

PWCA HALL OF FAME TO WELCOME THIRTEEN NEW MEMBERS TO THE CLASS OF 2015

At the annual fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association on Saturday, October 11, 2014, the Executive Board elected thirteen (13) former wrestlers, coaches and/or contributors to be inducted into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame, Class of 2015.

For the seventh consecutive year, the official ceremonies will be held separate from the PIAA State Wrestling Championships. The Hall of fame inductions will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2015 at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania. A buffet luncheon will precede the formal ceremonies with brief acceptance and brief recognition speeches by the inductees.

The details for attending the Hall of Fame Banquet ceremonies will be published in the December issue of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Round-up as well as on the PWCA website.

The Class of 2015 consists of the following individuals (in alphabetical order):

Nelson Fritz (Coach-District 4) – Fritz coached his high school alma mater to a pair of PIAA Class AA state team championships in 1988 and 1991. He coached four Benton wrestlers to nine state championships including four-time state champion John Hughes, brother Russ and Tom Yurko (both two time state champions) and Bryan Wenner.

Nick Grego (Coach – District 4) - Grego coached Athens HS team to the 1978 PIAA Class AA state team championship with just two qualifiers, state champion Pat Kelly and state runner-up Scott Webster. All together, Grego coached 10 PIAA state placewinners including state champions Dave Kennedy (1985), Paul Keysaw (1986) and Kelly. Grego was named PIAA Class AA Coach of the Year in 1985. Grego's teams compiled a dual meet record of 115-39-3, including six District 4 North sectional team championships.

Charles Jacobs (Coach – District 3) - Jacobs' greatest accomplishment came when coaching his high school alma mater, Dover, from 1976 – 1992. In 16 seasons, he coached his teams to 194 – 56-2 record. His teams finished second in the District 3 team race in 1984 and third in 1985. Jacobs' teams were undefeated in 1983 and 1984 and suffered only one dual meet loss in 1982, 1985 and 1989. Individually, he coached eight PIAA Class AAA state placewinners including PIAA state champions Shaun Smith in 1983. Jacobs was selected York County "Coach of the Year" in 1983 and 1984, District 3 Coach of the Year in 1983 and was inducted into the District 3 Hall of Fame in 1991 and the York Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

Rich Kelvington (Wrestler/Coach – District 7)- Kelvington was a four-year letterwinner at Trinity HS where he won the 1961 PIAA State Championship at 112 lbs. He completed his high school career with a 51-7-4 record. He attended Moorhead State College (MN) where he earned four varsity letters and earned All-America honors by placing 5th in the 1965 NCAA Division I Tournament at 123 lbs. He was a NAIA All-American and a two-time conference champion with a career record of 90-13. Kelvington coached Olivia (MN) HS from 1967 – 1998. His teams amassed a 367-21-10 won-loss record. Individually, he coached 6 Minnesota state champions and 28 state placewinners. He is a 1991 Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee and was inducted into the Moorhead State Hall of Fame in 1998.

Jerry Lattimore (Wrestler – District 7) - Jerry Lattimore was also a four-year letterwinner at Trinity High School where he won sectional titles in 1960, 1961 and 1963. Lattimore was a two-time WPIAL champion and captured the PIAA state championships in 1961 (95 pounds) and 1963 (127 pounds). His career won-loss high school record was 70-5-1. He attended Lamar Junior College where he was a two-time National Junior College champion. Jerry Lattimore passed away on August 5, 2006.

Dustin Manotti (Wrestler – District 4) - Dustin Manotti was a four year letterwinner at Mifflinburg HS where he was a four-time section champion, two-time District 4 and NE Regional champion a three-time PIAA Class AA placewinner, placing 7th in 1999, second in 2000 and third in 2001. He attended Cornell University where he compiled a 135-26 record en route to becoming a four-time EIWA placewinner and a four-time NCAA All-American, placing 8th, 4th, 5th and 3rd. He was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year in 2003.

Kerry McCoy (Wrestler – District 6) - McCoy has had tremendous success as a wrestler, beginning with his high school career at Longwood in Middle Island, NY. McCoy went on to compete at Penn State, where he accumulated an impressive 150-18 overall record and won NCAA heavyweight championships in 1994 and 1997. McCoy also won three Big Ten and won 131 of his last 132 matches at Penn State, including an 88-match winning streak. A three-time All-American, McCoy was named the Penn State Athlete of the Year and the Nittany Lions' Wrestler of the Year in 1994 and 1997. During his senior year, he was selected as the 1997 Dan Hodge winner and was chosen as W.I.N. Magazine's Wrestler of the Year. In 1997, McCoy graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing from Penn State.

A two-time Olympian, McCoy took fifth place at the 2000 Olympic Games and seventh at the 2004 Games in Athens.^[2]

McCoy collected numerous top finishes at the United States National Tournament with a fourth-place finish in 1994; third in 1995; second in 1996 and 1997; fifth in 1998; third in 1999; and first from 2000-04. He is a nine-time member of the National Team. In 1998 and 2001, he placed fourth at the World Championships, and won a silver medal in 2003.^[2] Then, in August 2003, McCoy won a gold medal at the Pan American Games and was honored as the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament.

McCoy was named the 2005 Friends of Long Island Wrestling Man of the Year and was inducted into the Longwood High School Hall of Fame in 1998.

McCoy has continued his wrestling successes through assistant coaching stints at Penn State and Lehigh and head coaching assignments at Stanford and presently at the University of Maryland.

In June 2014, McCoy was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, OK.

Ron Nelson (Coach – District 1) - Nelson was coach at the Academy of New Church for 30 years from 1958 to 1993. His team's career won-loss record was 312-78, never having suffered a losing season during his tenure. He coached 18 National Prep School champions, 49 Prep All-Americans and 58 Penn Jersey champions. His teams won eight Penn Jersey championships and captured the National Prep School Championship in 1962. He coached such standout wrestlers as 2x NCAA champion Kirk Pendleton (Lehigh), EIWA champions John Gladish (Lehigh) and Greg Smith (Army) and Big Ten champion Paul Mergan (Michigan). Nelson started the Philadelphia Area Championships and was co-founder of the Wristlock Wrestling Clinic.

John Reich (Wrestler – District 1) - Reich competed for Neshaminy Maple Point and earned a pair of PIAA state titles in 1978 (155 pounds) & 1979 (167 pounds). Reich went onto compete at the United States Naval Academy for Hall of Fame coach Ed Peery. During his illustrious career, Reich was a four-time NCAA qualifier from 1980 – 1983. He was a three time EIWA champion, winning titles in 1980, 1982 and 1983 at 167 pounds and placing twice in the NCAA Championships in 1982 NCAA-3rd place – 167 pounds and in 1983, he finished as the NCAA runner-up, both at 167. His career won-loss record was 119-17 with 63 pins and a winning percentage of .879, a Naval Academy record.

Carl Rhodes (Wrestler/Coach – District 3) - Rhodes is a 1960 graduate of Milton Hershey HS where he wrestled for Hall of Fame coach Andy Kovach. Due to private/parochial schools not being permitted to compete in the PIAA Championships, Rhodes finished his career high school record undefeated at 33 wins and 0 losses with 22 pins. He captured National Prep School titles for Milton Hershey in 1959 and 1960. After graduating from Milton Hershey, Rhodes attended the University of Michigan where he placed 3rd twice in the Big Ten Championships. Rhodes coached wrestling at Downingtown HS, Hershey HS and Milton Hershey HS. While at Hershey, in four years' time, he took a team with only four wrestlers and a 0-16 record to a league championship. He also coached PIAA state champion Jason Peters.

Jon Trence (Wrestler – District 11) - Trence is a 1999 graduate of Parkland High School. Jon is the career win leader at Parkland High School with 145 wins. He was a 2x PIAA State Champion (1998 & 1999), a 3x Northeast Regional Champion, and a 2x District XI Champion. Jon spent three years as an assistant coach at Lehigh University, where he was a 3x Division I All American (placing 2nd in 2002, 2nd in 2003 and 3rd in 2005). He also won 3 EIWA titles and amassed a career record of 133-14 with 34 falls. He was a World Team Member at the junior and university levels (placed 3rd), and was a 2-time Midlands Champion. He wrestled on the FILA Junior and the University World Teams earning a Bronze medal at 96 kg in 2002. He earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences and his Master's in Education from Lehigh University.

Gene Waas (Contributor – District 11) - Waas is a 1978 graduate of Bethlehem Catholic HS where he was a four-year starter on the varsity wrestling team. He was a District 11 and Northeast Regional champion in 1977. He attended Wilkes College where he finished fifth in the 1979 EIWA Championships. Waas is best remembered for his excellence in officiating. He was a PIAA Wrestling Official from 1980 – 2006, Head Wrestling Official for the District XI Tournament from 1988 – 2006, Head Northeast Regional Wrestling Official from 1989 – 2006 and seven times officiated the PIAA State Wrestling Championships. He

was the head official for the National High School Wrestling Championships from 1990 -1994 and voted the number one rated wrestling official in District XI for 19 straight years by the coaches. He also was the head official at the King of the Mountain Wrestling Tournament from 2002 – 2009.

Lyman “Beans” Weaver (Contributor – District 4)- The late Lyman “Beans” Weaver was a 1941 graduate of Shamokin HS where he competed for HOF coach Wilbur “Dutch” Lehman. Weaver was a PIAA runner-up in 1941 before joining the US Air Force during World War II, where he completed 50 missions as a b-24 radio gunner over Italy. Weaver competed on the “Marauders” inaugural wrestling team under HOF coach Ted Rupp. Prior to a career ending injury in his junior year, Weaver was a runner-up in 1947 Middle Atlantic AAU Championships and PSAC runner-up in 1948. Weaver then worked as Rupp’s assistant coach during his junior and senior years. After graduating from Millersville, Weaver joined HOF coach Mal Paul at Shamokin where for the next three decades they promoted wrestling and developed championship teams. Weaver is a member of the Greater Shamokin Hall of Fame (1985), PIAA District 4 Hall of Fame (1992), the National Wrestling Hall of Fame-PA Chapter (2003) and Millersville State College Hall of Fame in 2009.