago (Wheaton Academy)	Cooper Morris, Coal City
Kannon Judycki, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)	Cody Moss, Chatham (Glenwood)
Brody Kelly, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)	Luke Munsterman, Coal City
Aidan Kenny, Coal City	Sammy Murante, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Cole Kimberlin, Kankakee (McNamara)	Robert Murphy, Minooka
Jay Klemish, Breese (Central)	Michelle Naftzger, Erie
Jack Koenig, Chicago (St. Patrick)	Frank Nitti, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Casey Koerner, Joliet (West)	Marian Nordsell, Minooka
Zev Koransky, Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest)	Dominic Pasquale, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Aiden Kuzhlmattathil, Mt. Prospect (Prospect)	Gavin Payne, Mt. Prospect (Prospect)
Noah Langston, Vandalia	Ayden Perez, Seneca
Eli Larson, Lena (L.-Winslow)/Stockton	Brenden Peters, Harvard
Haiden Lavarier, Seneca	Joey Pontrelli, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)
Changmin "Ricky" Lee, Moline (Quad Cities Christian)	Tristan Porter, Mattoon
Ziaire Lee, Chatham (Glenwood)	Alliyah Powell, Springfield (H.S.)
Julian Liu, Palos Heights (Chicago Christian)	Cade Poyner, Coal City
Zeke Lizano, Moline (Quad Cities Christian)	Fenton Pratt, Chicago (Lane)
Juan Lopez Velaquez, Bensenville (Fenton)	Kaleb Pratt, Barrington
Avery Maentz, Mt. Prospect (Prospect)	Larry Quirk, Fox Lake (Grant)
Logan Makiney, Washington	Tristan Radeke, Joliet (West)
	Julian Rammelkamp, Chatham (Glenwood)
	Johnathan Randles, Clifton (Central)
	Isabella Resendez, Chatham (Glenwood)

2026 IWCOA Academic All State Wrestlers

Caleb Reymer, Erie	Lyndon Thies, Roxana
Ezra Rodriguez, Minooka	Carson Thornton, Mt. Zion
Ithandehui Rosas, Harvard	Jenna Tuxhorn, Chatham (Glenwood)
Brock Ross, Mascoutah	Abby Underhill, Minooka
Krish Sahu, Grayslake (Central)	Logan VanDuyne, Wilmington
Joaquin Salamedia, Chicago (Lane)	Gunner Varland, Seneca
Toy Sands, Durand	Bryan Islas Vasquez, Beardstown
Alexander Schaefer, Ottawa (Marquett)	Yurithzy Vitichis, Fairbury (Prairie Central)
Anthony Sebastian, Elmhurst (IC Catholic)	Mason Vogt, Minooka
Dayne Serio, Aurora (West Aurora)	Desi Wade, Mascoutah
Lane Sexton, Champaign (St. Thomas More)	Will Warnstedt, Mt. Prospect (Prospect)
Joe Siprut, Chicago (Lane)	Ava Weatherford, Ottawa (Twp.)
Thomas Sowars, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge)	Wes Weatherford, Ottawa (Twp.)
Joe Spohrer, Chatham (Glenwood)	Jimmy Whitaker, Barrington
Aubree Stein, Gradner (G.-South Wilmington)	Brody Widlowski, Coal City
Hayden Stephens, Chatham (Glenwood)	Aiva Wika, Palatine
Gavin Stewart, Bensenville (Fenton)	Charlie Wittmer, Warrensburg (W.-Latham)
George Stratton, Freeburg	James Wojcikiewicz, Bethalto (Civic Memorial)
Grace Stratton, Freeburg	Korbin Wolf, Moline (Quad Cities Christian)
Mason Streb, Chatham (Glenwood)	Allen Woo, Lombard (Montini)
Keller Stocks, Mt. Zion	Brock Wrede, Mt. Prospect (Prospect)
Payton Temple, Clifton (Central)	Justin Zimmerman, Petersburg (PORTA)



KEN GERDES III MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Seniors that wrestle in High School, made a contribution to the wrestling community, and are recommended by a HS Wrestling Coach or Official are eligible for consideration.

2025 \$1000 Leadership Award Recipients



Alejandro Duarte, Kewanee; Cole Gentsch, Normal; Zachary Kruse, Hinsdale Cent; Grace Laird, JCA; John Sheehy Notre Dame; Jasmine Mejia, Rickover; Brayden Swanson, Oswego; Michael Taheny, Richards



30th Annual Golf Outing June 23, 2026

All money from the golf outing supports all monetary awards.

The golf outing raises money from golf fees, hole sponsorships and outside contributions.

Every golfer will have a chance to win a new car if they shoot a hole-in-one.

For information on Leadership Award Application or for Golf Outing

Email Debbie Nason at debn4690@aol.com

All recipients of the Foundation can be seen on our Ken Gerdes III Memorial Foundation Facebook Page

2026 IWCOA Inaugural Special Recognition Awards Sponsored by Trophies by George

The Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association is proud to announce the institution of two new awards that will be presented this year.

The first award is the “Ed Ewoldt Founders Award”. This award is named in honor of legendary coach and contributor Ed Ewoldt. Ed was instrumental in the formation, organization, growth and development of the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association. He served on the executive board for over 45 years and was chairman of the IWCOA Hall of Fame Selection Committee until 2002. He continued to serve on that committee until 2018.

This award will be given at the annual Hall of Fame Awards Banquet and will be presented to a person in the Illinois Wrestling Community that has exhibited or performed historically at high achievement levels. The honoree will have demonstrated superior leadership skills and shown dedication to excellence in the promotion of the sport of wrestling in Illinois and the advancement of the organization. One or two candidates selected by the IWCOA Board will be selected noting that there may be a year when no candidate will be chosen.



2026 Ed Ewoldt Founders Award Recipients are:

**Dan Fulscher, Lincoln
Joe Cliffe, Fairbury**

2026 IWCOA Inaugural Special Recognition Awards

Sponsored by Trophies by George

The second award will be presented to pre-2008 IHSA high school graduates recognizing their superior achievement during their high school career. Recipients of this award will be chosen from research performed by the IWCOA Executive Board dating from graduation year 2007 prior. This award will potentially have sunset ending.

2026 Distinguished Wrestlers honored at this year's banquet will be:

- **Christian Brantley, Chicago (Mt. Carmel)**
- **John Odeen, Coal City**
- **Matt Cusick, Orland Park (Sandburg)**
- **Dalton Bullard, Belvidere**
- **Vince Alber, Dakota**
- **Jesse Milks, Dakota**

Thomas & Beverly Cliffe Foundation Golf Outing



July 18, 2026
Buena Vista Golf Course
131 Buena Vista Dr.
DeKalb, IL

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
2026 KENNEDY BLADES, Chicago
2026 MATT GRUSZKA, Schaumburg

Kennedy Blades

2026

IWCOA

PERSON

OF

THE

YEAR



Kennedy Blades was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. At age four, Kennedy, with her younger sister, Korina, she started taking Brazilian jiu-jitsu classes. She later switched to wrestling at age seven. In junior high, Kennedy became the first female to win the IKWF Illinois state title, in 2016.

In high school, Blades and her sister attended Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania, the first American high school to have a girl's wrestling program. While in high school, Kennedy won the 2018 U.S. Cadet national championship, the U16 national championship, and the U17 national championship. In 2019, Kennedy became a Junior national champion.

In 2021, at age 17, Kennedy finished runner-up at the U.S. trials for the Summer Olympics, losing to Tamyra Mensah Stock. Tamyra went on to win the Olympic gold medal.

After she graduated from high school, she joined the wrestling club Sunkist Kids in Arizona and enrolled at Arizona State University. In 2021, Blades was the gold medalist at the U20 world championship. In 2023, Kennedy won silver at the U23 world championship. She also won gold at the 2023 Ibrahim Moustafa Tournament.

In 2024, she defeated 2020 Olympic silver medalist Adeline Gray at the U.S. Olympic trials, thus qualifying for the Summer Olympics where she won an Olympic silver Meda at the 76kg weight class.

Kennedy then transferred to the University of Iowa in July 2025. In her junior year at Iowa, Kennedy finished 25-0 with 23 technical falls and two pins. Only two of her matches reached the second period. She won the NCWWC Nationals and was named the tournament's Most outstanding Wrestler. That year she was named USA Wrestling's Women's College Wrestler of the Year. This season, wrestling at 160 pounds, Kennedy became an NCAA National Champion, finishing with a perfect 19-0 record with 18 of those matches ending in a fall or technical fall. In 44 total collegiate matches at Iowa, Kennedy won 43 by fall or technical fall. Her only win by decision was a 9-1 decision over Stella Steigler of King in the NCAA Semifinals.

Kennedy also competes in Real American Freestyle, where she is the current RAF Women's Middleweight Champion.

Kennedy is majoring in Management at Iowa.

Kennedy is a daughter to Saul Pulido and Cindy Ramos and has a younger brother Saul along with her sister Korina.

Matt Gruszka

2026

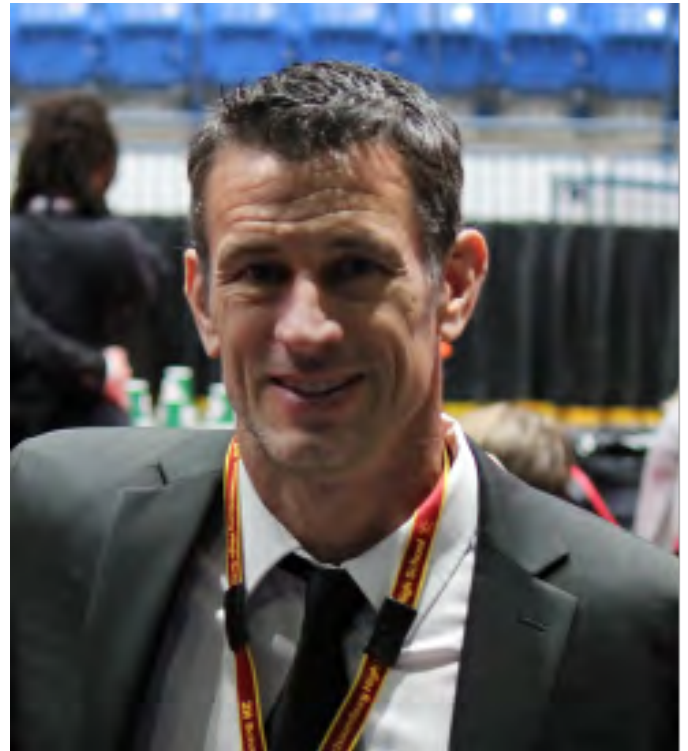
IWCOA

PERSON

OF

THE

YEAR



Matt Gruszka wrestled in high school at Naperville North High School under his father, IWCOA Hall of Famer Stan Gruszka. He had 139 wins and was on a team that took second in state in 1987. He went on to compete at the Division I level at Illinois State University from 1989-1994. He had 90 career wins, was team captain for two years and qualified for the National tournament held at Iowa State.

Upon graduation, Matt was an assistant coach at Hoffman Estates High School under Hall of Fame member Bill Scully for 13 years. He then became the head boys coach at Schaumburg High School. During this period from 2007-2011, the Saxons were conference champs and regional champs. Schaumburg had six state placers and one champion.

In 2021 Matt became the girls head coach, a position he still holds. During that time Schaumburg has won the conference tournament every year and have won the IHSA regionals the past three years. Schaumburg have been sectional champions for three of those years while placing second in 2024 and 2025 at the IWCOA dual team state invitational championships.

Matt has coached Team Illinois Girls for two years at the Illinois-Indiana Classic Dual. He also serves on the IWCOA Girls Wrestling Advancement Committee that assists in selecting the Team Illinois Girls.

Matt helped create the IWCOA dual team state invitational championships held at the end of December each year. While being active on the IHSA Girls Advisory Committee, he helped push for the girls to have their own season and series. By having our season moved up will allow the girls to have their own venue for the IHSA Individual State Tournament. If the current proposal passes, we can move to have more girls in the bracket at the girls individual state tournament.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Dave Fellingner Chicago

Dave Fellingner's passion for wrestling began when he was 11, on the family room floor wrestling with his two brothers. Push some furniture to the side, and it was the perfect arena to learn the sport.

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dave graduated from Forest Hills High School in 1979. He accumulated 100+ wins, was a two-time finalist in the state tournament and a four-time state champion in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman. He competed in the Junior Nationals in Iowa City his junior and senior years and was a USA high school All-American his senior year.

Dave continued wrestling at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was a four year starter and a team captain for three years. He compiled a 74-11 record, earning three conference championships and was a three-time Division III national qualifier. Dave graduated from Coe in 1983 with degrees in business administration and finance.

After graduating and moving to Chicago, Dave continued his involvement with wrestling by becoming an IHSA official. Over the course of 40 years, Dave has officiated 34 regionals, 24 sectionals and 15 Individual Boys, Girls and Dual Team state final tournaments. He was named IWCOA Official of the Year in 2022, inducted into the IWCOA HOF in 2022 and named the IHSA Official of the Year in 2025. Although officiating on the state floor in Champaign and Bloomington is an honor, Dave gets special satisfaction from mentoring and encouraging many young male and female officials that have joined the officiating ranks.

Dave and Kelly, his wife of 32 years, continue to enjoy living in downtown Chicago, where he is President of Apparel Incentives Corporation.

As with the close friendships he maintains with his high school and college teammates and coaches, Dave is very grateful for the relationships he has formed with so many officials, coaches and all those who support the great sport of wrestling in Illinois.

Craig Johnson Elk Grove Village

Craig Johnson was born and raised in Elk Grove and was introduced to wrestling in gym class in the junior high. He wrestled for Elk Grove, where he was a two-year starter. He attended Harper College and then Northeastern University. Craig got into the coaching ranks while in college as the assistant wrestling coach at Lively Junior high. During his tenure from 1978-1980 he coached 13 individual conference champions. He later became an assistant at Wheeling High School as the sophomore coach. Craig also coached Algonquin Middle School from 1989 to 1992 and his teams were unbeaten in dual meets for three years.

Craig served in many capacities in the Elk Grove wrestling program in addition to his duties as Mayor of the Village and private business owner.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

As head wrestling coach at Elk Grove High School Head from 2008 to 2012 his teams had a record 35-50. During his 1st year Elk Grove only had 6 varsity wrestlers, but won 2 dual meets. In 2011 Elk Grove had their first dual meet winning record for a season in 17 years. In 2012 Elk Grove had 7 sectional qualifiers and 1 state qualifier.

As Mayor, Craig worked with the community to sponsor the 2020 US Olympic Wrestling Team becoming the first time a community sponsored an Olympic Wrestling Team. Elk Grove sponsored a wrestling clinic with Olympic Gold Medalist for youth wrestlers throughout the region.

Craig has served as a Jr. High Wrestling Referee from 2014 to present and has been the Jr. Grens Assistant Wrestling Coach 2022- Present. This is junior wrestling program that he helped to establish.

At the Village Board Meeting on April 9, 2019, the Board of Trustees honored Mayor Craig B. Johnson for the distinction of becoming the longest serving Mayor in the history of Elk Grove Village.

Craig B. Johnson became Mayor of Elk Grove Village on April 22, 1997, and has served in this capacity for almost 28 years. Throughout his time as Mayor, he has overseen numerous infrastructure programs to revitalize and invest in the future of the community, including the Industrial Commercial Revitalization Commission, the Residential Enhancement Program and the Elk Grove 2025 Long-Term Infrastructure Plan.

As the Mayor of Elk Grove Village:

- Won Municipality of the Year in 2022 & 2024
- Awarded #1 Business Park in America 2022-2023
- Best Hometown by Daily Herald & Chicago Magazine
- Rated in the country one of the Top 50 Places to raise a family
- Won 11 Governor's Hometown Awards
- Voted Best Town to start a business in the State of Illinois
- Voted Safest city to live in Illinois

Mayor Johnson has served on the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors and served as the Chairman on the Suburban O'Hare Commission.

Mayor Johnson officially surpassed Charles J. Zettek as longest serving Mayor of the Village of Elk Grove on April 3, 2019. In recognition of this achievement, Trustee James Paul Petri presented Mayor Johnson with a proclamation on behalf of the Village Board.

Craig has also received Individual Recognitions - Alumni of the Year

- Elk Grove High School
- High School District 214
- Harper College
- Northeastern University

One of Craig's highlights was coaching his oldest grandson at this year's IKWF State Tournament in Peoria.

Recently, after 43 years, Craig retired as the owner of Johnson Insurance Agency. This is the oldest private business in Elk Grove Village.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Chet Mirus Burbank (Reavis)/Dyer, IN

Chet Mirus began a wrestling journey that has spanned over six decades as a freshman at Reavis High School in 1960. He was a standout three-sport athlete for the Rams, competing in football and track for four years alongside his legendary wrestling career. On the mat, Chet was nearly untouchable, compiling a high school record of 57-1 under the guidance of coaches John Fitzgerald, Bob Moser, George Ihnat and John Bisbikis. This era of dominance culminated in 1965 when he captured the IHSA Individual State Championship at 133 lbs., a victory that anchored Reavis High School's third IHSA State Team Championship.

His elite performance earned him a full scholarship to Iowa State University. Competing in Ames for four years under Hall of Fame coaches Harold Nichols and Les Anderson, Chet trained alongside wrestling icons such as Dan Gable, Dale Bahr and many others. Following his collegiate career, he continued to compete at the highest levels with Mayor Daley Wrestling Club in Chicago, training with Olympians Terry McCann and Werner Holzer. While he pursued spots on the 1972 and 1976 US Olympic teams, his competitive aspirations were ultimately curtailed by injuries.

Chet successfully transitioned to coaching, beginning at Morton Junior College. In 1983, he joined fellow Reavis champion Bob O'Conner at the Chicago Ridge Wildcats before taking over as head coach of the Oak Lawn Wildcats in 1986, a position he held for nearly two decades. His coaching impact extended to the high school level, where he served on the staffs at Oak Lawn High School (2005) and returned to his alma mater, Reavis High School coaching with his son Chad from (2006-2009). Over 22 years of youth coaching, Chet mentored more than 600 young men, producing 91 IKWF State Qualifiers, 16 State Placers, six trips in the State Finals march, and one IKWF State Champion. His high school proteges achieved 19 state qualifications and 11 medals, including another state title.

In recognition of his deep commitment to the sport, Chet was honored with the Ron Silverstein Award and served as the Grand Marshall at the 2004 IKWF State Tournament. Outside of the wrestling room, Chet has been a dedicated professional, owning and operating WoodHue and WoodHue South restaurants, working security for MacNeal Hospital and Ford Stamping, and enjoying a successful career as a Realtor in the Chicago land area. Now 78 Chet resides in Northwest Indiana with his wife, Geri. He remains active in the wrestling community as an official, a role he has held for the last nine years, continuing a legacy of service that has lasted over 60 years.

Jerry Muccianti Kildeer

Born in Chicago, Jerry Muccianti attended Oak Park-River Forest High School. He wrestled for four years and was Team Captain his senior year. Jerry was to gain the unfortunate luck of being injured prior to the start of the state series in both his junior and senior seasons. This prevented him from advancing to the state tournament series. He also competed in baseball and track.

Jerry attended Northern Illinois University where he received his both his bachelors and masters degree.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Upon graduation in 1970, Jerry began his coaching career at Maine South High School. After a short time, he moved on to Maine East High School as the Head Wrestling Coach. His 1979 Maine East team were District (now called Regional) and Sectional Champions. This team also set several state and national records. While at Maine East Jerry was fortunate enough to coach undefeated State Champ and future IWCOA Hall of Famer Emiliano Hernandez. He continued in this position into the 1980's.

Upon retiring from coaching, Jerry was convinced to enter the ranks of officiating. He was selected to officiate 18 regionals, 10 sectionals and 8 state tournaments. His officiating career spans over 30 years.

Jerry currently sponsors the Maine East girls wrestling team.

Bernie Ruettiger Minooka

Bernie Ruettiger was born in Joliet in 1961. He was the 13th out of 14 children born to Dan and Betty Ruettiger. Bernie began his wrestling career in 1973 for the Joliet Boys Club under the direction of hall of fame coach Larry Stonitch. He continued his wrestling career at Providence Catholic, where he wrestled for his brother, Tim, another Hall of Fame coach.

While wrestling at Providence Catholic, Bernie became the first state champion for Providence in any sport in 1977 and he also placed fourth for the Celtics. He was also a member of the 1977 3rd Place Team and the State Championship team in 1978. He had a career record of 123-15-1. Bernie was Captain of the wrestling team his junior and senior year. He also played football and was named honorable mention All-Conference. In addition, Bernie played baseball while at Providence.

Following his career at Providence, Bernie attended Eastern Illinois University. While there, he was a three year letter winner. Two of those years he was under the direction of Hall of Fame coach Ron Clinton and one year under another Hall of Fame member, Ralph McCausland. He had a career record at EIU of 57-28-3 and was captain his senior year.

After graduating from EIU, Bernie began his coaching career as head coach at Clifton Central High School. From 1986-1988, he had four state qualifiers and one state finalist and had a dual meet record of 38-21. He was instrumental in presenting a proposal to the Clifton school board to start an IESA wrestling program at Nash Junior High School. He then moved on to Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. During his ten years at Bradley, from 1989-1999, his teams won six conference championships. Bernie has fourteen state qualifiers, five state place winners and coached Bradley-Bourbonnais's first state champion. While at Bradley, Bernie had a dual meet record of 154-64 and he was named SICA South Coach of the Year in 1998.

In 2000 Bernie assumed the head coaching position at Minooka Community High School. During his tenure at Minooka he has produced thirty-seven state qualifiers, eight state place-winners, and two state champions. His teams have won six conference titles, four regional titles and three sectional championships. Minooka has qualified for the elite eight three times. He serves as the President of the Minooka Little Indian IKWF Wrestling Club and has also served as a board member with the Minooka Little League Baseball.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Bernie was inducted into the Rudy's Gym Hall of Fame, the Providence Catholic Hall of Fame and the Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association Hall of Fame. He was named IWCOA Coach of the Year in 2010. He has also received a Masters Degree in Physical Education from Chicago State University and a Masters of Administration from Governor's State University.

Bernie is a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Minooka.

Coach Ruettiger retired in 2020. He later took over the reins as the head wrestling at Minooka Junior High. As coach during 2022 and 2023, Minooka won back-to-back IESA State Championships. He resides in Joliet with his wife of 31 years, Patti, and are the proud parents of eight and grandparents of 12 grandchildren, so far.

Kenneth Watkins Maywood

Kenneth Watkins began wrestling at Argo Community High School and Proviso East High School before joining the US Army from 1979 – 1987. He served for 8 years and obtained the rank of Sergeant as a Calibration Technician (35H) and Electronic Instrument Repairman (35B) and was in a specialized group of trained operators of the White Sands Missile Range Solar Furnace. He competed in open wrestling tournaments during his military career which included tours of duty at White Sands Missile Range (New Mexico), Ft Wainwright (Alaska) and Seoul Korea.

During his Army career, Ken followed Illinois wrestling by having his mom send him clips from the local newspapers. After returning home, he continued to follow wrestling and went to many state post season tournaments. His love of the sport found him at West Leyden High School where he watched the Dual Team State Championships. During a break he spoke with one of the officials and inquired how he could become an official. After the conversation and a television news report on the lack of officials for high school sports he obtained his officials license in 1993.

He has officiated for 30 years and since obtaining his official's license Ken's passion for the sport of wrestling has led him on a path, whereby, he has officiated many High School State and National tournaments. Some of his officiating accomplishments include IHSA Individual State Championships (9x), IHSA Dual Team State Championships (8x), IKWF Individual State Championships (8x), IKWF Kids Open (8x), IKWF Dual Team State Championships (4x), IESA Individual State Championships (5x), Hinsdale Central Rex Whitlatch Tournament, Dvorak Tournament, Barrington Moore-Prettyman Tournament, AAU Disney Duals (22x), Ohio Tournament of Champions (15x), NHSCA Senior/High School Nationals (12x), NHSCA Duals (2x), Beast of the East (7x), Reno Tournament of Champions (2x), Rocky Mountain Nationals, Reno World of Wrestling (12x), AAU Illinois Frosh/Soph State Championships (2x), AAU World Folk style Championships (8x), The Clash, AAU Middle School Duals (3x), USA Middle School Duals (6x), USA Winter Nationals (2x), AAU Brute Scholastic Showcase (2x), Dixie Duals, Super 32 (5x), Tulsa Nationals, Black Hills Nationals (4x), CPS Championships (7x), Chicago Beat the Streets (3x), NHSCA Pre-season Open (3x), Grappler Fall Classic Michigan State University (2x), Border Wars, IWCOA Midwest Nationals (8x) and many other local, national and state series meets and tournaments

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Ken's service to wrestling includes: Certified Wrestling Official (State of Illinois), Illinois AAU officials Rep (15 yrs), TOC Illinois Official's Rep (15 yrs), AAU Core Official (15 yrs), IKWF West Chicago Sectional Official's Chairman, AAU Middle School Duals Head official (2X), AAU Outstanding Folk Style Official (2003), Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame (2016), IHSA Wrestling Officials Clinician (6yrs), Illinois Wrestling Official of the Year (2023), AAU Hall of Fame (2024), Illinois Officials Advisory committee member (current term).

In 2016 Ken was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame.

Ken currently resides in Maywood, IL with his wife (Marcella) and his children (Xavier and Mickayla).

Rob Zielinski McHenry

Rob Zielinski began wrestling in 1974 as a freshman when he was recruited by Hall of Fame coach Chuck Farina during a physical education class at East Leyden High School. Rob wrestled all four years for the Eagles, finishing his career at 155 lbs. as a District runner-up, a sectional qualifier, and a member of the undefeated, AA Illinois State Champions in 1978. He earned varsity letters in both soccer and wrestling.

Rob continued his education at the University of Evansville. Injuries kept Rob from wrestling for the Purple Aces but he worked with the athletic department as an official for volleyball, football, soccer, and wrestling.

Rob graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Education and returned home to Franklin Park to teach elementary and junior high math and science. Rob coached freshman soccer and wrestling as a varsity assistant at Leyden High School. The wrestling Eagles were highly successful, finishing 2nd in 1985 and 3rd in 1986. Rob left to join Hall of Fame coach Terry Clarke as his assistant to help revive the program at York High School. In three short years, the Dukes went from 3 wins to the sectional finals, one match from the state tournament.

Rob's career path took him into school administration and out of the coaching ranks. As we all know, wrestling is a lifestyle, so Rob began officiating to continue to stay connected to wrestling.

Rob has been involved as an IHSA Certified official for over 40 years. Over that time, he has officiated 32 regional tournaments, 24 individual sectional tournaments, 18 team sectionals, and 15 individual boys', girls' and team state championships as well as 14 IESA state tournaments.

Additional tournaments include: Midwest Nationals, Barrington Invitational, Conant Invitational, DeKalb Flavin Invite, Harvard Sciacca-Holtfreter, Leyden Conrad Invitational, Oak Park-River Forest tournament, Sycamore tournament, Vernon Hills dual team, IWCOA Fresh/Soph State Series tournament, and Illinois Wrestling Federation state finals.

As an administrator, six wrestling teams have qualified for the state tournament and Rob was voted a finalist for Administrator of the Year. Rob was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2019.

Rob has also served the wrestling community as a committee member to both the IHSA and IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, the IHSA and IESA Officials Advisory Committee, and as an IHSA Wrestling Clinician.

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners

Rob retired from education in 2017 and resides in McHenry, Illinois with Marge, his loving wife of over forty years. They have two married children and two grandchildren.

The IWCOA would like to congratulate all 2026 Lifetime Service Award inductees. Your dedication to wrestling will forever be remembered.

Congratulations Dave, Craig, Chet, Jerry, Bernie, Kenneth and Rob!

Thomas & Beverly Cliffe Foundation Golf Outing



**July 18, 2026
Buena Vista Golf Course
131 Buena Vista Dr.
DeKalb, IL**

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

2026 IWCOA Lifetime Service Award Winners



Reavis High School

Congratulations Chet Mirus

Lifetime Achievement Award



Accomplishments

- 1965 Graduate of Reavis HS
- 1965 IHSA State Champion
- Member of 1965 State Reavis Championship Team
- Wrestling Coach Youth/HS
- IHSA State Official

Reavis High School would like to formally congratulate 1965 graduate Chet Mirus on receiving the IWCOA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chet's love of wrestling, which began during his time as a Ram, has continued to grow over the years. Through both coaching and officiating, he has carried on a championship mindset while educating and inspiring countless athletes on the mat.

Chet is truly deserving of this Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations on this outstanding honor.



IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipients

Adams, Vernon "Art"	2009	Fulscher, Dan	2012
Anderson, Charles	2001	Gaddy, Will	2025
Bay, Ott	2003	Gannaway, Dave	2017
Bee, Floyd	2004	Gardner, Greg	2018
Bernard, Larry	2014	Gardner, Jack	2008
Bormet, Sean	2022	Gardner, James	2003
Botheroyd, Bernie	2010	Gardner, Marilynn	2018
Bowers, Jeff	2025	Gardner, Mark	2022
Bowers, Jim	2007	Garshelis, Renshaw	2012
Brooks, Greg	2011	Gassen, Larry	2009
Bukovsky, Mike	2020	Gauger, Ton	2016
Carnahan, Jim	2015	Genovesi, Augie	2009
Cartwright, Bill	2006	George, Elias	2002
Cartwright, Jim	2005	George, John	2008
Chaloupka, James	2019	George, Pete	2008
Chihoski, Phil	2023	Gerrish, Lon	2013
Clarke, Anthony	2016	Gervais, Mark	2013
Cliffe, Dan	2004	Geselter, Morrie	2009
Cliffe, Joe	2003	Giese, Ed	2020
Coit, Ron	2022	Girardi, George	2002
Collins, Niall	2016	Goldstein, Lou	2016
Combs, Steve	2002	Haak, Tim	2015
Conrad, Randy	2020	Hahn, Mark	2017
Conrad, Ray	2016	Heniff, Tom	2002
Conrad, Roy	2011	Hicks, Bob	2002
Cozzi, Greg	2011	Holzer, Werner	2002
Craig, Jim	2002	Honeycutt, Bill	2018
Cummings, Ray	2006	Hubbard, Jarrett	2022
Curby, Dr. David	2020	Hurckes, Mike	2023
Custer, Jim	2007	Hurley, Allen	2008
Cyzewski, Tim	2014	Johnson, Craig	2026
Czech, Ted	2008	Johnson, Mark	2010
DeJarnatt, Carson	2012	Jones, Robert I.	2012
DeRousse, Ted	2003	Jones, Sharron	2015
Dodge, Tim	2017	Kanke, Larry	2016
Durlacher, Dave	2025	Kessen, Connie	2025
Dyche, George	2004	King, Mark	2005
Easter, Bob	2007	Klemm, Dave	2015
Eggert, Dale	2017	Kocher, Leo	2011
Eickelschulte, Ray	2024	Konstans, Randy	2019
Ewoldt, Ed	2001	Kraft, Art	2008
Fallico, Craig	2025	Kraft, Ken	2001
Farina, Charles	2001	Kraus, Bert	2012
Fellinger, Dave	2026	Kristoff, Larry	2001
Flanigan, Tom	2006	Lazier, Murney	2012
Flavin, Don	2002	Ledin, Rob	2023
Flores, Carmelo	2023	Leese, Jack	2001
Froehlich, Dave	2024	Licocci, Tony	2011
Fulk, Bob	2009	Luety, Ed	2005



IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipients

Mammen, Wayne	2020	Rodgers, Kirby	2024
Manahan, Mike	2005	Rosenthal, Todd	2023
Mann, Rick	2005	Ruettiger, Bernie	2026
Marianetti, Steve	2022	Ruettiger, Mark	2017
Marino, Jack	2011	Ruettiger, Mick	2020
Marquardt, Bill	2009	Rust, Ed	2018
Massery, Mark	2014	Ryan, Ron	2017
Mathews, Dave	2013	Samorian, Harold "Sam"	2004
Matozzi, Mike	2024	Schaus, Jon	2007
McCann, Dennis	2014	Schmitt, William "Red"	2001
McCann, Terry	2007	Semetis, Ron	2018
McCauley, Neil	2016	Shaw, Brian	2024
McCausland, Ralph	2024	Sherman, Walter	2010
McGinnis, Harry	2019	Slimmer, Louis	2003
McLaughlin, Eural	2012	Snyder, Roy	2024
Mestemacher, Mark	2023	Stoudt, Elaine	2015
Miller, Wayne	2008	Stoudt, Jack	2003
Mirus, Chet	2026	Stevens, Sandy	2015
Montgomery, Rich	2014	Strange, Robert	2010
Morgan, Andre'	2016	Summerville, Joe	2019
Morgan, Shane	2025	Swalec, Dr. John	2011
Muccianti, Jerry	2026	Swierczewski, Gene	2003
Nason, Debbie	2017	TenPas, Larry	2006
Nighohossian, Haig	2018	Therry, Robert	2003
O'Connor, Pat	2010	Turner, Jim	2015
Oglesby, Ron	2014	Vavrus, Joe	2009
Pedersen, Dr. Joe	2004	Watkins, Kenneth	2026
Peterson, Bill	2013	Weick, Bill	2006
Pierre, Dale	2009	Weiner, Neal	2019
Pillard, Henry	2010	Weiss, Steve	2014
Pittman, Don	2013	Whelan, Khris	2025
Polz, John	2023	Whitlatch, Rex	2013
Polz, Mike	2017	Wilkey, Mike	2007
Porter, Tom	2013	Williams, Marty	2013
Portincaso, Mike	2014	Willson, Pete	2003
Puebla, Kevin	2019	Winesburg, Ray	2023
Raabe, Jim	3033	Young, William	2010
Reichert, Ron	2017	Zielinski, Rob	2026
Robinson, Jack	2011		



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/>

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mike Benefiel, Lombard (Montini)/Elmhurst Wrestler

Mike Benefiel not only finished his career at Montini Catholic High School as one of the first 10 four-time IHSA champions but he and St. Rita's Albert White both were the first to win 200 matches during their careers and his streak of 123 consecutive victories that he had when he ended his career in 2007 ranked third at the time and still is the fourth-longest in IHSA history.

He took first place at 119 in Class A in 2004 and captured an A title at 140 in 2005. He won his first Class AA championship at 152 in 2006 and he capped his career with an AA title at 171 in 2007 when the top-ranked 171-pounder nationally by W.I.N. captured an 8-2 decision to hand Richmond-Burton's Jordan Blanton the only setback of his career.

Mike was also a member of two IHSA Dual Team champions and one second-place finisher. The Broncos, who were coached by Mike Bukovsky, a 2020 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient, beat Roxana to claim first place in Class A in 2004 and defeated Alleman Catholic for first in Class A in 2005 before falling to Carl Sandburg to finish second in Class AA in 2007.

His 57 victories in 2006-2007 beat the old record of 53 that was set in 1988-1989 by his longtime coach at Overtime School of Wrestling, Sean Bormet, a 2022 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient, and it still ranks as the second-highest total for wins in a season.

Other highlights for Mike with the Broncos was being the first-ever four-time champion at the Cheesehead in Wisconsin and he won two titles at the Ironman in Ohio. Following his senior season, he received the Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award for high school seniors who demonstrate excellence in wrestling, scholastic achievement, character, citizenship and community service. In the offseason, he was a Fargo Junior Freestyle National Champion in 2007 and a Cadet Freestyle National Champion in 2004 and also was a four-time All-American. He was also a member of the Illinois National Championship Junior Dual Team in 2006.

In college, Mike redshirted as a true freshman at Northwestern University, went on to compete for two years at Oklahoma State University and then finished at Elmhurst College. He was a two-time NCAA Division I qualifier and a two-time Big 12 Conference runner-up who had a 51-14 record at Oklahoma State for coach John Smith. And Mike was an NCAA Division III Champion at 197 in 2013 at Elmhurst College, where he competed for 2022 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient Steve Marianetti, and the Bluejays claimed second place, which was their best NCAA finish, and that team was honored by being inducted into Elmhurst's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2023. He also was an ASICS University Freestyle National Champion at 79 Kg in 2009.

Mike also served as an assistant coach at Montini Catholic from 2014-2020 where he was on a staff led by coach Israel Martinez, a 2020 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee, that won IHSA Dual Team titles in Class 2A in 2015 and in Class 3A in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and took second place in 3A in 2017. He also coached multiple UFC fighters, including Jon Jones and Holly Holm. He has held jobs in the security, corrections and law enforcement fields. And he likes spending time with his family, which includes his five-month old daughter, Bailey.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Bob Dahm, Belleville Wrestler/Coach

Bob Dahm is a legendary figure in Illinois wrestling, whose career spans championship-level competition, collegiate coaching excellence, transformative educational leadership and lifelong mentorship. The 12th of 14 children born to Norman and Dolores Dahm, Bob grew up embracing hard work, resilience, and a competitive drive. He has been married to his wife Stephanie since October 3, 1992, and is the proud father of Alexandra, a former high school and collegiate volleyball player who is now a kindergarten teacher and high school volleyball coach. Alexandra is married to Brody, a high school basketball coach and English teacher, continuing the family's strong tradition of athletic and educational leadership.

A four-year varsity starter at Belleville West High School, Bob compiled an impressive 105 career wins and captured the 1982 IHSA Individual State Championship at 145 pounds, helping establish Belleville West as a wrestling powerhouse. He continued his wrestling career as a four-year varsity starter at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) during one of the program's most successful eras. Dahm earned NCAA All-American honors in 1986 and 1987, captured Regional Championships in 1983, 1986, and 1987, and contributed to SIUE National Championship teams in 1984, 1985, and 1986, as well as the National Runner-Up team in 1987. He also holds the distinction of being Belleville West High School's first NCAA All-American, a milestone that elevated the program's national profile.

Following his competitive career, Bob transitioned to coaching and program development with remarkable impact. He served as the last head wrestling coach at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) from 1988 to 1993, producing 15 NJCAA All-Americans and establishing SWIC as a nationally-respected program. His leadership was recognized in 1990 when he was named Illinois NJCAA Coach of the Year. Though the program was discontinued in 1993, his vision and advocacy brought wrestling back to SWIC as a club program in January 2026, with plans to launch a full NJCAA varsity team in the 2026-2027 academic year.

He also returned to Belleville West, serving as head wrestling coach from 2021 to 2025, further strengthening the school's wrestling tradition and mentoring a new generation of athletes. Beyond athletics, Dahm had a distinguished career in educational administration. He served as Assistant Principal at Belleville West High School (2000–2004) and as Principal (2004–2012), earning a reputation for integrity, student-centered leadership, and fostering excellence in both academics and extracurricular programs. He also developed and directed the District 201 Alternative Day School, creating structured educational opportunities for at-risk students.

Mike Elsbury, Byron Coach

Mike Elsbury wrestled in high school at Starmont in Arlington, Iowa, where he was a two-time Iowa state qualifier, placing fifth his senior year 1985. He was a Tri-Rivers Conference champion in 1985 at Heavyweight and was part of three Tri-Rivers Conference team championships. He wrestled there for Doug Guilford, a 2007 Iowa Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame inductee.

Mike attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an NCAA Division III school. In football, Mike was a four-year letter winner, Team captain, All-Conference, and voted MVP his senior season. In 1985 he played on Coe College's first NCAA qualifying playoff team.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mike wrestled at Heavyweight for Coe College for two seasons until he suffered a shoulder injury. He was able to help his team win a Midwest Conference wrestling team title in 1986.

In 1992, Mike began his first tenure as head wrestling coach in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. He served three years as head wrestling coach there before heading to Tipton, Iowa to continue teaching and to pursue other coaching aspirations.

In Tipton, Iowa, he served as assistant wrestling coach under Matt Nerem and he also was an assistant wrestling coach in Winnebago under Dave Norris.

Mike became the head wrestling coach at Byron in the winter of 2007-08 season. He had 320 wins in his career. He had 58 State qualifiers, 32 State place winners, 16 State finalists and nine State Champions. His teams also won seven Big Northern Conference Championships. His teams went 293-86 in his 18 seasons at Byron and 12 of his teams won 16 or more duals and the program never had a losing season during his tenure.

In 2014, he was voted as the Class 1A Coach of the year by the IWCOA and also was an Honorary Illinois/Indiana Dual Team Coach. His 2024 team won an IHSA Regional championship and he had many seconds in regionals behind Dakota and Lena-Winslow.

Mike served as an IWCOA Executive board member and was an IWCOA Frosh/Soph coach and volunteer. He also was on the Illinois/Indiana selection committee and a volunteer in addition to being an IHSA regional representative.

He was a member of the Byron Wrestling Association and little kids developmental programs that provided many opportunities for kids to go to wrestling camps when finances prevented them.

Dr. Ray Epperson, Yorkville Official

Dr. Ray Epperson began his wrestling career in junior high and in high school he wrestled for IWCOA Hall of Fame coach George Dyche at West Aurora High School. He continued wrestling at Aurora College (now Aurora University) and in his junior year, he finished one place away from qualifying for the national tournament. During his senior year at Aurora, he student taught at Waubonsie Valley High School, so he did not wrestle that season.

In 1982, he began his math teaching career and coached wrestling at Waubonsie Valley High School with head coach Fred Johnson. One of those seven years, in 1987-88, Ray was the head coach and had his first state champion in Armando Sanders, who beat TC Dantzler in the finals. In 1990 he became the head coach at Kaneland High School, where he had 13 state qualifiers, 4 state place winners, and one state champion. Scott Brewer was the 145-pound state champion in 1993, finishing the year with a 41-1 record. Kaneland qualified for the Dual Meet State Tournament that season as well, finishing the season with a 21-3 team record.

During the 1997-98 school year, the district superintendent told Ray that as a school administrator, he did not have time to also be the head wrestling coach. Ray did not want to step away from the sport that was so important to him so in the 1997-1998 school, year Ray became an official.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

He is currently in his 29th year as an official. Up to the start of this season, he has officiated at 22 IHSA regional tournaments, 13 individual sectionals, 12 dual team sectionals, and has worked either the dual team or individual state tournament 9 times. In addition, he has worked numerous IESA regional, sectional, and state tournaments as well as the IWCOA Frosh/Soph state tournament. Ray continues to be an IHSA clinician, a position he has held for several years.

He received his master's and doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership from Northern Illinois University. He is currently in his 44th year as an educator. He and his wife Valarie have been married for 43 years and have three adult children. His son Victor wrestled at Yorkville High School. Ray is thankful for what wrestling has meant to him and what he has been able to give back to the sport.

Dr. Terry Giardini, Caledonia Official

Dr. Terry Giardini is best known in the Illinois wrestling community for being a certified IHSA and NCAA official for 50 years who has worked many of the top competitions at both the collegiate and high school levels.

He officiated at Northwestern University's Midlands Championships for 26 years, in the Big Ten Conference for 12 years and in the Mid-American Conference for eight years. He worked at four NCAA Nationals in both Divisions 2 and 3 and at four NCAA National Duals as well as several NCAA national qualifiers at all three levels from 1997-2019. He also serves as an Official's Evaluator for the Big Ten Conference.

A 1975 graduate of Rockford East, he posted a 92-27-2 record from 1971-1972 to 1974-1975 and won conference and regional titles and was an all-conference and all-area selection while competing being coached by his older brother, Gary Giardini.

Terry was also a member of Rockford East's 1974 football team that won the Class 4A championship over Normal Community and was inducted into the Rockford Public Schools District 205 Hall of Fame for being a member of the school's first football team to win a title. He and his brothers, Gary, Perry, and Barry, have been recognized by the E-Rabs program and coach Gene Lee with the school's annual tournament being named in the brothers' honor.

He attended Northern Illinois University and his wrestling career was brief as he dislocated his elbow in his first match competing for the Huskies. He graduated from NIU in 1980 with a B.S. in Special Education and a minor in Psychology. He added a Master's in Education at Louis University and Doctorate in Psychology at California Southern University.

Terry has been employed as a Special Education Teacher, a Co-Responder for local law enforcement agencies, a fitness instructor and an Adjunct Professor at Upper Iowa University.

He's an inductee in another hall of fame, the Rockford Area Music Industry Hall of Fame, for the Best Classic Rock Band in which he's enjoyed a 27-year career as a guitar player. He also received the Joanne K. McCabe Leadership Award for Excellence in community involvement.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Andy Hiatt, DeKalb Wrestler

Andy Hiatt has enjoyed success both as both a wrestler and as a coach and he's been able to do all of that while competing for or coaching at schools that are all located in DeKalb County.

A 2002 DeKalb High School graduate, Andy joined his brother Sam as one of the Barbs' three four-time medalists and they coached the other one, Fabian Lopez. He was the school's second two-time champion, equalling the accomplishment from 1971 and 1972 set by 1993 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee Dan Cliffe, who later was a head coach at the school.

He went 170-10 for the Barbs from 1998-2002 while competing for coaches Rich Harvey and Terry McCoy, with the latter a 2007 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. He finished fourth as a freshman at 119 in Class AA in 1999, took first at 125 in 2000 as a sophomore, also was an AA champion at 130 as a junior in 2001 and finished his career by taking third at 135 in 2002. He won 40 or matches in each of his final three seasons.

He remained in DeKalb for college, attending Northern Illinois University, where he competed for coach Dave Grant. He finished with a 45-22 record for the Huskies and a couple of his top moments there were taking second place in the Mid-American Conference in 2004 and seventh at the Midlands. He graduated from NIU in 2008 with a degree in Physical Education.

Andy's coaching career began at Sandwich High School, where he assisted Josh McCarty from 2011-2016, with the highlight being the 2011-2012 team that finished in fourth place in Class 1A, which is the last team from that school to win a state trophy.

He has served as assistant coach for his brother Sam at DeKalb High School from 2017 to the present. Some of the Barbs' highlights have been losing to Mount Carmel 32-27 to finish second in Class 3A in 2022, placing fourth in 3A in 2019, qualifying for the 2020 Dual Team Finals and tying for second with Glenbard North 5.5 points behind Mount Carmel in the IWCOA 3A Open Championships in 2021. He works at DeKalb High School as a Driver's Education teacher.

Gary Larsen, Wood Dale Contributor

Gary Larsen attended West Leyden High School, graduating in 1980. He got his Bachelor's Degree in journalism from Roosevelt University in Chicago in 1986 and began writing for various publications, including a 10-year stint covering high school sports for the Daily Herald in DuPage County that began in 1999.

Gary was given the wrestling and soccer beats at the paper and has been covering wrestling at the high school level for more than 30 years. He has twice been honored as Newsman of the Year by the IWCOA, receiving that honor first in 2006 and then again in 2020.

Six years ago, he began covering wrestling exclusively for the IWCOA along with IWCOA Hall of Fame reporters Mike Garofola and Curt Herron, thanks to the initial support of IWCOA Hall of Famer Mick Torres, without whom the current extensive coverage of wrestling on the IWCOA website would not have been possible.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

After starting the Chicagoland Soccer website in 2009, Gary and Curt Herron were named Soccer Person of the Year twice by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association. He won that organization's News Person of the Year award in 2002.

He is also indebted to long-time head coaches and IWCOA Hall of Famers, Montini Catholic's Mike Bukovsky, Glenbard West's Bernie Botheroyd and Hinsdale South's Mike Matozzi, who all took the time nearly 30 years ago to encourage a reporter who had never covered wrestling before to develop a deep affinity and appreciation for the sport, its coaches and its competitors.

Dan Limon, Plano Wrestler

Dan Limon began his career in wrestling in 1978 at the age of five and enjoyed success at Plano Middle School, qualifying for the IKWF Finals in 1986 and again in 1987 when he placed fifth at 135. He also qualified for the USA Kids Wrestling Junior Olympics in Rochester, Minnesota in 1987 and took second place in Greco-Roman and fifth in Freestyle.

At Plano High School, he was a four-time IHSA qualifier, three-time medalist and two-time IHSA champion competing for coach Joe Cliffe, a 2003 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient. He went 43-0 and took first place in his senior season of 1990-1991 after going 41-0-1 as a junior and finishing first at 140. As a sophomore, he went 35-7 and placed fourth at 140 and as a freshman, he went 27-12-2. From 1989 to 1991, Dan received multiple honors from the IWCOA, including All-State recognition, Scholastic Wrestler of the Year Nominee and Outstanding Wrestler of the Year Nominee. In 2010, Dan was inducted into the Plano's Hall of Fame.

Following his competitive career, Dan dedicated himself to developing young athletes as an assistant coach at Sandwich Middle School from 2011 to 2023. During his tenure, the program achieved 40 IESA state qualifiers, 11 state medalists and two state champions. The team also took fourth place in the IESA State Tournament in 2022.

Outside of wrestling, Dan pursued a successful professional career as a moldmaker/injection molding in the plastic industry from 1991 to 2009. In 2009, Dan founded LHR Technical Service, specializing in hot runner sales and service and representing a German company. Owning his own business provided the flexibility that allowed him to reconnect with wrestling, spending countless hours mat-side with hundreds of athletes, including his son during middle school and again during his senior year of high school, as well as alongside both of his daughters as middle school and high school stat girls.

Dan married his high school sweetheart, Sarah (Brooks) Limon, in 1994. Together they raised three children, Riley, Dylan, and Hannah, who share their family's love of wrestling. Dan credits his wife, children, daughter-in-law Taylor, and Riley's partner, Colton Otto, for the inspiration to be a better man beyond the sport of wrestling. He is truly living a life well-lived.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mario Morgan, Chicago (Mt. Carmel)/Univ. of Nebraska-Omaha Wrestler

Mario Morgan, a Chicago native and Mount Carmel graduate, enters the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Hall of Fame as one of the state's great wrestling success stories. His wrestling journey began with the renowned Harvey Twisters youth club where he fell in love with the sport.

At Mount Carmel High School, he became a four-time state qualifier, four-time Chicago Catholic League champion and three-time Illinois Freestyle champion, compiling a 166–20 record that ranks second in school history. In IHSA competition, he placed fifth at the 2006 Illinois state tournament and at the national level, he finished third at the NHSCA Nationals.

At the University of Nebraska Omaha, Mario earned All-American honors three times, two-time NCAA Division II National Finalist and won the 2011 NCAA Division II championship at 141 pounds. His 130-38 career record helped the Mavericks claim three consecutive team titles.

After UNO discontinued wrestling, he joined coach Mike Denney to start the Maryville University wrestling program. Serving as assistant head coach from 2011-2023, he guided the Saints to two top-three NCAA finishes and oversaw the development of 27 All-Americans. He coached 4 eventual NCAA Division II National Champions. In recognition of his achievements he was inducted into the National Wrestling Coaches Association Division II Hall of Fame in 2024.

Mario just completed his first season as the head coach for the new wrestling program at the University of Bridgeport, an NCAA Division II school which is located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He credits the vibrant Illinois wrestling community of the late 1990s and early 2000s, where programs like the Harvey Twisters and Mt. Carmel fostered national contenders, for propelling him toward an NCAA championship and a coaching career.

Mario's track record as an athlete and coach, combined with his commitment to education and community service, reflects the values celebrated by the Illinois wrestling community. He is proud to be honored by the IWCOA for his enduring impact on wrestling in Illinois and beyond.

Jake Oster, Lockport Wrestler

Known for his unorthodox wrestling style, Martin "Jake" Oster started his wrestling career when he was five years old with the Lemont Bears Wrestling Club in the IKWF under legendary coach Jeff Festin. He was a part of several successful Bears teams that placed in the IKWF State and Dual State Tournaments and he ultimately placed 2nd in the 2001 IKWF State Tournament.

Jake wrestled at Lockport Township High School under IWCOA Hall of Famer Joe Williams and George Brecheisen. Jake came into high school weighing 93 pounds and joined his oldest brother Josh on the varsity team as the 103 pounder. Despite giving up a lot of weight, Jake found a lot of success his freshman year. He failed to qualify for state, but won the IWCOA Fresh/Soph Tournament. Jake was a state qualifier as sophomore, but fell short of the podium.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jake's junior season and particularly his 2004 IHSA AA Individual Finals has become one that is held up as a moment no one in Assembly Hall would forget. At 112 pounds, the heavy favorite was Naperville North's Nick Fanthorpe, a returning undefeated state champion who is a 2025 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee. In their timeless classic of a match, Jake came out on top by a score of 8-5 to finish 40-2. These two seemed to be on a collision course for a rematch at the 2005 State Tournament until an injury at sectionals ended Jake's season and high school career with a record of 135-25, which was a career win record for the Porters when he graduated.

Jake wrestled in college under IWCOA Hall of Famer Steve Marianetti at Elmhurst College. During his time at Elmhurst, Jake became the most decorated athlete in any sport to that point in Elmhurst history. Jake was a three-time CCIW Conference Champion and the CCIW Outstanding Wrestler in 2009. He was a four-time NCAA Division III All-American at 125 pounds for the Bluejays, becoming the first at his school to do that. He placed seventh in 2007, fifth in 2008, third in 2010, and became the school's first National Champion in 2009 when he won the 125 title to cap a 27-0 season. His career record at Elmhurst was 98-20. In addition to his wrestling accomplishments, he was also a two-time NCAA Academic All-American. Jake, who was Elmhurst's Male Athlete of the Year in both 2009 and 2010, earned his degree in Physical Education and was inducted into the Elmhurst University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015.

Jake started his coaching career at his Alma Mater, Lockport Township High School, as an assistant at first with Joe Williams and then with his brother, Josh Oster. During his time coaching in Lockport he and Josh also started the Lockport Jr. Porter Wrestling Club where he was the club's first head coach. Jake got a full-time teaching position in Yorkville as an Elementary PE teacher and became an assistant coach to Joe Fornell in the 2012-2013 season at Yorkville High School. The two switched roles when Jake became the Head Coach for the 2016-2017 season. As an assistant coach, Jake's teams had a record of 104-43 and to date his record as a head coach is 153-76. In Jake's years as a high school coach, he has coached 60 State Qualifiers, 31 State Placers, and 5 State Champions. He has also coached six Regional Championship Teams, 3 State Qualifying Teams, and has brought home two team trophies, a 4th place finish in 2023 and a 2nd place finish in 2024.

Marc Pechter, Deerfield Coach

Coach Marc Pechter began his wrestling journey in 1980 with the Weasel Wrestling Club based out of Niles West High School, inspired by his older brother Michael, who wrestled at Niles East. Competing for the Weasels, he qualified for the IKWF State Tournament during the 1985-86 season. He continued his wrestling career at Niles North High School, where he earned all-conference honors and developed the work ethic and passion that would define his future as a coach.

Marc has devoted 28 years to coaching wrestling, beginning in 1995 at Aptakisic Junior High School in Buffalo Grove. He inherited a program with just four wrestlers and grew it to 12 by season's end, with four state qualifiers. By his fifth year, Aptakisic had grown to 50 wrestlers and qualified 14 athletes for the IESA State Tournament in DeKalb. In 2000-01, he joined Stevenson High School as an assistant coach, helping the program qualify four wrestlers for the IHSA State Tournament, which was then a school record.

In 2001-02, Marc took over as head coach at Deerfield High School during one of the program's most challenging periods. The team had no returning varsity wrestlers, forfeited 12 weight classes the previous season, and had not won a conference championship in 41 years. Despite a difficult start, he committed to building the program from the ground up - recruiting students, coaching freshman football, attending camps and clinics, and establishing a strong team culture.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The results followed. Deerfield produced its first state qualifier in nearly a decade in 2007 and has since qualified at least two wrestlers every year, with a high of eight in 2021 and seven in 2020, 2022, and 2026. Under Marc, Deerfield has produced 80 state qualifiers, 36 state placers, seven state finalists, and two individual state champions.

The Warriors won their first conference title in 41 years in 2009 and have since claimed 16 conference championships in 17 years, including 15 consecutive titles. His teams have earned seven regional championships, four team state appearances, three IHSA Sportsmanship Awards, a fourth-place state finish in 2017, and a state runner-up finish in 2022. Through the 2025-2026 season, Marc's career record at Deerfield stands at 448-164-2 placing him among the top 20 coaches in Illinois for dual meet wins at a single school.

Beyond competition, Marc founded Deerfield Wrestling Nation (DWN) and Warrior Wrestler Alumni & Friends (WWAF) to strengthen community and alumni connections. His teams complete multiple service projects annually, including supporting the Deerfield Optimist Club, Special Olympics, and the Field of Honor with local police and fire departments. He has also run summer wrestling camps for over 25 years.

Marc considers it an honor to coach and teach young men and women and looks forward to continuing to build the Deerfield wrestling legacy for years to come. He now also has the privilege of coaching his son, Jake Pechter.

Ryan Prater, Plainfield (Central)/University of Illinois Wrestler

Ryan Prater was a four-time IHSA qualifier, three-time medalist, two-time finalist and Class AA champion at 135 in 2007. While there were many dramatic title matches in the 2007 AA Finals, his 4-2 overtime win over Bremen's Cartice Lloyd was one of the most memorable and the wild scramble between the two appeared on a highlight video that preceded the Finals for many years. And there were other exciting things to come for the 2007 Plainfield Central graduate.

Ryan was a three-time letterman at the University of Illinois and fell one win shy of earning All-American honors in 2009. Then after taking a few years off from the sport, he capped his college career by going 23-0 and winning an NCAA Division III title in his one season at Elmhurst College. He and his former Illini teammate and brother-in-law Jordan Blanton founded the Relentless Training Center. And then the pair teamed up to become co-coaches at Marian Central Catholic, where they've led three-straight teams to the IHSA Dual Team Finals, and won a Class 1A title in 2024, took third place in 1A in 2025 and fell in the 2A quarterfinals in 2026.

Ryan finished his career at Plainfield Central as the school's all-time wins leader with a 169-23 record. He was the Wildcats' second IHSA champion, first of its two two-time finalists and first of its two three-time medalists. Competing for 2018 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee Paul Faris, he qualified for state as a freshman and took fifth in AA at 112 in 2005 as a sophomore and ended with a 41-4 record. In his junior season, he advanced to his first AA title match at 125 and lost a 6-4 decision to Grant's Jimmy Kennedy, a 2024 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee, to finish 37-5. As a senior, he finished 42-1 after winning the 135 AA championship in thrilling fashion.

He wrestled at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign under coach Mark Johnson, a 2010 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient. He started as a true freshman in 2008 and was ranked as high as tenth in the nation. In 2009, he earned All-Big Ten honors and was an NCAA Division I qualifier but lost in the blood round to just miss out on being an All-American. He earned his third letter with the Illini in 2010. But then he decided to take a few years off from the sport.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ryan returned for the 2013-2014 season and attended Elmhurst College where he was able to compete for coach Steve Marianetti, a 2022 IWCOA Lifetime Service Recipient. He finished with a 23-0 record and was the NCAA Division III National Champion at 149. He was also honored as Elmhurst College's Male Athlete of the Year. He graduated from Elmhurst with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and stayed on and coached for six years under Marianetti.

Ryan also co-owns and coaches at Relentless Training Center in Spring Grove along with his U of I teammate and brother-in-law, Jordan Blanton. They also have coached at Marian Central Catholic for the past four years. Their Hurricanes beat Coal City 34-27 to win the 2024 Class 1A championship and they took third place in Class 1A in 2025 and also advanced to the Class 2A quarterfinals in 2026. In addition to winning four regional titles, their teams have had 27 state qualifiers, 19 state placers, five state champions and three Fargo All-Americans.

Brandon Precin, Orland Park (Sandburg)/Northwestern Wrestler

Brandon Precin was a two-time IHSA champion who also took third place twice while competing for Carl Sandburg from 2002-2006, which made him the first Eagle to be a four-time medalist and he's still one of only two who have pulled off that feat and his 186 wins is a program-best. Then he went on to make more history at Northwestern University from 2006-2011, becoming the fifth Wildcat to be a three-time All-American and his 138 victories ranked him third when his career ended. As a result, he was inducted into the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

He won his initial IHSA Class AA title in 2005 when he took first place at 125 and then he capped his career in 2006 with a Class AA championship at 130. Brandon took third place at 103 in 2003 and also placed third at 112 in 2004. He finished with a 186-6 record and recorded 85 falls. He received All-American recognition from USA Magazine following his senior season. An Eagles team captain, he was also his team's MVP for four-straight seasons.

Brandon, who went 52-1 as a senior, 48-1 as a junior, 44-2 as a sophomore and 42-2 as a freshman, also got the opportunity to be a member of two IHSA AA Dual Team championships for the Eagles, who finished 33-0 after beating St. Rita 33-19 for the title in 2006 and were 30-1 in 2005 after defeating Glenbard North 26-23 in the finals for the school's initial IHSA title. He won four regional titles and three sectional titles, was a three-time champion and four-time finalist at the Dvorak Invite and a two-time SICA West MVP. Brandon had 85 pins in high school and was the Outstanding Wrestler of the 2006 Illinois/ Indiana Duals. Also from 2003-2006, he won three Freestyle state titles and was a five-time FILA Cadet and Junior All-American.

At Northwestern, he finished with a 138-31 record, which was the third-highest total at the time. He took third place in the NCAA Division I Finals at 125 in 2009 and 2011, was seventh at 125 in 2008 and qualified in 2007. Brandon was one of two Wildcats to ever win two Midlands, in 2008 and 2010, and was the Art Kraft Champion of Champions in the 2010 event and also was a Big Ten runner-up in 2009 and 2011, being Number 1-ranked and a team captain in 2011, as well as being his team's Most Valuable Wrestler and Northwestern's Male of Athlete of the Year.

And in 2007, he was a member of NU's team that took fourth place in the NCAA Tournament.

Brandon also had a successful freestyle career, winning the University national title in 2011 and placing at the U.S. Open multiple times. He medaled in various international tournaments as well as qualifying for the Olympic trials. After a 10-year hiatus, he came out of retirement in 2025 to win a U.S. Open Master's National title in freestyle and became a UWW Veteran's World Champion in freestyle.

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Brandon has also been coaching for nearly 20 years, most recently helping Providence Catholic to second place in the 2026 IHSA 2A Dual Team Finals. He mentored and coached his brother Robbie Precin, a two-time NCAA champion, who was the IWCOA Assistant Coach of the Year in 2025 and helped coach Liz Short lead the District 230 co-op to the IHSA Girls Championship. He's also coached at North Central College, where the Women's team won a national championship in 2023, as well as Northwestern and various wrestling clubs.

Joel Stockwell, Port Byron (Riverdale)/Rock Island Wrestler/Coach

Joel Stockwell was a four-time IHSA State placer at Riverdale High School, where he competed for 2020 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee Jim Boyd. He placed third as a freshman, third as a sophomore, first as a junior and second as a senior. In his junior season of 1991-1992 when he won the Class A title at 130, he also defeated the state champ two weight classes above him. Joel amassed a high school record of 144-25-1.

He was an instrumental part of leading his high school team to a third-place finish at the State Dual Team Tournaments in consecutive years. Joel holds a record for most pins at the dual team state tournament in 1992 and 1993, pinning all of his opponents each year. Joel and his teammates, including 2017 Hall of Famer Tyler Hurry and Jeremy Anderson, earned enough team points to be awarded the IWCOA Team Champions of the 1993 IHSA Individual State Tournament. He also gave Newman Central Catholic's four-time IHSA champion, Mike Mena, a 2000 IWCOA Hall of Famer, his only blemish in an undefeated high school career with a tie.

Joel continued wrestling at Augustana College, lettering there, but many injuries ended his competitive career. He continued his career by coaching for eight years as an assistant at Riverdale, where his teams appeared four times at the State Dual Team Tournament.

For the past 21 years, Joel has been the head coach at Rock Island High School. He has become a mentor and leader to his wrestlers. He has coached 61 State qualifiers, 24 State place winners and five State champions. In 2024, his team set a school record of seven State qualifiers, which included five medalists, three finalists and two State champions. Joel's teams have won eight conference championships, five IHSA Regional titles and made one IHSA State Dual Team appearance in 2022, the year he claimed his 200th dual meet victory for the Rocks.

He also simultaneously coached the girls program until the 2025-2026 school year. He had four state qualifiers earning two medals including one in the inaugural year of IHSA girls wrestling. He has had many wrestlers continue their love in wrestling by competing at the collegiate level and several have earned All-American status with one becoming a National Champion.

Albert White, Chicago (St. Rita)/Oklahoma State Wrestler

Albert White enjoyed one of the most historic careers of any Illinois wrestler, becoming one of the first 10 individuals who were four-time IHSA champions and establishing a new record for wins as both he and Montini Catholic's Mike Benefiel became the first to record 200 victories to cap their careers in 2007. He also had the opportunity while competing for St. Rita of Cascia High School to be on a state title Dual Team and on three others which finished third or better.

While injuries affected his chances of continuing his high level of success at the college level, Albert captured a

2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

junior college national title for North Iowa Area Community College and also qualified for the NCAA Division I National Tournament for the first time as a senior while competing for Oklahoma State University. He started his coaching career at a Georgia college and had two high school head coaching jobs in Oklahoma, which prepared him for the position he currently holds, which is an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Albert is a proud product of the Harvey Twisters Wrestling Club. That prepared him well for his memorable career at St. Rita, where he assembled a 200-4 record while competing for 2010 IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee Dan Carroll. He went 50-0 as a freshman and took first in Class AA at 135 in 2004 and was 48-3 as a sophomore and won the title at 140 in 2005. Albert had another unbeaten season as a junior, going 52-0 and taking first at 145 in 2006 and capped his Mustangs' career with a 50-1 record as a senior when he won the 152 championship in 2007.

As a freshman, Albert was a member of St. Rita's second state title team, which defeated Providence Catholic 27-22 to repeat as IHSA Class AA champions. After claiming third place in 2005, the Mustangs advanced to the Class AA for the third time and took second place after falling 33-19 to Carl Sandburg in 2006. St. Rita also placed third in 2007 in his senior season. He was the No. 3 overall recruit in the Class of 2007. In 2006, Albert was the Fargo Junior Freestyle National champion at 145 and after his freshman season, he placed second at Fargo.

Albert began his college career at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa, which restarted its program after a 32-year absence. He won the 2008 NJCAA National Championship at 149 with a 3-2 win over Colby Community College's TJ Hepburn to cap a 31-3 season. The team had three national champions and took fourth place. He was honored for winning a title in his only season at the school by being Inducted into the NIACC Hall of Fame in 2024. He was a three-time letter winner from 2010-2012 at Oklahoma State, where he competed for coach John Smith. He got injured in his first two seasons and in 2012, he placed third in the Big 12 Conference and earned his first trip to the NCAA Division I Tournament.

Following college, he got into coaching at Darton State College in Albany, Georgia and coached the program's first national champion. Albert was head coach at Oklahoma's Edmond Memorial High School and Cushing High School for two years each and led the latter to fourth place in the 2021 Oklahoma Class 4A State Championships. In 2021, he joined the staff at Arkansas Little Rock, which is coached by his former Oklahoma State teammate, Neil Erisman. Albert would like to thank his mother, Donna White, his late father, Thomas White, and all of his family.

***THE IWCOA WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO THESE
FINE INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE 2026 HALL OF FAME
CLASS!***

**Congratulations Bob, Mike, Mike, Ray, Terry, Andy, Gary, Dan, Mario, Jake, Marc,
Ryan, Brandon, Joel, & Albert!**

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	1988	Bishop, Fred	Proviso
2014	Alber, Peter	Dakota	2019	Blaha, Tom	Tinley Park/SIUE
2013	Aldridge, Terry	Eureka	2019	Blankenship, Scott	Milan
1997	Allen, Andre	Lane Tech	2003	Blew, Jerry	Roselle (Lake Park)
2005	Amy, Rick	Rockridge	1981	Blunk, Clarence	Blue Island
2020	Amy, Steve	Rockridge	2008	Bormet, Sean	Providence
1998	Ancona, Jerry	Roselle (Lake Park)	2016	Borrero, Wilbur	Antioch
2011	Anderson, Greg	Geneseo	1996	Botheroyd, Bernie	Glenbard West
2000	Anderson, Dave	Palos Hills (Stagg)	1985	Bowers, James	Bloomington
1979	Anderson, Charles	Savanna	2012	Bowers, Jeff	Bloomington
2012	Andreotti, Paul	Marist/Northwestern	1994	Bowman, Randall	LeRoy
1999	Anthonisen, Norman	Chicago (Bowen)	2020	Boyd, James	Port Byron (Riverdale)
1997	Antonacci, Dr. Robert	Lindblom	2001	Bracken, Kevin	St. Laurence
1990	Antonides, Robert	Morgan Park	2013	Bradley, Greg	Mt. Zion
2010	Arkin, Fred	Oak Park	1994	Branum, Rex	Lincoln JC
2008	Arlis, Tom	Naperville N./Batavia	2015	Bringe, Ken	Chicago Bowen & Ag Sci
1978	Armer, Max	LaGrange	1999	Brooks, Gregory	Chicago (Fenger)
2003	Armes, Les	Normal/Joliet JC	2002	Brost, David	New Lenox
2014	Axelrod, Steve	Tinley Park	1985	Brown, George	Rock Island
2014	Baker, Robert A.	Byron	2008	Bukovsky, Mike	Montini Catholic
2023	Baima, Nicholas	Glenbard West	2003	Bulow, Allen	Glenbrook South
2018	Bales, Joei	Joliet C./Northwestern	2014	Busser, James	Polo
2006	Ball, Dave	Hillsboro	2014	Bybee, Mark	Burbank (St. Laurence)
1980	Bandy, Lester	Danville	1990	Byram, Howard	Niles East
1979	Barbaro, Tony	Tilden Tech	2020	Byrd, Tyrone	Clinton/Univ of Illinois
1996	Bartosz, Bruce	Antioch	2006	Camden, Brett	Mahomet-Seymour
2016	Bate, Eric	Normal (U-High)/ISU	2008	Campbell, Robert	Rich Central
2006	Baum, Urban	Belleville (East)	2018	Carlson, Kevin	Lombard (Glenbard East)
2002	Baum, Russ	Cahokia	1996	Carmody, Tom	Jacksonville
2006	Bay, Mike	Waukegan	2001	Carnahan, James	Rock Island
1972	Bay, Ott	Waukegan	2019	Carrick, Chauncey	Sycamore
1973	Bay, Rick	Waukegan	2010	Carroll, Dan	Chicago (St. Rita)
2006	Bay, Steve	Waukegan	2017	Cartwright, Alan	OPRF/Nebraska (Omaha)
1995	Becker, Howard	Wilmington	1993	Cartwright, William	Proviso East
1989	Bee, Floyd	Lincoln	1993	Cartwright, James	Conant
2022	Beebe, Chase	Lombard (Montini)	2014	Casey, Chris	Tinley Park
2024	Beebe, Connor	Lombard (Montini)	2010	Chaloupka, Jim	Chicago
1975	Behm, Don	New Trier	2015	Chapman, Mike	WIN Magazine
2023	Behnke, Mike	Villa Park (Willowbrook)	2013	Cheeseman, Pat	Mt. Carmel
2026	Benefiel, Mike	Lombard (Montini)/Elmhurst College	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

IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2023	Collum, Matthew	Nequa Valley	1993	Dunn, Leo "Skip"	Rich East
2022	Collum, Paul	Romeoville	2007	Durlacher, Lindsey	Buffalo Grove/U of I
2023	Combes, Todd	Coal City	1987	Dyche, George	West Aurora
1975	Combs, Steve	Moline	2022	Dziewiakowski, John	Lombard (Montini)
1987	Coniglio, Frank	Murphysboro	1985	Easter, Bob	Peoria (Richwoods)
1975	Conrad, Roy	Chicago (Schurz)	2017	Easter, Greg	Chillicothe (IVC)
2000	Conrad, Randy	East Leyden	2009	Eberhard, Dave	Oswego
1989	Conrad, Ray	River Grove	2000	Eggert, Dale	Libertyville
2003	Cook, Gary	Argenta-Oreana	2017	Eickelschulte, Raymond	Fowler
1998	Cookas, Mike	Joliet (West)	1998	Eiter, Rob	St. Viator
2017	Cooper, Dr. Benjamin	Stephen Decatur/SIUC	2007	Elliott, Trevor	Sandwich
2011	Corwin, Lloyd	Rock Island	1979	Ellis, John	Palatine
2008	Cotter, Kevin	Byron	2026	Elsbury, Mike	Byron
1995	Cozzi, Greg	Palatine	2018	Elsen, Paul	Winnebago/Wheaton Coll
1987	Craig, James	Oak Lawn	1973	Emmons, Robert	Lawrenceville
2022	Crandall, Kip	Tremont/Millikin	2020	Endsley, Steve	IESA
1980	Crisler, Ben	Thornton	2026	Epperson, Dr. Ray	Yorkville
2020	Culbertson, Bob	Vandalia	1996	Erikson, Tom	Bloom Township
2025	Cumbee, Ryan	Providence/Northwestern/JCA	2015	Evans, Mike	Bloom Trail
1990	Cummings, Ray	Tolono	2002	Everett, Gene	Gibson City
2008	Curby, Dr. David	LaGrange	1975	Ewoldt, Ed	Wheaton (Central)
1974	Custer, James	Pekin	2014	Exton, Glen	Vandalia/O'Fallon
2002	Cutlip, Jack	Arlington Heights	2005	Fallen, Phil	Chicago (Amundsen)
2015	Cysewski, Dan Jr.	Cary Grove	2012	Fallico, Craig	Park Ridge (Maine So)
1991	Cysewski, Tim	Glenbrook South/NU	2025	Fanthorpe, Nick	Naperville North
1973	Czech, Ted	Thornton	1973	Farina, Charles	East Leyden
2026	Dahm, Bob	Belleville	2004	Farina, Jim	East Leyden
1990	Dallman, Glen	Byron	1985	Farina, Mike	Elmhurst (York)
1998	D'Ambrosio, John	Bremen	2000	Farinosi, Dan	Hoffman Estates
1991	Dannehl, Wayne	Antioch	2018	Farris, Paul	Wheaton
2007	Dantzler, T.C.	Thornwood/NIU	2012	Feldman, Dr. Bernard	Palos Park
1994	Dare, George	Coal City	2022	Fellinger, Dave	Chicago
2008	Davis, Jon	Edwardsville	2014	Ferguson, Ryan	Roselle (Lake Park)
2011	Davis, Tony	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)	2020	Ferry, Cal	Machesney Park (Harlem)
2024	Dennis-Kengott, Daniel	Grant/Univ of Iowa	1994	Feutz, Charles O.	Conant
1978	DeJarnatt, Carson	Sterling	2011	Filippi, Frank	Glen Ellyn
2017	Dergo, George	Morris	1982	Finn, Terry	Oak Lawn/SIUC
2024	Dergo, John	Morris/Univ of Illinois	2012	Fiorella, Sammy	Burbank St. Laurence
1978	DeRousse, Ted	Antioch	1974	Fitzgerald, John	Burbank (Reavis)
1991	Deutschmann, Archie	Urbana	1993	Flanigan, Tom	U of I - Loop Campus
1991	Devine, Pat	Tilden Tech	1977	Flavin, Don	DeKalb/NIU
2012	Devine, Don	Crystal Lake	2001	Fletcher, Charles	Machesney Park
1996	Dickason, Donald	Champaign	2005	Flores, Carmelo	Chicago (Lakeview)
1985	Diewald, Emil "Butch"	Homewood-Flossmoor	1988	Fowley, Roy	East Aurora
2008	Dodge, Tim	Lindenhurst	2003	Fox, Ed	Wheeling
2007	Douglas, David	Luther S/Thornridge	1993	Foy, Michial	Thornwood
1981	Downing, Wirt	East St. Louis	1988	Friberg, William	Leyden
2004	Drendel, Gene	Naperville	2020	Friedl, Pete	Sandburg/Univ of Illinois
2013	Drosopoulos, Dan	Morrison	2011	Froehlich, Dave	Rolling Meadows
2012	Dunn, Jim	Lawrenceville	1985	Fulk, Bob	Glenbard North

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	Fulscher, Dan	Lincoln	1974	Gross, Charles	Peoria
2014	Futris, Tom	Crystal Lake	2003	Gruszka, Stan	Naperville North
2006	Gannaway, Dave	Normal/IHSA	2009	Guzak, Ray	Blue Island/NIU
2024	Gardner, Andrew	Springfield	2001	Haak, Tim	Harvard
2024	Gardner, Greg	Springfield	2006	Hahn, Mark	Glenbard North
1989	Gardner, Jack	Springfield	2005	Handlin, Robert	Mahomet
1986	Gardner, Jim	Springfield/EIU	1986	Hanke, Al	Elmhurst College
2013	Gardner, Mark	Bloomington	2001	Hankenson, Lou	Charleston
2001	Garland, Mike	Granite City	2007	Hanley, Reid	Clarendon Hills
1987	Garner, Don S.	Wheaton Community	1988	Hanlin, Bert	East Moline
2023	Garofola, Mike	Palatine	1978	Hanson, Charles	Glenbrook North
2004	Garrett, Harold	Bloomington	2005	Harrell, Quintroy	Harvey Twisters
1994	Garshelis, Renshaw	Charleston	2013	Harsh, Jim	Bloomington
1995	Gassen, Larry	Downers Grove South	2013	Hasty, Bryon	East Peoria
2001	Gauger, Tom	Burbank St. Laurence	2015	Hattendorf, Mark	Elgin
2014	Geist, Ryan	Fox Lake (Grant)	2025	Hay, Chad	Sandwich/Univ of IL
1994	Genovesi, Augie	Niles (Notre Dame)	2006	Healy, Keith	Providence Catholic
1982	George, Pete	Bensenville (Fenton)	2017	Heffernan, Jim	Univ of IL
1973	George, Elias	Evanston	1982	Heniff, Tom	Oak Lawn (Richards)
1977	George, John	Evergreen Park	2012	Herman, Jevon	St. Charles/U of IL
2013	Geraci, Sam	Roselle (Lake Park)	2009	Hernandez, Emiliano	Maine East
2002	Gerber, Walt	Rock Island	2025	Herron, Curt	Joliet
2014	Gerdes, Ben	Providence/Sandburg	2019	Hey, Jacob	Dixon/USAF
2022	Gerdes, Ken III	Providence/Univ of IL	2026	Hiatt, Andy	DeKalb
1997	Gerrish, Lon	Sandwich	2019	Hiatt, Sam	DeKalb/NIU
1995	Gervais, Mark	Chicago (Marist)	2014	Hickman, Marty	Bloomington/IHSA
1993	Geselter, Morrie	Deerfield	1972	Hicks, Bob	Chicago Tilden Tech
2015	Gholar, Darrell	Dunbar/U of Minnesota	1979	Hill, Eugene	Illinois State Univ
2015	Giannamore, Frank	Mundelein	2011	Hill, Jeff	Petersburg (PORTA)
2008	Giardini, Gary	Rockford (East)	2018	Hoerr, Grant	Morton/U of Wisconsin
2026	Giardini, Terry	Rockford	2017	Holbrook, Scott	Sterling (Newman)/Orion
2009	Gibson, Ron	Naperville	2020	Holland, Dana	Glenbard North/Ariz St. U
1994	Giese, Ed	Bensenville (Fenton)	2001	Holland, Robert	East Leyden/EIU
1999	Gilbert, Joey	Tinley Park Andrew	2017	Holler, Dave	Rockton Hononegah/ISU
2017	Gillespie, Shannyn	Evanston/Lock Haven	1994	Holm, Dan	Libertyville
1978	Girardi, George	Normal (U - High)	1993	Holtfreter, Richard	Harvard
2017	Gitcho, Jan	Granite City/SIUE	1976	Holzer, Werner	Chicago Schurz/U of IL
1993	Giura, John	Oak Park	2003	Honeycutt, Bill	Woodridge
1976	Glass, Brad	Winnetka New Trier	2022	House, Herbert	Conant
2016	Gluck, Mike	Palatine/U of Wisconsin	2012	Houston, Rod	Camp Point Central
2020	Glynn, Brian	Providence/Univ of IL	1993	Houston, Ken	Oak Lawn/SIUC
2019	Goldstein, Matt	Conant	1979	Hubbard, Jarrett	Joliet (West)
1993	Goransen, Perry	Joliet Township	2008	Hughes, Matt	Hillsboro/EIU
1991	Govoni, Don	Joliet	2018	Hurckes, Michael	Ringwood
1974	Greene, Kenneth	Rock Island	2017	Hurry, Tyler	Port Byron (Riverdale)
2017	Greenfiled, Mike	Belleville (Althoff)	2013	Hunt, Gary	Decatur
2001	Gremer, John	Urbana	1973	Hurley, Allen	Winnetka (New Trier)
1998	Griffin, Jack	Stagg/Northwestern	1984	Isaacson, Terry	Oak Park
2025	Grimes, Mike	Montini/Naval Academy	2016	Izzo, Jim	Lombard (Montini)
2010	Grizzi, Bob	Burbank (Reavis)	2007	Jackson, David	Burbank (Reavis)

IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
1981	James, Joe	Chicago (Tilden Tech)	2017	Kuykendall, Bob	Mundelein (Carmel)
1988	Jarman, Tom	NU/Wheaton College	2013	Lacone, Frank	DeKalb
2024	Johns, Phil II	East Peoria/SIUE	2009	Lackey, Matt	Moline/Univ of IL
2012	Johnson, Fred	Augustana/Waubonsie	2001	Lahey, Tom	Tinley Park Andrew
2003	Johnson, Tom	Bismarck-Henning	1992	Lambros, Tony	Chicago (Calumet)
2007	Johnson, Tom	Chatham-Glenwood	1992	Lancaster, Jerry	Port Byron Riverdale
2012	Johnson, Gerald A.	New Lenox	2023	Langley, Greg	Harrisburg
2008	Johnson, Johnny	North Chicago/NIU	2026	Larsen, Gary	Wood Dale
1987	Johnson, Mark	Rock Island (Alleman)	2002	Larsen, Ron	Joliet
2005	Johnston, Gene	Oak Forest	1976	Law, Glen "Newt"	Univ of Illinois
1980	Jones, Amos	North Chicago	1984	Lazier, Murney	Evanston
1994	Jones, Robert I.	Decatur	2008	LeCuyer, Tom	Plano
2023	Jones, Sharron L.	Decatur	2009	Ledin, Don	Chicago
1988	Kachiroubas, Lou	University of Illinois	2011	Ledin, Rob	Mahomet/Clinton
2000	Kading, John	Glenbard South	1980	Leese, Jack	East Leyden
2010	Kaiser, Marty	Rockton (Hononegah)	2002	Lester, Harry	Moline
1993	Kaltofen, Alvin	College of DuPage	1989	Licocci, Tony	Rock Falls
2016	Kamp, Kris	Deer Creek	2016	Lid, Glenn	Maywood (Proviso East)
2019	Kane, John	Conant	2026	Limon, Dan	Plano
2002	Kanke, Larry	Geneseo	1996	Llewellyn, Jon	Hinsdale Central/U of IL
1998	Kelly, Billy	Oak Lawn (Richards)	2008	Lockhart, John	Mahomet/Univ of IL
1998	Kelly, Jerry	Oak Lawn (Richards)	2001	Loffredo, Fred	Tilden Tech
2019	Kelly, Mary	Mahomet-Seymour	2010	Long, Bob	Yorkville
2024	Kennedy, Jimmy	Grant/Univ of Illinois	1997	Lovelace, Norman	Harper JC
1972	Kenney, Harold "Hek"	Univ of Illinois	1999	Lovellette, Richard	Litchfield
2004	Kerby, Richard	Chicago Kelvyn Park	1991	Luetz, Ed	Melrose Park
2022	Kessen, Nate	Sugar Grove	1987	Lundy, Al	Calumet City
1999	Kienlen, Donald	Joliet Township	1999	Magruder, Ronald	Wheaton Central
2025	Kimberlin, Michael	Bishop McNamara/Northwestern	2011	Mahar, Jim	Amboy
1994	King, Mark	LaGrange-Lyons Twp.	2020	Malley, Mark	Stephen Decatur/MSU
2011	Kirgan, Allen	Granite City	2001	Mammen, Kirk	Urbana
2025	Klein, Doug	Skokie (Ida Crown)	1991	Mammen, Wayne	Urbana
1998	Klemm, Dave	Lincoln/EIU	1997	Manahan, Michael	Olympia
1975	Klootwyk, Ray	Joliet (West)	1986	Mann, Bobby	Danville
1995	Kocher, Leo	University of Chicago	1993	Mann, Richard	Hersey
2004	Kody, Scott	Inverness	1984	Mann, William	Maine South/U of IL
1992	Koehler, Bob	Illinois State University	2020	Mansell, Ken	Lincoln-Way/Quincy ND
1992	Koenig, Tom	Bloom Township	2011	Marchello, Jack	Thornton
1986	Konovsky, Bob	Morton Township	1983	Marcucci, Vic	Burbank (Reavis)
2014	Konstans, Randall	North Aurora	1999	Marianetti, Steve	Glenbrook N/U of IL
1973	Kraft, Arthur	Northwestern/Triton	1975	Marino, Jack	Proviso East
1978	Kraft, Ken	Northwestern	2009	Markwell, Dave	Fithian (Oakwood)
1976	Kraus, Bert	LaGrange	1977	Marlin, Kenneth	Champaign/Rockford
2001	Kristine, Alex	Barrington	1999	Marquardt, Bill	Bloomington
2002	Kristoff, Kip	Bethalto/SIU	2018	Martelli, Charles	Naperville N/U of Mich
1974	Kristoff, Larry	Carbondale/SIU	2020	Martinez, Israel	West Aurora/Montini
2013	Kristoff, Mark	Bethalto	2009	Martinez, Lino	Stevenson
2020	Kroner, Fred	Mahomet/News-Gazette	2019	Martinez, Nathan	West Aurora
1987	Kruempelstaedter, James	Winnetka New Trier	2022	Marx, Peter	Conant
1995	Krupke, Ralph	Roselle (Lake Park)	1985	Massery, Mark	Savanna/NU

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	Masters, Mark	Coal City	2011	Murphy, Rob	Wilmington
2000	Mathews, Dave	Naperville	2023	Murray, Jon	Geneseo
2011	Matozzi, Mike	Hinsdale (South)	1977	Musgrove, Homer	Sterling
1988	McAdams, Ben	Moline	1982	Nacin, Al	Burbank (Reavis)
1997	McCann, Dennis	Park Ridge (Maine So)	2007	Nason, Debbie	Orland Park
1972	McCann, Terry	Chicago (Schurz)	2013	Nesbit, Bob	Springfield
2010	McCarthy, Foster	Champaign	1993	Newlon, Gary	Prophetstown
2008	McCauley, Lawrence	Granite City	2004	Nighohossian, Haig	Granite City
2000	McCauley, Neil	Naperville North	2016	Nino, John	Kelvyn Park/Triton JC
1996	McCausland, Ralph	Wheaton Central/EIU	1992	Nordin, James	Palatine
2007	McCoy, Terry	DeKalb/Kaneland	1994	Nordquist, Ken	Rich South
2006	McGinnis, Harry	Triton Junior College	1977	Norman, Robert	Morton East/U of IL
2024	McCullough, Tod	Erie-Prophetstown	1989	Norris, Bernadette	Chicago (Lakeview)
2025	McDonnell, Dr. Dan	Morris	2020	Norton, Dr. Seth	Wheaton College
2025	McGuinn, Bob	Fox Lake (Grant)/EIU	2018	O'Connell, Patrick	Joliet Central
2024	McKillip, Donald J.	Minooka	1994	O'Connor, Pat	Glasford-Illini Bluffs
1991	McLaughlin, E. Mac	Joliet (Central)	1994	Oglesby, Ronald	Oak Lawn
2014	McMahon, Patrick	Tinley Park	1978	Olson, George	Wheaton College
2014	McMorrow, Gary	Prospect	2020	Owens, Brad	Mt. Zion/Univ of Wisc.
2022	McTague, Brian	Morris/Reed Custer	2014	Paar, Ron	Crystal Lake/U of Wisc.
2023	Mears, Ed	Champaign (Centennial)	2013	Pape, Jeff	Franklin Park
1993	Meeks, Major Richard	Champaign/U of IL	1992	Parker, Norman	Highland Park
2012	Mekeel, Donald	Sterling	1986	Parker, Ted	Deerfield
2009	Mena, Bob	Sterling Newman	1985	Parks, Tony	Addison Trail
2000	Mena, Mike	Sterling Newman	1978	Patacsil, Joseph	Chicago Tilden Tech
2023	Merzian, Charles	Granite City	2017	Patrick, Nate	Naperville (North)/UofIL
2011	Mestemacher, Mark	Edwardsville	1974	Patterson, Buell "Pat"	University of Illinois
1998	Milazzo, Larry	Roxana	1995	Patton, James	Woodstock
2020	Milder, Kevin	Lena-Winslow Stockton	1999	Pearson, Fred	Chicago Tilden Tech
1985	Millard, Don	Pekin/SIUC	2026	Pechter, Marc	Deerfield
2000	Miller, Don	Mundelein	1996	Pedersen, Joe	Naperville
1981	Miller, Wayne	DeKalb	2023	Pero, Cassio	Mt. Carmel/Univ of IL
2011	Miller, Jim	Tolono	2002	Peterson, Jon	Grayslake
1990	Minot, George	Harvard/U of IL	1984	Peterson, William	Chicago (Lakeview)
2001	Mirabella, Jeff	Elgin	1983	Pickens, Robert	Evanston
2005	Mitton, Bob	Orion	1976	Pickerill, Ken	Oswego
1983	Monroe, Ken	East Leyden	1984	Pierre, Dale	Wheaton (North)
2002	Montgomery, Rich	Rock Falls	1986	Pillard, Henry	Joliet Junior College
1991	Moore, Ken	Thornton	1987	Pinther, Harold	Eastern Illinois Univ
2026	Morgan, Mario	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)/Univ Neb.-Omaha	1982	Pittman, Don	Champaign
2015	Morgan, Shane	Oswego	2004	Platt, Rollie	Quincy
2012	Morris, Ben	Bensenville (Fenton)	1973	Plaza, Arnold	Chicago (Tilden Tech)
2002	Morrison, Allie	University of Illinois	2023	Poeta, Michael	Highland Park/Univ of IL
2012	Morrissey, Don	Rosemont/Putnam	2005	Polz, John	Morton
1993	Mottleson, Dr. Ben	LaGrange	1999	Polz, Michael	Sandburg/Providence
2017	Moxley, Jim	Fisher/Mahomet-Seymour	2019	Porter, Brett	Mahomet-Seymour/Edinboro
1984	Mudge, Richard	Prospect	1983	Porter, Tom	Hersey
2005	Mueller, King	Bolingbrook	1990	Porter, Robert	Niles (West)
2016	Mulrenin, Terry	Oak Lawn/SIUE	2011	Porter, Rob	Naperville (Central)
2005	Murphy, Bill	Homewood	1996	Portincaso, Mike	Bloomington

IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2025	Potter, Jason	St. Charles E/Univ of IL	2003	Ruettiger, John	Lisle
1994	Powell, David	St. Charles	1995	Ruettiger, Mark	Providence/EIU
2014	Powell, Michael	Oak Park	1996	Ruettiger, Tim	Providence
2008	Powers, Rich	Marian Catholic	2003	Rumchak, Bill	Bolingbrook
2026	Prater, Ryan	Plainfield (Central)/Univ. of Illinois	1990	Rumsfeld, Hon. Donald	Winnetka New Trier
2026	Precin, Brandon	Orland Park (Sandburg)/Northwestern	1994	Ryan, Ron	Mt. Olive
1990	Prehn, Paul	Illinois University	2016	Salinas, Rudy	Chicago
2015	Prichard, Greg	Morton	2020	Salley, Jason	Elgin
2011	Pronga, Lou	Chillicothe (IVC)	2016	Sammons, John	Oswego
2025	Pruitt, Mickey	Chicago Public Schools	1984	Samorian, Harold	Glenbrook North
1997	Puebla, Kevin	Augustana College	1999	Santana, Frank	Gordon Tech
2013	Pustelnik, Mark	East Moline (United Twp)	1991	Sapora, Dr. Allen	Illinois University
2026	Oster, Jake	Lockport/Elmhurst College	1994	Sapora, Dr. Joseph	Illinois University
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	Waubonsee 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

IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
2013	Sorensen, Jeff	Bloomington	2004	Warner, Andy	Savoy
1976	Sowinski, Joe	TF South	2012	Wasserstrom, Sam	Ridgewood
2002	Stalhut, Warren	Edwardsville	2016	Watkins, Kenneth	Maywood
2007	Stearns, Steve	Oak Lawn/SIUE	2010	Watson, Dr. Wayne	Chicago
2015	Stevens, Don	Carl Sandburg/SIUE	2018	Weber, Dan	Conant/Wheaton College
2000	Stevens, Sandy	Glen Ellyn	2000	Weber, Rory	Proviso E/Northwestern
2026	Stockwell, Joel	Port Byron (Riverdale)/Rock Island	2003	Wehmeier, John	Belleville
2018	Stoltz, David	Hersey/U of IL	2018	Welter, John	Fox Lake (Grant)
1990	Stonitsch, Larry	Joliet	1977	Weick, Clarence	Chicago Tilden
1983	Stoudt, Jack	Pekin	1973	Weick, William	Chicago Tilden
1972	Strange, Robert	Lawrenceville	2010	Weiner, Neal	Wheeling
2003	Stuart, Don	Oak Forest	1986	Weiss, Steve	Bensenville (Fenton)
2003	Stuart, Ron	Oak Forest	2006	Welter, Steve	Fox Lake (Grant)
2017	Stumpf, Don	Arlington/SIUC	1999	Wetzel, Eric	Chicago (Dunbar)
2005	Summers, Dan	Hersey	1997	Wheeler, Al	Oswego
2004	Summerville, Joe	Tolono	2018	Whelan, Keith	Granite City/U of Mizzou
1981	Swalec, John	Libertyville	2001	Whelan, Khris	Granite City
1984	Swierczewski, Gene	Hoffman Estates	1992	Whelan, Robert	Chicago (Hirsch)
1974	Swindell, Roy	Champaign	1992	Whitaker, Walt	Granite City
2005	Swinford, Randy	Princeton	2026	White, Albert	Chicago (St. Rita)/Oklahoma State
2022	Tannenbaum, Eric	Naperville N./U of Mich	1979	Whitlatch, Rex	Urbana
1994	Taylor, Lawrence	Cahokia	2015	Wiesneth, Jack	Libertyville
1975	TenPas, Larry	Waukegan/U of IL	2025	Wiley, Dion	Richton Park
2018	Thacker, Gary	Belvidere	1980	Wilkenson, Dr. James	Southern Illinois
1975	Therry, Robert	North Chicago	1997	Wilkey, Mike	Oak Park
2004	Thompson, Ernie	Oak Park	2015	Williams, Joe	Lockport
2003	Tiffany, Mark	Waukegan/NIU	1999	Williams, Joseph	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)
2005	Tipsword, Bob	Buffalo Grove	1992	Williams, Marty	Yorkville
2016	Torres, Mick	Libertyville	2006	Williams, TJ	Chicago (Mt. Carmel)
2013	Trizzino, Mark	Joliet	1981	Williams, Willie	Bloom Township/ISU
2008	Trizzino, Scott	Joliet (Central)	1979	Willson, Pete	Wheaton College
1998	Trost, Kirk	Lincoln-Way	2006	Wilson, Raphael	Waubonsie/Augustana
2023	Truemper, Ross	Pinehurst, NC	2016	Wilson, Reggie	Bloom Trail/Triton/OK St/Chi St
2006	Tschannen, Morris	Roxana	2018	Wilson, Ron	Chicago (Bowen)
1994	Tschudi, Dick	Dakota	2007	Winesburg, Ray	Elgin
1999	Turner, Alvin	Chicago (Parker)	2023	Wise, John	Pittsfield/Univ of IL
2007	Turner, Jim	Marion	2004	Wiser, John	Delevan
2023	Urwin, Michael	Orland Park	1997	Wisniewski, Dan	Highland Park
2004	Vail, Bill	Oak Lawn/Joliet JC	2022	Witzig, Russ	Troy (Triad)
2019	Vatch, Ed	Addison Trail/Wisconsin	2003	Woods, Jim	Bloom/WIU
1973	Vavrus, Joe	Moline	2017	Wright, Reggie	Proviso (East)/OK State
1990	Vega, Al	TF North	2006	Wright, Tim	Rock Island/SIUE
2019	Vercelli, Jake	Joliet Catholic/Purdue	2003	Young, John	Peotone
2023	Vermillion, Ron	Crystal Lake	1990	Young, William	Naperville (Central)
2022	Villareal, Ruben	Plano	2017	Zajac, Shane	Lincoln-Way/OR St/UofOK
2004	Wachenheim, Lee	Elmhurst (York)	2002	Zbacnik, Michael	Plainfield
2019	Wagner, Jon	SIUE/Edwardsville HS	2016	Zeman, Bill	LaGrange (Lyons)/U of IL
1996	Waldroup, Derrick	Bremen	2000	Zeman III, Otto	Riverside-Brookfield
2013	Walker, Jim	Westmont	2019	Zielinski, Rob	McHenry
1988	Walker, William	Downers Grove N	2004	Ziemek, Thomas	Maine South

IWCOA HALL OF FAME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TOWN</u>
1988	Zimmer, William	Lockport	2005	Zinke, Al	Crown

GRAND MARSHALS



2026 IHSA Boys State Tournament Grand Marshals – Joe Cliffe (Supervisor of Grand Marshals), Jeff Bowers, Kirk Mammen, Dan Farinosi, and Pete Alber

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 2026.

Four Grand Marshals will lead the annual Grand March of finalists on Saturday, February 21 prior to the championship bouts of the 88th 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, February 28 prior to the championship bouts of the 5th 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 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 2026:

GRAND MARSHALS

DAN FARINOSI



Dan Farinosi's lifelong commitment to education-based athletics and interscholastic officiating has left a lasting impact on generations of Illinois student-athletes.

Dan's distinguished career as a wrestling official included assignments to eight IHSA Individual State Final tournaments and six IHSA Dual Team State Final tournaments. He was honored as IHSA Official of the Year and later inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame in recognition of his excellence and dedication to the sport. His officiating résumé also includes working the 1999 IESA State Tournament and the 1978 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships.

In addition to wrestling, Dan devoted more than 30 years to serving as an IHSA football official, further demonstrating his passion for high school athletics. In appreciation of his decades of service, he received the IHSA Service Award for 34 years of commitment to Illinois high school sports.

Professionally, Dan built an equally impressive career in education. He served as a teacher, department head, assistant principal for nine years, Principal of Churchill Elementary School in Schaumburg School District 54 for five years, and Principal of Frost Middle School for 12 years. Following his retirement, Dan continued to serve students and school communities as a part-time interim principal in various northwest suburban schools for six years. He also taught part time at Roosevelt University for two years. Among his proudest accomplishments in education was leading the effort to hire School Resource Officers in five middle schools in District 54 and serving as their liaison for five years.

Away from the mat and the classroom, Dan has served as commissioner of a men's golf league since 1986. An avid golfer and pickleball player, he continues to enjoy staying active and connected with friends and family.

Dan and his wife Nancy have been married for 55 years and are the proud parents of two sons.

GRAND MARSHALS

JEFF BOWERS



A 1980 graduate of Bloomington High School, Jeff Bowers was a four-year wrestler for the Purple Raiders, competing under the guidance of his father, Jim Bowers—an IWCOA Hall of Fame member and recipient of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum–Illinois Chapter Lifetime Service Award. Jeff became the 13th IWCOA Hall of Fame inductee whose father is also a member of the IWCOA Hall of Fame. As a senior, he captured a sectional title and placed sixth at the IHSA State Finals at 167 pounds, finishing his varsity career with a 76-24 record. He was named the 1980 Chuck Murdoch Central Illinois Outstanding Wrestler and was also a standout multi-sport athlete, earning All-Area honors in baseball after playing football as well.

Jeff continued his athletic career at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he played baseball and earned All-Conference honors. He graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

Following graduation, Jeff returned to Illinois and began a distinguished career in wrestling officiating. Since receiving his first IHSA Regional assignment in 1991, he has worked 36 regionals, 30 individual sectionals, and 19 dual team sectionals. He was appointed to his first IHSA Dual Team State Finals in 1999 and his first IHSA Individual State Finals in 2001. Over the course of his career, Jeff has officiated 10 IHSA Dual Team State Finals and 18 IHSA Individual State Finals tournaments. He has also worked the IESA State Finals 13 times and the IKWF State Finals twice. In 2010, 2013, and 2017, Jeff was selected to officiate the prestigious U.S. vs. Illinois All-Star Meet.

Jeff has served on the IHSA Officials Advisory Committee and has been widely recognized for his excellence and service. He was named IWCOA Official of the Year in 2005 and 2013, selected as the NFHS Illinois Official of the Year in 2009, received the IWCOA Lifetime Service Award in 2025, and was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Jeff currently resides in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, where he serves as a Corporate Accounts Manager for Reagent Chemical & Research.

GRAND MARSHALS

KIRK MAMMEN



A 1987 graduate of Urbana High School, Kirk Mammen capped one of the most accomplished careers in school history with a 145-12 record from 1983-87. Wrestling under the guidance of his father, Wayne, Kirk became a two-time IHSA State Champion at 185 pounds in 1986 and 1987 and was named the 1987 Outstanding Wrestler of the IHSA State Tournament. He earned High School All-American honors twice and was selected to the 1987 National High School Wrestling Dream Team.

Kirk's success extended beyond folkstyle competition. He was a two-time State Freestyle Champion (1986, 1987), the 1987 Greco-Roman State Champion, and captured a Greco title at the 1988 Prairie State Games. In following in the footsteps of his father—who was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2001—Kirk further cemented the Mammen family legacy in Illinois wrestling.

Kirk continued his career at Oklahoma State University from 1987-1992, becoming the 13th four-time All-American in the storied history of the Cowboy program. He amassed 108 career victories, ranking among the top 20 in school history at the time of his graduation. Competing at heavyweight, Kirk won the 1990 University Open National Championship and claimed the 1991 Olympic Festival title. He was also a two-time placewinner at the U.S. Open in freestyle and compiled a 3-0 record against future 2000 Olympic Gold Medalist Rulon Gardner.

Wrestling has always been a family affair for Kirk, who was coached throughout his career by his father Wayne and, at times, by his mother Barb and brother Mark.

Kirk and his wife Jackie have been married for 35 years. They are the proud parents of two sons—Jake, who resides in Dallas, Texas and serves as Director for Early Alert, LLC, and Zeke, an Air Force Captain and F-35 pilot stationed in Montgomery, Alabama. They are also proud grandparents to their granddaughter, Parker.

GRAND MARSHALS

PETE ALBER



Pete Alber began his wrestling journey in 1979 at Dakota High School under the direction of Coach Richard Tschudi. As a student-athlete, Pete quickly made his mark on the IHSA State Finals stage, winning the 98-pound state championship in 1981 and finishing as state runner-up at 105 pounds in 1982.

He returned to his alma mater in 1991 as an assistant coach under Tom Unruh and assumed the role of head coach in 1996. From that point forward, Dakota wrestling established itself as one of the premier Class 1A programs in Illinois history.

During his tenure, Pete coached 114 state qualifiers, 73 state placewinners, 16 state runners-up, and 37 individual state champions. His teams captured six IHSA state championships and two third-place team finishes. Throughout his career, Pete has consistently credited the program's success to his assistant coaches, the dedication of his student-athletes, the unwavering support of parents, administrators, teachers, and the Dakota community, and his strong personal faith.

Pete's accomplishments have been recognized at both the state and national levels. He was named IWCOA Head Coach of the Year in 2005, 2013, and 2020, IHSA Wrestling Head Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2015, and NFHS Illinois State Coach of the Year in 2015. He was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2015 and, in 2024, into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Although he officially retired in the fall of 2021, Pete's connection to the sport remains strong. He continues to attend practices and meets when possible, while dedicating more time to his growing family and the next generation of wrestlers.

Wrestling has long been a family tradition for the Albers. Pete competed alongside his brothers Tony, Greg, and Jim, and the legacy has continued through his extended family. Between the Alber and Milks families, there have been 18 state titles. His wife, Linda, has played an integral role in the program's success—organizing travel, coordinating fundraising efforts, and supporting the team in countless ways. Daughters Holly and Shelly served as team statisticians in high school and have worked the IHSA State Tournament for the past 17 years. His son, Vince, began wrestling at age four, went on to become both an IKWF and IHSA state champion, and now gives back to the sport as a volunteer coach and Dakota Kids Club coach.

GRAND MARSHALS

Through decades of leadership, success, and service, Pete Alber has helped shape Dakota wrestling into a model of sustained excellence in Illinois high school athletics.



2026 IHSA Girls State Tournament Grand Marshals – Mike Manahan and Margaret Lehr

MARGARET LEHR



Margaret (LeGates) Lehr's wrestling journey began in 1990 at Libertyville High School, where she first became involved in the sport as a team manager. Immersed in the daily preparation and competition of the program, she developed a passion for wrestling that soon led her from the sidelines to the mat.

As a sophomore in 1991, Margaret made history by becoming the first girl to compete in IHSA wrestling. That same season, she recorded a junior varsity victory, becoming the first female wrestler to win an IHSA-sanctioned match. Her

GRAND MARSHALS

groundbreaking accomplishments continued into her junior year when, as a part-time varsity starter, she earned the first varsity victory by a female wrestler in IHSA history. She continued competing as a senior, adding multiple wins and further paving the way for future generations of girls in the sport.

In the spring of 1994, Margaret reached the pinnacle of her competitive career. Competing at the U.S. Women's National Championships in Las Vegas, she placed second to Afsoon Roshanzimir. When Roshanzimir was unable to compete internationally, Margaret was named to the U.S. World Team. She went on to represent the United States at the World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, earning a silver medal on the world stage.

Though her competitive career concluded shortly thereafter, Margaret's connection to wrestling remained strong. In 1998, she met and later married Dave Lehr, a teacher and wrestling coach, allowing her to remain actively involved in the sport. Her role became even more meaningful as she supported her children, Tommy and Sammy, in their own wrestling journeys.

In 2021, Margaret returned to the mat as a volunteer coach at Normal West High School, helping to build and develop the school's girls wrestling program. She assisted in coaching her daughter Sammy to two IHSA Girls State Tournament appearances. In recognition of her leadership and commitment, Margaret was named the program's first official Girls Head Coach beginning with the 2025-26 season. She also serves as a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Normal West.

From historic pioneer to world medalist to coach and mentor, Margaret Lehr's impact on wrestling in Illinois spans more than three decades and continues to influence the growth of girls wrestling across the state.

MIKE MANAHAN



Mike Manahan devoted more than five decades to education and the sport of wrestling, including 33 years as the head wrestling coach at Olympia High School. When Olympia opened in 1972, Mike founded the wrestling program and became the only head coach in school history until his retirement in 2005. In total, he has coached and taught for 54 years.

A graduate of Bloomington High School, Mike was a state qualifier and team captain before continuing his collegiate career at Auburn University and later Southern Illinois University. He completed his degree at Illinois State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Education and a master's degree in Physical Education. As a member of the Illinois State wrestling team, he was a two-time national qualifier, team captain, and was voted Most Valuable Wrestler his senior year.

GRAND MARSHALS

Mike began his coaching career at Bloomington Junior High School, followed by stops at Normal University High School and Eureka High School before establishing the program at Olympia. Over the course of his career, he compiled a 421-361-3 record. His teams won three conference championships, nine regional titles, and four sectional championships. Olympia produced 64 state qualifiers, 19 state placewinners, five state runners-up, and four individual state champions under his leadership. The Spartans earned a second-place team finish in 2001, third in 1999, fourth in 2000, and Elite Eight appearances in 1990, 1991, and 2002.

Following his retirement from Olympia, Mike helped start wrestling programs at Mackinaw and Heyworth High Schools, raising funds to build sustainable programs. He also co-founded an annual home-building project that has generated more than \$367,000 over 12 years to support local athletic programs. In 2003, he founded the Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament, which has grown to host approximately 1,500 wrestlers from 23 states and continues to give back to high school wrestling programs.

Mike's impact extends well beyond coaching. He has been a wrestling official for more than 60 years, working IHSA regionals and sectionals, three Midlands Championships, two NCAA Division I National Tournaments, and one Division III National Tournament. He has served as tournament director for the IESA State Wrestling Championships, the IHSA Dual Team State Finals, and has played a key role in organizing the IHSA Girls State Tournament. In 1971, he established the Chuck Murdoch Outstanding Wrestler Award for Central Illinois, an honor that continues to be presented annually.

His service to the sport includes leadership roles on the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Board, the IWCOA Board of Directors, and the Illinois Coaches Association. He has served as President of the IWCOA and as Co-Chair of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Illinois Chapter. Mike was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 1997 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2006. Among his many honors are IHSA Grand Marshal (2002), Illinois Wrestling Man of the Year (2005), National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year (2002), and induction into the NHSACA Hall of Fame (2008). He has also been inducted into the halls of fame at Olympia High School and Bloomington High School, as well as the Ken Kraft Midlands Hall of Fame. Olympia High School recently named its wrestling facility the Mike Manahan Mat Room in his honor.

Beyond wrestling, Mike has been deeply committed to community service. He founded a blood drive at Olympia High School and, alongside his wife, volunteers weekly at the Home Sweet Home Mission while continuing to support numerous charitable efforts.

Through coaching, officiating, leadership, and service, Mike Manahan's legacy has touched nearly every level of wrestling in Illinois and beyond.

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)

2026

Dan Farinosi, Hoffman Estates
Jeff Bowers, Bloomington
Kirk Mammen, Urbana/OSU
Pete Alber, Dakota
Margret Lehr, Normal (Girls)
Mike Manahan, Bloomington
(Girls)

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

**Platinum Level
\$500 and above**

Mark Mestemacher
Rich Montgomery
Marty & Marianne Kaiser

**Gold Level
Up to \$500**

Rick Bay
James Boyd
David Brost
James Carnahan
Joseph & Laurie Cliffe
Bob Culbertson
Raymond Cummings
Dale Eggert
Craig Fallico
Dan Fulscher

Tom Futris
Mark Gervais
Tim Haak
Kris Kamp
Jon Douglas Klein
Richard Lovelette
Richard Mann
Dennis McCann
Terry McCoy
Seth Norton

John Polz
James Risley
Kirby Rodgers
Neil Schultz
Thomas Seeman
Rob Sherrill
Roy Snyder
Ronald Stuart
John Swalec
John Wiser

**Silver Level
Up to \$100**

Gregory Anderson
Robert Baker
Gary Cook
David Curby
Morrie Geselter
Stanley Gruszka
Bill Honeycutt
Thomas Johnson

Vic Marcucci
Donald McKillip
Edward Mears
James Raabe
Mick Ruettiger
Ronald Semetis
Walter Sherman
Robert Tipsword

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

**The IWCOA also wishes to thank the
following for their generous donations to
the 2025 Hall of Fame Banquet**

Joe Cliffe
Dale Eggert

Jerry Kelly
Dave Gannaway
Roy Snyder

Lon Gerrish
Bill Honeycutt

**The IWCOA is deeply grateful for the
generous donations by the following in
honor of Ed Ewoldt.**

William Anderson
Robert "Joe-Bob" Basham
Keith Carlson
George Dyche
Steve Ewoldt
Ralph McCausland

**Congratulations to
the Class of 2026 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

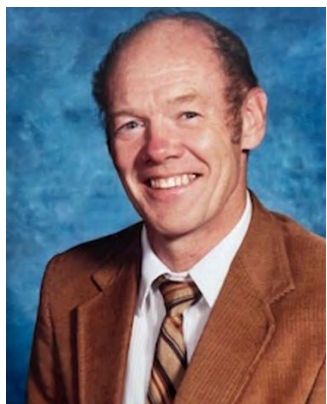


Kevin McCann and Brett Harman were outstanding athletes and great young men. Brett wrestled at Maine South High School for Hall of Fame Coaches Craig Fallico and Dennis McCann while Kevin wrestled at Notre Dame High School for Hall of Fame Coach Augie Genovesi and played football for Coach Mike Hennessey. 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.



Charles Anderson



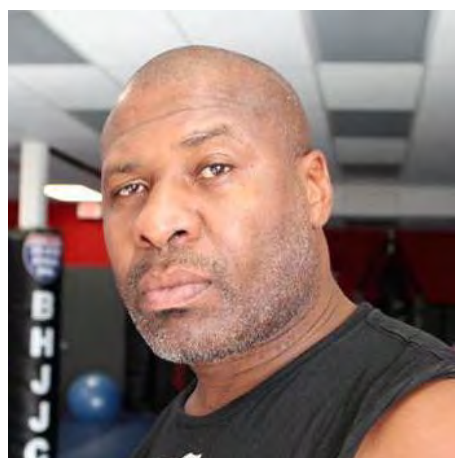
Terry Clarke



Renshaw Garshelis



Ed Ewoldt



Darrell Gholar



Don Govoni



Jim Mahar



Dan Wisniewski



NHSACA

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the NHSACA the IWCOA is proud to announce Illinois' representatives as 2026 NHSACA Honors Banquet Award Recipients. Honorees will be introduced at the NHSACA Annual Awards Banquet, June 29-July1, 2026 in Coralville, IA.

**2026 NHSACA Hall of Fame Inductee Rich Montgomery, Rock Falls
2026 NHSACA Dwight T. Keith Award Recipient Joe Cliffe, Fairbury (Prairie Central)**

Past Award Recipients

2025 Jason Clay, Vandalia, Wrestling COTY Finalist

2024 Rob Ledin, Mahomet (M.-Seymour), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2023-Dale Eggert, Libertyville, Wrestling COTY Finalist

2023-Rob Porter, Naperville (Central), Asst. COTY Finalist

2022-Jeff Hill, Petersburg (PORTA), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2019-Mark Hahn, Carol Stream (Glenbard North), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2017-Keith Healey, New Lenox (Providence), Wrestling COTY Recipient

2015 & 2016-Pete Alber, Region IV Wrestling Finalist

2014-Tim Haak, Harvard, Wrestling COTY Finalist

2013-Jeff Hill, Petersburg (PORTA), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2011-Keith Healey, New Lenox (Providence), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2010 & 2018-Rob Murphy, Wilmington, Wrestling COTY Finalist

2009-Mike Bukovsky, Lombard (Montini), Wrestling COTY Recipient

2006-Joe Cliffe, Fairbury (Prairie Central), Wrestling COTY Finalist

2002-Mike Manahan, Stanford (Olympia), Wrestling COTY Recipient

NHSACA Hall of Fame Members

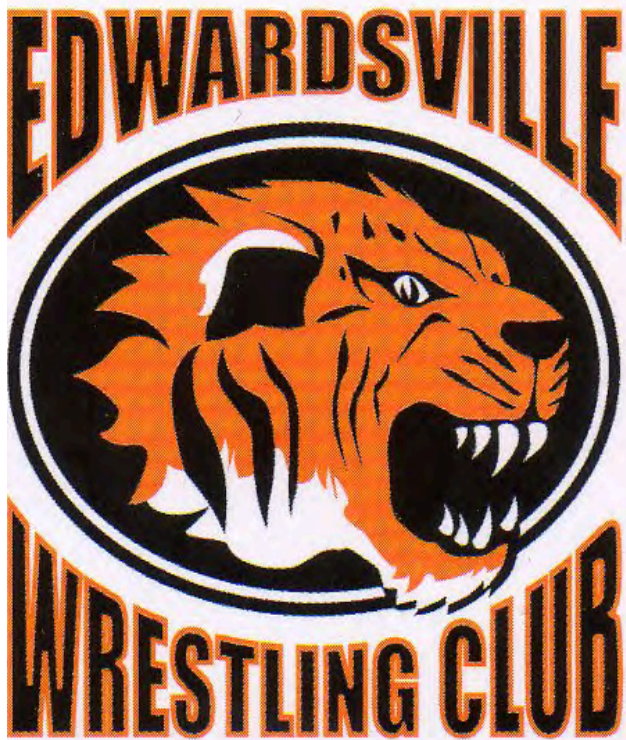
William "Red" Schmitt, Granite City

Mike Manahan, Stanford (Olympia)

Charlie Anderson, Savanna

Joe Cliffe, Fairbury (Prairie Central)

Rich Montgomery, Rock Falls



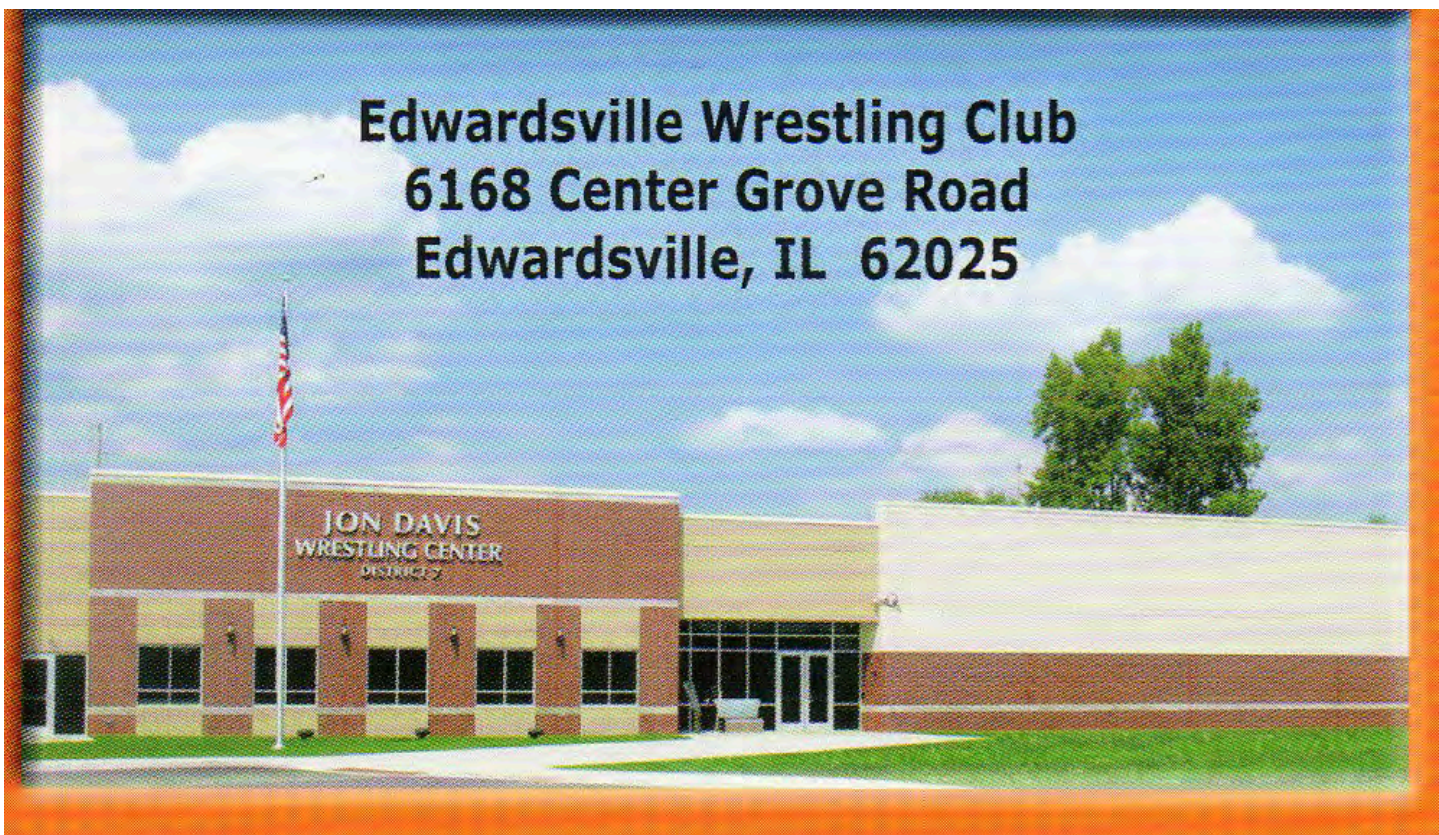
Mark Mestemacher
Edwardsville Wrestling Club

markewc@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 314-422-0159

Fax: 618-692-9482

Edwardsville Wrestling Club
6168 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025



CHAMPIONS ARE MADE IN THE OFF-SEASON

WRESTLING



LiUNA!



Midwest Nationals
TOURNAMENT

JUN. 27TH 2026

Pre-Season Open
TOURNAMENT

OCT. 31ST 2026

