

## Huskerland Hall of Fame Class of 2002



**Charter Hall of Fame Inductees (l-r) Gary Schlesinger, Marge and Rod Melroy, Al Thrower and Sue Stutzman**

The first six members of the Huskerland Wrestling Hall of Fame were inducted on April 13th, 2002 at Sapp Field House in Omaha, Nebraska. The charter class is made up of two couples and two individuals who have all provided outstanding service to youth wrestling in the state for over 25 years. Please note that the inductees full bios and photos will be placed later on our web site. Plaques for the inductees were provided by Camp Team Sports Insurance. The Huskerland Hall of Fame was formed to honor those who have given outstanding service to youth wrestling in this state but have not been inducted into the NSWCA Hall of Fame.



**Rod and Marge Melroy with Camp Team Rep Adam Queen (L)**

Rod and Marge have served as club directors for the Holdrege Optimist Wrestling Club since 1977. Rod was Holdrege's first state champion in 1961 and he qualified for the NAIA National Tournament while at Kearney State. Rod started the wrestling club to be able to coach his sons. Marge has organized the club's annual tournament for 25 straight years. This will be the 15th Huskerland for the Melroys. Their first ten teams participated in the Nebraska USA Wrestling State Meet. Six of their teams have finished in the Top 10 at Huskerland. Their 1997 brought home the Class B State Championship plaque. To say the least their efforts have been an important factor for the success the Holdrege wrestling program. They are truly living up to their motto of "Building a Tradition". Rod and Marge were introduced by their sons Mark and Troy Melroy.

**Gary Schlesinger - Duncan Wrestling Club**



**Gary Schlesinger with Camp Team Rep Adam Queen (L)**

Gary wrestled for Columbus High from 1966-68 and got involved again as a coach in 1977 when his sons, Scott and Cory, started wrestling with the Columbus Y. Gary started the Duncan Wrestling Club in 1991. Nine of his teams have finished in the Top Ten at Huskerland. His 1992 and 2000 teams brought home Class D State Championship plaques. His son, Cory, was a two time state champion for Columbus High. Cory went on to gain fame as a Husker fullback and now plays for the Detroit Lions. Gary has taken wrestlers to major meets all over the Midwest. They have traveled to Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma to challenge their wrestlers. With the support of wife Joan, Gary is still coaching the club. Gary was introduced by Dale Runquis who has coached the Duncan Wrestling Club the past 11 years.

### **Jerry and Sue Stutzman - Past Huskerland Board Members**



**Sue Stutzman with Jerry Mundil (R) and Camp Team Rep Adam Queen (L)**

Jerry and Sue got involved with wrestling when their older boys stated to wrestle. Their six boys went on to win 23 wrestling letters for Schuyler High. Cody and Levi were state high school champions. Justin and Dusty were state medallists. Travis and Jeremy are working the meet today as referees. Besides working all wrestling events held at Schuyler the past two decades Jerry and Sue were active with the first 15 Huskerlands and as many Cornhusker State Games. Sue served as coordinator for the Huskerland Young Officials from 1995 to 1999. The Stutzmans were honored by the NSWCA in 1998 as the Family of the Year. Jerry and Sue are now enjoying their newest title as "Wrestling Grandparents". Jerry and Sue was introduced by Jerry Mundil a long time Schuyler Wrestling Club Director & Huskerland State Meet Manager and 1998 NSWCA Hall of Fame Inductee.

### **Al Thower - Bellevue Junior Sports Association**



**Al Thower with Camp Team Rep Adam Queen (L)**

Al at age 78 he has the honor of being the oldest wrestling club director in the state. Al got his start in wrestling in 1975 as an assistant coach to the Bellevue Wrestling Club his son had joined. Al got hooked on wrestling and went on to form the BJSA in 1990. He has had seven Top Ten teams at Huskerland and last year's team brought home the Class C State Runner-up plaque. Al chartered the UNL Booster Club in 1982 and served as its president for 7 years. Al was director of Nebraska Junior State Open that served as a folkstyle state meet before Huskerland was started. Al still works as a timer and scorer at the State High School Championships and has done so at many other events including the Great Plains Open and the National Duals. Al is was introduced by Pat Rush who has coached wrestling for BJSA the past 15 years.