

2016 Hall of Fame Bios

Joe Gibbons

Joe Gibbons, wrestling for Waterloo Columbus his freshman and sophomore years, won state titles at 98 and 105. As a freshman he suffered two defeats but avenged those in the state finals, and then was undefeated as a sophomore.

Joe then moved to Ames for his junior and senior years, where he won state titles both years as well. Joe won the 126 pound title as a junior with a 23-3 record and in his senior year finished with a perfect 28-0 record and the 132 pound title. Joe finished his high school career as just the fourth 4-time state champion in Iowa history with an overall record of 105-5.

Joe has the unique distinction of having actually won 12 state titles during his career. Joe also won four state freestyle titles and four Greco-Roman state titles. He was named the number one recruit in the country his senior year; was captain of the Dream team and named outstanding wrestler of the 1981 USWF tournament.

Joe's tremendous high school career was followed up with a highly successful college career wrestling for Coach Harold Nichols at Iowa State. Both his freshman and sophomore seasons at ISU, Joe placed fourth. It was during Joe's junior season that he was able to break all the way through and become a national champion, finishing 53-3 that year. His 53 wins as a junior still stands as the most in school history. To cap his collegiate career Joe finished third as a senior. His collegiate record was 124-20-3.

Joe was inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame with his brother Jim and Uncle Joe Frank in 2003.

Finn Eriksen

Finn B. Eriksen was the first person inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame who was not born in the state of Iowa. He made a name for himself in wrestling, and later with a sterling coaching career, and also in the area officiating.

The University of Northern Iowa (then known as Iowa Teacher's college) reaped the benefits of Finn's dedication and hard work at 135 pounds, becoming a two-time champion at the then prestigious Mid-West AAU championships. Finn earned the honor being a captain of the team his senior year.

After earning his degree from UNI, Finn continued his education getting his M.A. degree at Columbia University in New York City and then returning to Iowa to begin his long and illustrious teaching, coaching, and officiating career in New Hampton.

He led the Chickasaws to their first state championship before accepting a teaching and coaching position at Waterloo West. There Finn also helped begin the Wahawk wrestling tradition by leading them to their first state championship and then followed up with several

others. World War II then called and Finn left to be a commissioned Officer in the Naval Air Force for three years.

Upon returning to Waterloo, Finn accepted a position as Director of Health and Physical Education for all the Waterloo Schools which allowed his officiating career to blossom, officiating several duals and tournaments. He was also able to serve as an official at many national tournaments and Olympic tryouts and was honored to serve as a wrestling official at the 1952 Olympic Games held in Helsinki, Finland.

Finn was placed on many rules committees both in the state and nationally and was a supervisor over state tournament wrestling officials for 22 years. Finn was also a published writer of wrestling articles for numerous publications.

In 1968 Finn was actively involved in the formation of the United States National Wrestling Formation held in Chicago. Meanwhile, in 1969 he was appointed a charter member of the selection committee for the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame Foundation in Cresco and in 1970 was a charter member of the Iowa High School Association's formed Hall of Fame.

In February 1976, he was inducted into the Citizen's Savings Athletic Foundation, formerly National Helms Foundation for Wrestling. It all culminated in 1983 when Finn was inducted into the National Wrestling Association's Hall of Fame at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Finn B. Eriksen was inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1989.

Tim Klinghammer

Tim has the unique distinction of being a state champion for two Waterloo High Schools. Tim began his high school career At Waterloo Central High School, winning a state title in 1980 in the 98 pound class. In 1981 he transferred to Waterloo West causing him to miss out on the opportunity to defend his title. However, he more than made up for the lost time during his senior year. Along with being crowned champion at many in-season tournaments, Tim also earned the title of "Champion" in both the Big 8 Conference as well as at the state qualifying district meet.

Tim capped his outstanding high school career by winning his second state title in the 112 pound weight class, putting an exclamation point on his undefeated season, finishing 33-0.

Tim currently lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where he works for American Commercial Lines and is a marine vessel Captain.

David Saddler

David was an all-around athlete at Waterloo East. While walking the Halls of Troy, David lettered in wrestling, football and baseball. While he experienced much success in all endeavors, David truly excelled on the wrestling mat, where he became a two-time state

champion for East High. David won state titles in 1960 and 1961. To cap off an outstanding high school career, David also earned numerous academic honors as well.

Upon graduation, David enrolled at Iowa State University, wrestling for the legendary coach, Harold Nichols. In 1966, David qualified for the NCAA Championships, losing in the first round. Upon his graduation from ISU, David was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corp. David had a distinguished military career, serving as a Marine Corp Aviator, which includes hundreds of strike missions during the Vietnam War. Because of his skill and dedication to his military career, David received numerous awards and medals for his combat heroism including the Distinguished Flying Cross, The Purple Heart, and The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

After spending 31 years in the Marine Corps, Colonial David Saddler, (Retired) stays active in sports, especially golf and running marathons. During this year's Battle of Waterloo, David is participating in a unique endeavor: he is kayaking across the Hudson River in honor of his friend Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's heroic landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009.

Bob Buckley

Buckley served as the president of the Dan Gable International Wrestling Institute and Museum board and was instrumental in bringing the museum from Newton, Iowa, to Waterloo, Iowa. He facilitated the remodel of the museum after the flood of 2008, facilitated the merger between the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum in Waterloo, Iowa, in 2010, and is chairman of the renovation for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Buckley is also a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame executive committee.

Bob Buckley has served the furniture industry in senior and executive management capacities since 1976. Buckley formerly served in sales management for KG until acquiring ownership of the company in 1987. He attended Worthington Community College, where he was a national wrestling qualifier in 1974 after wrestling for Waterloo West High School under Bob Siddens.

Without the tremendous support from Bob, The National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Dan Gable Museum would not be the facility it is, nor would we have such great wrestling events in Waterloo such as The Battle of Waterloo and the many youth wrestling tournaments sponsored by the National Wrestling Museum, Dan Gable Hall of Fame.