

**Huskerland Hall of Fame
Class of 2007**

Mike & Linda Hill, Lincoln

It is a privilege and honor to be recognized for something you love doing. Our 20-year involvement with the sport of wrestling has been a true labor of love. We started when our son, Trevor, was in Kindergarten, wrestling with the Arapahoe Warriors Wrestling Club in Arapahoe, Nebraska. When we moved to Lincoln, the Lincoln Warriors Wrestling Club became our new wrestling family, and we served as club directors for seven of our eight years in the club. Our first year there, we met Craig Hellwege and all the other Huskerland leaders, and they graciously allowed us the opportunity to be Huskerland volunteers for over 15 years--as they infected us with the spirit of this organization. Many of these years included serving on the Huskerland Board, as well as Linda's work on the Program Book. It was during these years, we added the Cornhusker States Games to the mix, and that meant every summer was highlighted by this reunion of friends of all ages from across the state, working and playing side-by-side.

When Trevor entered high school, we expanded our involvement to Lincoln High booster activities, and backed our team and coaches. We were proud parents, when Trevor was a 4-time HS state medallist, including runner-up and State Champ. Next were college and the University of Nebraska Husker Wrestling Club, where we continue to contribute our time and efforts.

Each time we left one wrestling level and moved to another, we were replaced by people who are just as passionate about the sport as we are. The leadership of today's Huskerland Tournament exemplifies this. We congratulate the hardworking volunteers for their devoted efforts.

We have enjoyed countless Huskerland activities, as well as USA & AAU tournaments, with local, state, regional and national events, plus numerous high school and college competitions. Our travels have taken our family from Detroit to Dallas, and Laramie, WY, to Fargo, ND, and hundreds of places in between. By our calculations, we have purchased a truckload of Gatorade!

In closing, we want to say thanks for the wonderful memories, of working with us to provide an arena for a sport that we believe helps develop young men of strong character and a work ethic second to none. We hope to see you at wrestling events for many years to come.

Barney Morava, Deuel County "Attack Club"

Barney started the Deuel County Attack Club in 1995. His introduction of wrestling to the community and his continuation to building the sport is the reason the sport is where it is today around the Chappell community. Although the Deuel County Attack is relatively new to Huskerland, its origin was with the USA Wrestling Program.

Barney started his wrestling career at Crawford High School and he became Crawford's 1st State Champion in 1967. Barney was offered numerous wrestling scholarships including Oklahoma, Oklahoma

State, Nebraska and Arizona. After choosing Arizona, Barney staked his name in the sport and made the 1968 National Academic Wrestling Team. Shortly after, tragedy struck as a devastating car accident ended his career, but not his passion for the sport. Now, no longer able to compete, Barney took his desire to expanding the sport and focused on coaching and officiating.

Barney has been involved with wrestling nearly everywhere he has been stationed, including Crawford, Scottsbluff, O'Neill, Norfolk, Garden County and now Chappell. In 1969, he gladly accepted the request of the Crawford Jaycee's and started a youth program. He has been an Official / Referee for the Nebraska School Activities Association as well as the USAWO Assoc.

Barney has been an inspiration to the countless youth he has worked with for over 40 years of dedication to the sport of wrestling! He has been recognized with the "Inspirational Award" in 1995, "Volunteer of the Month" in March of 2000 by the City of Chappell and the prestigious, "Coach of the Year Award", District III in 2001.

When asked to comment about his life and career in wrestling, the man with few words keeps it simple, "It has been very rewarding".

Thank You Barney for not only giving your life to the sport of wrestling, but also your heart!
Marissa Schievelbein & Brenda LaVante

Larry Schmidt, Wymore

Larry Schmidt started his wrestling career in 1972 as a high school sophomore at Wymore Southern High. Anyone that was associated with wrestling in the 60s and 70s will remember Wymore Southern as one of the front runners of Class C for many years. In 1974, as a senior, Larry was the State Runner up at 155 lbs with Wymore winning the Class C State Championship. Larry competed in many AAU tournaments at that time and in 1974, Larry was a member of a Nebraska Allstar team that toured the Midwest and competed in the AAU National tournament in St Paul, Minnesota. Wrestling was somewhat of a family tradition for Larry. He had 2 younger brothers who were also wrestlers. Brother Ron was a State Champion in 1975 and Randy was a state qualifier in 1979. At one time during his high school career, there were 6 varsity wrestlers that were related to him.

In November 1986, when Larry's oldest son Nate was 5 years old, he decided to get him started in wrestling. The closest wrestling club at the time was in Beatrice, so Larry signed him up offered his services as a coach. After coaching with the Beatrice Club for 3 years, Larry decided to start his own club in Wymore. With Coach Larry Anderson's help and support, the Southern Wrestling Club was started in Wymore in 1989. That first year, there were only about 12 wrestlers but the word spread and in the ensuing years, the club grew to 30 wrestlers from grades 1-8, some years having as many as 55 wrestlers. Over the years, Larry has attended all but the very first Huskerland State Tournament. His team brought home the State Championship in 1996, the State Runner-up in 1995 and finished in the top 5 several years. Southern Wrestling Club has produced several State champions over the years and

many, many other State medal winners. The club has also had several wrestlers compete in national tournaments and duals teams over the years.

Larry also served as an Assistant coach with the high school team for 3 years until his job forced him to give that up. His passion for sports and desire to promote young athletes has led him to coaching many of his son's baseball teams and elementary football teams. Even though Larry has not had any of his own children involved in wrestling for several years, he still stays very much involved with the sport. He is currently serving in his 20th year as a wrestling coach and has been the director of the Southern Wrestling Club for 17 years. The club has 38 wrestlers participating this year and recently hosted the 16th Annual Southern Wrestling Club Tournament on March 2.

Over the years, Larry has made many friendships and acquired memories too numerous to count. He especially enjoys watching young wrestlers as they develop and progress through their clubs and on into high school and college wrestling. As far as Larry is concerned, there is nothing more gratifying than seeing the look on a young wrestler's face coming off the mat after winning that first match. Larry is also the first to say he could not have accomplished any of this without the continued support of his family and the many volunteer coaches and parents who have helped him over the years. With that in mind, I am certain that we will see Larry around promoting the sport of wrestling and contributing to Huskerland Wrestling for many years to come.

Rod Wietjes, Gibbon

I began my wrestling coaching career at Gibbon in 1976 as a junior high wrestling coach and as an assistant varsity coach. In 1978 I started our youth wrestling club at Gibbon and served as its director until 1993. In the early 80's I was very involved in club wrestling and eventually became one of the original members of the Huskerland Wrestling Advisory Board and remained a member of this board for about ten years. I remember the first Huskerland Tournament that Craig put on at Lincoln East High many years ago, the first of many success stories for Huskerland Wrestling.

In 1982, I became the head wrestling coach at Gibbon while keeping my duties as junior high coach and director of the youth wrestling club. In 1993, I stepped down as head wrestling coach and youth director, but continue to this day as assistant varsity coach and junior high coach. During my coaching career at Gibbon, sixty eight of our wrestlers have placed at the Nebraska State High School Wrestling Tournament. The success of our wrestling program would not have been possible without the existence of other great programs like Huskerland Wrestling.

I am honored to be inducted as a member of the Huskerland Wrestling Hall of Fame and I thank those involved for their consideration concerning my nomination.

Rod Wietjes