

Huskerland Hall of Fame

Class of 2008

Bob Green, Norris

Both of Bob Green's sons wrestled at Norris and his daughter was a student wrestling manager. Although he never wrestled himself, watching his sons wrestle through the years, Bob gained a real interest in the sport. He noticed there was a need for younger Norris students to have the opportunity to experience the sport of wrestling at a more regular and competitive level before they reach junior high school. As he watched his oldest son's class wrestle, he felt that they would have benefited from more experience at an earlier age. He also had his younger son in mind, hoping that he would have that chance. All other sports seemed to have regular programs for elementary age students. With wrestling, however; there was only one tournament per year and it was intramural only.

Bob expressed interest in the idea of having a wrestling club for the younger students. He brought the issue up to the coaches at Norris. They were able to put Bob in touch with others that also showed interest in a club. That's how Norris Wrestling Club started about 16 years ago. The first tournament was held in 1994 and in 1999 Norris held the first Auto Bracket tournament.

Bob has been an active member in the club since the start. He is always trying to recruit new members and coaches and encourage new ideas. He gives a lot of credit to everyone involved with the club. Without all their help and hard work they provide, the club wouldn't exist.

He enjoys watching the kids gain experience with every tournament and seeing the club's progress each year. Bob also enjoys watching the kids wrestle once they are in high school and finds it interesting to see how they have improved and to see them use the skills they have learned through the years.

Kent Lopez, Valentine

Kent's wrestling career started in the spring of 1966 as a second grader, under the guidance of legendary wrestling coach and Nebraska Hall of Fame member Mo Tehrani, in a two week after school program for grade schoolers started by Tehrani. Later on, while still in grade school, he competed in a statewide program sponsored by the local Jaycee chapter.

In 1973, he cracked the varsity line-up at 138 pounds as a sophomore and placed third in Class 'B' while helping the Badgers of Valentine win their second state championship, the first since 1969. The win came without the benefit of any wrestlers advancing to the finals, a task the NSAA would take care of in later years. The following year as a junior at 138 pounds, he again placed third as Valentine would win back to back state titles and their third championship in six years. After a brief stint on the basketball team as a senior, he returned to the mat to take fourth place at 145 pounds and become only the third wrestler in Valentine history to place at state three times in their high school career. While in high school, he enjoyed working after the season with the same youth program that he had participated in during his grade school days.

After high school, while attending Kearney State College in the late 1970's, he registered to become an active wrestling official with the NSAA. After twenty-five years as an active official in Nebraska, he retired from officiating in 2006.

In the early 1980's, Kent again started to work with the youth of Valentine in wrestling with an evening program and helped get the current Valentine Junior Wrestling Club started and registered with Huskerland.

In 2003, after several top finishes in previous years, Valentine tied Duncan for the team title in Class 'C', for a share of their first Huskerland championship.

Kent has also coached the American Legion baseball teams in Valentine since 1978 and has been the head coach of both teams since 1979.

2008 will be his thirtieth year coaching the American Legion teams for Leo Brinda Post #90 of Valentine.

Kent is married to Beth and they have a daughter, Sophie.

Randy Prellwitz, Fairbury

Randy Prellwitz became a member of the Fairbury Matmen in 1990 when his oldest son, Nate was five years old. After the 1993 season he was elected President. Randy served as President from 1994 through 2001. During his term as president he was the Tournament Director for the Fairbury Invitational which is held the 3rd Saturday of February every year. Not only did he serve as President and Tournament Director, but he also helped coach all the kids in the club and encouraged them to go to as many tournaments as possible.

It is through the efforts of Randy and his love for wrestling that the Fairbury Matmen have continually made contributions to the Fairbury High School wrestling program. The club has purchased an electronic scale, reconditioned mats, purchased warm-ups and awarded scholarships to graduating seniors.

Both of Randy's boys were very involved in the Fairbury Matmen from age five through the 8th grade and are still involved in wrestling. Nate is now a registered official with NSAA and Eric has been an assistant coach for the Fairbury High School wrestling program for two years.

The Fairbury Matmen and its directors applaud Randy for his continued support of the club. He helps with the annual tournament every year without even a phone call. He has been a leader and a tremendous supporter for wrestling in Fairbury.

Randy says "I have made many many acquaintances and friends from wrestling over the years. There are many other deserving people for this honor so I feel very humbled".