

## **Community Honoree**

### **Bob Bowsby – NCAA Athletic Director/Wrestling Advocate**

Bob Bowsby is no stranger to Waterloo residents. Over the course of his lengthy and highly successful collegiate athletic administrative career, Bob has earned accolades for his many accomplishments. Prior to embarking on his career, Bob was a 1970 graduate of Waterloo West High School. From there he enjoyed a successful wrestling career at Minnesota State University Morehead, culminating as team captain and NSIC champion and graduate in 1975.

After earning a master's degree in 1978 from the University of Iowa he began his steady climb to the highest ranks of collegiate and international athletic administration. He served as the AD at UNI for 7 years. His next stop took him back to the University of Iowa as AD for 15 highly successful years. At that time, Bob headed west to become the Director of Athletics at Stanford University for 6 years. During his tenure at Stanford, the Cardinal were in the midst of a 17 year run as the winners of the coveted Learfield Sports Director's Cup. This is awarded to the top overall athletics program in the country.

In May of 2012, Bob became the fourth full-time Commissioner of the Big 12 Conference. As has been the model at each stop in his career, complete program growth, financial success and personal accomplishments have been the by-product of Bob's skill, expertise, and leadership.

The numerous awards, accolades, and committee's that have acknowledged and benefitted from Bob's work are extensive. Bob has served on the United States Olympic Committee beginning in 2007 and culminating with the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Bob has also served as the Chair of the NCAA Wrestling Committee and on the International Olympic Wrestling committee.

Bob and his wife Candice have been married for 38 years and have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

### **John Bowsby – West High School**

John Bowsby enjoyed tremendous success on the wrestling mat from an early age. However, some of the lessons learned came via high friend and former coach, Dan Gable. John made a bit of history when as a high school sophomore became only the second high school wrestler to make the US Junior World team. To cap off this piece of history John beat a 20 year old in the finals.

Masking the most of his skill and prowess as a freestyle wrestler, John finished unbeaten for Coach Bob Siddens' and became a two-time state champ wrestling at a weight of 220 pounds in the unlimited weight class of the time. Over the course of the next couple years John capitalized on his freestyle skill and qualified for numerous national and world championship

teams. This portion of John's career culminated with a National Freestyle Championship for the USFW and the 1977 USWF National Greco Champion.

John's college career at the University of Iowa was also highly successful, earning All-American honors in 1975, 1977, and 1978. John became a Big Ten Champion in 1977 and 1978 and served as team captain for the Hawkeyes his final three seasons, ending his Hawkeye career in 1979.

John received some notoriety in 1972 for a rather extreme example of the sacrifices wrestlers make to cut excess weight to get to their desired weight class for competition. At the conclusion of his 1972 football season at West High, John weighed 227 pounds. 6 days later John weighed in at 185 pounds, cutting a whopping 42 pounds in 6 days. Unfortunately John missed his goal weight by less than a pound. 30 minutes after missing his weight goal John began to eat and drink whatever was in sight and bulked back up to 197 pounds in short order. Fortunately in today's world, weight cutting of that measure would never be tolerated.

John has gone on to a successful business career. John was inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2015. He is also the father of 4 boys: Jacob, John, Jayson, and Jeffrey.

### **Bob Buzzard – East High School**

The Buzzard name is synonymous with wrestling success in Waterloo. Buzzard began his wrestling career in the early 1950's and capped his high school career by winning 2 individual state titles for Waterloo East. His East High teams also captured 3 state championships during that time as well. Bob finished his high school career with a record of 50-4.

From there Bob continued his wrestling career for Coach Harold Nichols at Iowa State University. While at ISU, Bob continued to experience high levels of success on the mat. Two times Bob was a Big 8 Champion, he won a Midlands title, and earned All-American honors twice; placing 4<sup>th</sup> as a sophomore and 3<sup>rd</sup> as a junior. His senior season was cut short due to an injury, thus not being able to wrestle in the NCAA tournament that year.

Despite being out of college eligibility, Buzzard continued to train and became a National Freestyle Champion in 1967. From there, Bob qualified to be on many different National Greco and Freestyle teams, culminating with becoming a member of the 1972 Olympic team.

After Bob's competitive career ended, he began coaching; First in Libertyville, Illinois and then to the great northwest, at North Salem, Oregon. Bob essentially began that program from scratch, starting with 9 wrestlers the first year and quickly growing to 42 the second year. In order to raise funds for summer wrestling opportunities, Bob and his wrestlers came up with a unique fundraising idea: cutting and selling firewood. Not only were the wrestlers cutting a

solid workout from the cutting and loading of the wood, this product was plentiful both in supply and demand in the area.

Bob officially retired from coaching in 2012 but was talked out of retirement to coach at Cascade High School in Oregon and culminated with a state title that year.

Bob, along with his wife have two sons, Scott and Terry that were also high school state champions in Oregon. Bob was inducted in to the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012.

### **Bill Dotson – East High School**

Bill “Beets” Dotson is another on the list of highly regard families from Waterloo that has experienced high levels of success locally in high school to the highest levels of collegiate competition and collegiate coaching.

Bill wrestled at Waterloo East for Dave Natvig and finished his career on the mat as a 2-time state champion. In addition to wrestling success, Bill was an all-around athlete competing in football and baseball as well. In 1958 he was voted Most Valuable Athlete at East High School. From East High, Bill then moved up the road to Cedar Falls to wrestle for the Iowa State Teachers College, now known as the University of Northern Iowa and coach Bill Koll. The finals of the Division 1 Tournament in 1962 saw Bill finish as the runner-up, being defeated by Waterloo West graduate, Tom Huff competing for the University of Iowa. In 1963 Bill was the National Champion in both Division 1 and Division 2.

Upon the conclusion of his competitive wrestling career, Bill embarked on a long and successful coaching career both at the high school and collegiate level. His high school coaching stops include stints at Cedar Falls an assistant coach, and then the following high schools as head coach: Dubuque High School, Waterloo East, and Charles City. He finished his high school coaching career with a record of 101-44-3.

While pursuing a master’s degree at Western State College in Colorado, Bill began coaching again. In 1978 he became the head coach at Northern Michigan and in 1980 moved to the southwest to become the head coach at the University of New Mexico.

In addition to his competitive and coaching career Bill was an accomplished wrestling official, working the Division I, II, and III National Tournaments from 1964-1969. Bill was elected into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1992.

