

2017 Hall of Fame Bios

Mike Chapman – Contributor

Mike Chapman retired from a 36-year newspaper career in 2002, his last position as publisher of the Newton Daily News. He began his career as a reporter for the Waterloo Courier in 1966, and also was sports editor of The Gazette in Cedar Rapids from 1978 to 1984. He is the author of 29 books, including 16 on wrestling. As a writer, he has met and interviewed such people as Ronald Reagan, Muhammad Ali, Robert Redford, Lou Ferrigno (The Incredible Hulk from TV fame) and many other stars of movies and sports. He is considered by many the nation's leading authority on the history of wrestling. He has attended 45 NCAA tournaments, two Olympics and two World championships. Mike created WIN magazine, the nation's top publication on the sport of wrestling, and the Dan Hodge Trophy, given each year to the top college wrestler in the United States.

In 1998, he created the International Wrestling Institute and Museum, which was located in Newton for ten years before moving to Waterloo in 2008 (now the Dan Gable Wrestling Museum). He served as its executive director until retiring in October, 2009. Mike is a member of nine halls of fame. He has been named National Wrestling Writer of the Year five times, by four different national magazines. He was given the Order of Merit by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement in 2007 and the Iowa Coaches President's Award in 2007. As an athlete, he competed in wrestling, judo, sombo and bench press contests. He and his wife, Bev (Reiter, of Don Bosco fame), live in Newton, Iowa.

Bill Andrew – Waterloo West High School

Bill's wrestling career began at West Waterloo High School where he wrestled for the legendary coach, Bob Siddens. Bill was a member of the 1969 State Championship Team and he himself was a 133# state champion for that same 1969 team. While at West Waterloo, Bill also lettered twice in football & three times in baseball and was West Waterloo's Most Valuable Athlete for 1968-1969. Bill's wrestling career continued at Purdue University, where he was a 3 year letterman & captain of the 1972 - 1973 team.

Bill's first coaching position took him back to Iowa, where he coached at Cardinal Community Schools in Eldon, Iowa. In the fall of 1976, Bill made a coaching move to NE Iowa. This move was to Osage, where he remained until 1987. While at Osage, Bill's teams excelled. Those team accomplishments were: 1981 Class AA Team State Champions and 1983, 1984 & 1985 Class AA State Team Runners-Up. Bill also had 66 individual state qualifiers, 8 individual Class AA State Champions, 8 Class AA Sectional Championships, and 7 Class AA District Championships. Bill also coached Iowa's sixth member of the four-time state champion club (in 1985), Mark Schwab. He was the 1981 Class AA Coach of the Year and in 1998, inducted into the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. In the fall of 1987, Bill made a move to the State of Indiana, where he continued to coach wrestling at Jefferson High School in Lafayette. Bill's teams there accumulated 8 sectional championships, 4 regional championships, 1 semi-state championship and a 1996 state dual meet qualifier. He coached 12 individual state qualifiers and in 1994 the school's first individual state champion since 1958. In the fall of 1996 Bill left coaching to become a full-time athletic director until his retirement from public education. He & his wife of 44 years (Sherri) now reside in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Virgil Carr – Waterloo East High School

Virgil was born in Waterloo, Iowa in 1940. He was very proud of his large family upbringing. He often spoke of time spent at the Jessie Cosby Community Center and his wrestling days at East High School. His achievements in wrestling provided him with a scholarship to Iowa State University. While at Iowa State, Virgil earned All-American status three times.

Virgil accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age and was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church which is only blocks away from East High School. Virgil often spoke of how the sport of wrestling taught him to be physically strong and mentally focused. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Iowa State; then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Virgil was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus from both universities. After college, Virgil worked at Human Service agencies in Omaha, NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, and St. Louis, MO. He became a tireless advocate for the improvement of the quality of life for all people. Virgil's work and professional involvement included: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, National Board for Head Start, Finance Manager at United Charities of Chicago, Iowa State University Board of Regents, CEO of Family Services of Detroit, CEO at United Way of Chicago, and President and CEO at United Way of Detroit. Virgil's life was an example of his dedication to helping others. Although he passed away in May of 2003, his unrelenting compassion has forever changed the way that children and families receive Human Services in Chicago, Detroit, and other cities across the country.

Kyven Gadson, Waterloo East High School

Kyven graduated from Waterloo East High School in 2010. Kyven has wrestling in his blood as he is the son of Iowa State wrestling great Willie Gadson. Kyven made a name for himself in the sport, winning two high school state championships and going 68-0 in his final two seasons where he wrestled under the guidance of his father, Willie. Kyven was recipient of the 2010 Junior Schalles Award for the top high school pinner in the nation.

Following his father's example, he graduated from Iowa State, where the Gadson's were the first father-son duo to win conference championships and achieve All-American status. Kyven placed sixth at the 2013 NCAA National Championship, just 13 days after his father's death from cancer. As a 3-time NCAA Division I All-American, Gadson wrapped up his final collegiate season in 2015 with 30 wins and became the 69th National Champion in Iowa State Universities wrestling history. Kyven is now a 2-time graduate of Iowa State University. He walks for his master's degree in higher education leadership and learning tomorrow (December 15th) and aims to one day become a NCAA Division I athletic director. Kyven is currently on the USA Wrestling National Team and was the 2017 World Team Alternate as he pursues his goal of becoming a World and Olympic Champion. He is a husband to his wife Haley and father to his daughter Isabella and they currently reside in Ames.

Tony Cordes – Waterloo West High School

Tony's wrestling career began at West Waterloo High School where he wrestled for whom he believes to be the greatest high school wrestling coach ever, the legendary coach, Bob Siddens. Tony was a 1973 graduate and became the 15th two-time state champion in Waterloo West Wahawk history when he beat Curtis Craig of Davenport Central in the 1973 155-pound state final by a score of 7-5. Following his state title, Tony was named a high school all-American.

Tony also won the 132-pound state title in 1971 beating Dan Rhoades of Cedar Falls by a score of 6-3 in the finals, and was the 138-pound state runner-up in 1972. Tony is one of just five Waterloo West Wahawks to have been a three-time state finalist joining Jimmie Stoyanoff, Dick Hauser, Tom Huff and Dan Gable. Tony helped West to state team titles in 1971 and 1972, and a third-place finish in 1973. In addition to his three state finals appearances, Tony was a National Freestyle champion at 154 in 1972 and 1973 and was a National Freestyle runner-up in 1971. After his prep career, Tony wrestled at the University of Iowa in 1974 and 75 and again in 1978. Tony currently resides in Waterloo.