

Huskerland Hall of Fame Class of 2002

The second class of the Huskerland Wrestling Hall of Fame was inducted on Sunday, April 13th, 2003 UNK Health and Sports Center. The second class is made up of four individuals who have all provided outstanding service to youth wrestling. 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.



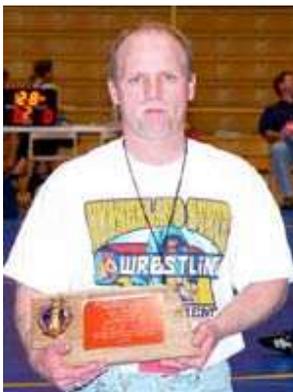
L-R: New Hall of Fame members Dave Hartman, Rusty Hunt, Rik Gropp, Tony Brown with Huskerland Director Craig Hellewege

Tony Brown - Norfolk Wrestling Club



Tony has served as the club director for the Norfolk Wrestling Club since 1977. Tony has entered the Norfolk W. C. in all 18 Huskerlands and has done it with great success. His club was overall champions for 5 straight years from 1991 to 1995. His teams finished in the top 3 of Class A for the first 11 years of Huskerland. Tony has coached the most 6-Time Huskerland champions with 4. They are Randy Hansen, Jimmy Iron Thunder, Kasey Kohel, and Billy Kruger. Tony wrestled for the Lexington W. C. from 1966-68 that was coached by his father, Richard. His dad was an early Huskerland board member and is a NSWCA Hall of Fame Inductee. Tony wrestled for Lexington High from 1968-72 and for Wayne State College from 1972-74. Tony helped his dad coach the the Lexington W. C. for 3 seasons from 1970-72. He was an assistant coach at Wakefield High in 1974-75. He coached the Norfolk Junior High from 1977-84, was their Freshman coach from 1985-94, and has been the Head Coach at Norfolk High since 1995. Tony coached the Nebraska All-Star Team in the 1999 Disney Duals and worked as a volunteer in the 2000 Olympics at Sydney, Australia. Tony will be introduced by Jim Spanel, fellow club coach and Norfolk freshman coach.

Rik Gropp - Lincoln Squires Wrestling Club



Rik has served as club coach for the Lincoln Squires since 1987. His wrestlers have won a total 68 Huskerland titles in that time. Casey Roberts and Joey Morrison were both 5-Time Huskerland champions for Rik. Six of Rik's wrestlers have went on to be State High School Champions. Ted Butler, Kyle Emsick, and Mike Munter for Southeast. Matt Wheeler, Jake Froscheiser, and Jeff Rutledge for East. Jeff, a 4 time state medalist, holds the Lincoln city career wins record with 134 wins. Casey, Joey, and Jeff all medaled high the past two

years while leading Lincoln East to back-to-back State High School Championships. While Rik has produced many outstanding wrestlers over the years he feels his real success has been instilling his wrestlers to gain confidence, improving their wrestling skills, and performing up to their ability. He strives to make his wrestlers believe in themselves while teaching them the basic lessons of life. Rik began wrestling at age 10 at Placerville, California. He later competed for the Nebraska Olympic Club in Lincoln. He started his coaching career with the Lincoln Midget Program in 1981. He was the assistant wrestling coach for Lincoln Southeast H. S. from 1986 to 2001. Rik will be introduced by Jake Froscheiser, a current UNK Wrestling team member.

Rusty Hunt - Huskerland Wrestling Referee



Rusty became a wrestling official in 1982, has refereed at the Huskerland for the last 16 years, and done 5 State High School Meets. Besides working a full slate of junior high meets every fall and high school events throughout the winter Rusty does a high number of club events in the spring. He is one of the very few referees who does this year after year. His wife, Karen, has "Ref Wido" on her license plates for good reasons! Rusty along with his brothers, Robert, Tim, and Phillip, were all highly encouraged by their father, Don, to wrestle and to wrestle hard. Don is still an active fan and can be found at many of the events Rusty is working. Rusty wrestled for Raymond Central and qualified for State 3 times. His 10 year son, Mitchell, is wrestling in the second session on Sunday. His 5 year son, Nathan, will get started this fall with the Warrior Pee-Wee program. His wife, Karen, works the State High School meet plus has been seen doing a fine job of coaching her son. Rusty feels reffing club events gives him more patience along with gaining a better understanding of the sport. What he likes best about working youth events is the good friendships it has created. Rusty is being introduced by Craig Hellwege, long time Huskerland State Director.

Dave Hartmann - Adams Central Wrestling Club



Dave got the Adams Central Wrestling Club started in 1977 and has been their only club director. Dave got involved because his boys, Shawn and Brandon, wanted to wrestle. Dave brought his early teams to AAU Wrestling State Freestyle Meets at Kearney and USA Wrestling State Freestyle Meets at North Platte. Dave is in a very select group of club directors who have brought wrestlers to all 18 Huskerland State Meets. Dave coached both Shawn and Brandon to Huskerland State titles. Both of his boys wrestled all four years for Adams Central High School. Despite having a background limited to just wrestling in the intramural program at Grand Island Senior High Dave developed a strong love for the sport that has continued long after his sons were done with wrestling. Four of Dave's wrestlers have went on to win State High School Championships. They are Jay Vontz, Dave Wallins, Derek Schmidt, and Richard Waldron. Richard now teaches and coaches wrestling for Holdrege High School. Dave has been real proud of the recent success of Adams Central High School. All eight of their 2003 state qualifiers wrestled for him at the Adams Central Wrestling Club. Dave is being introduced by Dan Lonowski, head coach for Adams Central High School.