

2019 Battle of Waterloo Hall of Fame Inductees



Chuck Patten – East High, 1956

Chuck Patten wrestled under Coach Dave Natvig at East High, where as a two-time state qualifier he placed third and fourth. Patten continued his wrestling career for three years at Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) where he posted a 28-5-2 dual meet record under Coach Bill Koll. He graduated from ISTC in 1961 and received his Master's from Oregon in 1962. Coach Patten began his coaching career at Exeter High School (CA), where he guided his team to the state title in only its second year of competition. He then moved to Reedsport, OR for the 1963-64 season where he coached three state champions and won the state title.

Coach Patten took over as head wrestling coach at UNI - one of the most successful mat programs in NCAA history - in 1965, guiding UNI to even more national recognition with 17 consecutive winning seasons and a pair of Division II titles. At the time of his retirement, his 218-86-8 career coaching mark made him the winningest coach in the history of UNI wrestling. His guidance helped enrich that history by yielding 58 Division I or II All-Americans along with 16 national champions. His 1975 and '78 squads earned Division II crowns, while the 1970, '72, '74 and '80 grapplers achieved second place finishes.

Coach Patten's teams have the distinction of winning, placing or showing in 11 of the 18 years he coached. He twice was honored as the Division II Coach of the Year and was named Midwest Regional Coach of the Year after his 1982 squad took the regional championship. In the 14 years his teams participated in the North Central Conference tournament, his wrestlers brought back the first place trophy ten times and the runner-up award four times. In the Mid-Continent Conference, the Panthers won five consecutive titles. He retired from coaching in 1982.

Coach Patten has served as president of both the Division I and Division II Coaches Associations and was chair of the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee from 1974-78, the only Division II coach to receive this honor. Patten was named the Division II Coach of the Year in 1970 and 1978 and the USA Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1978. He was the Chairman of the 1980 US Olympic Coach Selection Committee. He also served as a color commentator for Iowa Public Television broadcasts from 1983-86. Patten was inducted into the UNI Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1995. Today, Coach Patten and his wife, Lynn, live in Everett, WA. They have two daughters, Jamie and Cindi, who also reside in Washington.



Jerry Springer – West High 1958

Jerry Springer wrestled at West High under Coach Bob Siddens. He was a state runner-up his junior year and earned a state title his senior year, helping the Wahawks win the state team championship. He was a multi-sport standout at West, being named Athlete of the Year in 1958.

Springer continued his wrestling career under Coach Frank Powell at Adams State College (CO) where he was a runner-up at the Rocky Mountain Championships. He graduated with a degree in Physical Education & Coaching.

Coach Springer began his long and successful coaching career at Logan Jr. High in 1964. His high school coaching career got started at Davenport Assumption High School, followed by a stint at Waverly-Shell Rock where his team captured WSR's first North East Iowa Conference wrestling title in 1969, a feat that would not be repeated until the mid-2000's.

Coach Springer moved into the collegiate ranks as an assistant coach at SE Missouri State and then held a very successful campaign as head coach at McCook College (NE), racking up eight undefeated seasons and numerous individual and tournament champions.

Coach Springer then returned to Waterloo as the head coach at Columbus Catholic and later Central High School.

Coach Springer was extensively involved with USA Wrestling. He was the Junior USA Wrestling World Chairman, served on the USA Olympic Committee and coached the USA Junior World team to a third place finish behind Russia and Bulgaria. He also took a USA wrestling team on a historic trip to Mongolia. Coach Springer currently resides in rural Waverly where he is very active in his church and operates a thriving fire wood sales business. His son, Todd, and daughter, Jamie, live in Clearwater, FL.



Dan Mashek – West High 1965

Dan Mashek wrestled at West High for Coach Bob Siddens. He placed third at state during his senior year in 1965, helping the Wahawks capture the state team title. He was a multi-sport athlete for West and was named the Outstanding Athlete in 1965.

Mashek continued his wrestling career at UNI under Coach Chuck Patten, where he was a three-year varsity wrestler.

Coach Mashek started the wrestling program at Don Bosco in 1971 and remained the head coach for 30 seasons until 2000. Under Mashek's guidance the Dons became a perennial power, winning five state team titles (four traditional, one dual) and amassing a 421-69-5 dual meet record. During Coach Mashek's tenure the Dons boasted 22 state champions, including Tom Hogan and Daryl Weber who went on to earn NCAA DIII and NCAA DI National Championships.

On the way to five state championships, Coach Mashek's Dons amassed 23 sectional titles, 19 district championships, 138 state qualifiers and 85 state placewinners.

Coach Mashek continued his winning ways at North Scott in Eldridge where he compiled a record of 93-30. He has the most dual victories in Iowa high school wrestling history with his combined record of 519-105-5.

Coach Mashek has earned numerous Iowa Coach of the Year awards, is a member of the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Iowa Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the IHSAA Wrestling Hall of Fame. He currently lives in Eldridge with his wife Linda. Mashek's son, Tom, followed in his footsteps and is the head coach at Louisa-Muscatine. His daughter, Liz, is a principal for North Scott Community Schools.



Rex Smith - Orange Township 1967

Rex Smith started wrestling in junior high under the direction of Coach Ron Burnell who began the program at Orange. Each evening the wrestlers would roll out the canvas mats for use on the stage in the gymnasium, then roll them back up again after practice. Rex wrestled, played football and golf all through high school. As a wrestler, he was undefeated in his senior year and went on to win a state championship title.

After graduation from Orange, Rex attended Iowa State University from 1967-72. He received a wrestling scholarship to Iowa State and continued his career wrestling all four years at the 190 weight under the direction of Coach Harold Nichols. He wrestled on the same team as Dan Gable and Chris Taylor.

Rex also played golf all four years at ISU under Coach Dale Anderson, where he received three golf awards and had the honor of being captain of the team.

After graduating from Iowa State, Rex began working in the marketing division with John Deere Minneapolis. A few years later he married Randi Berning in Baraboo, WI, and began his career at a John Deere dealership in Reedsburg, WI. Rex currently resides in Boulder Junction, WI. He has two children, Katie and Billy, and four grandchildren. Rex now sells final expense insurance, and aside from measuring the snowfall way up north, he spends his spare time at Walmart enjoying being a greeter.



Larry "Punchy" Sallis – East High 1968

Larry Sallis' involvement in wrestling has spanned 50+ years. The 1968 East High graduate was a three sport athlete, competing in wrestling, track and cross country. Sallis continued his wrestling career at NIACC, then wrestled for Coach Chuck Patten at UNI.

Coach Sallis was instrumental in the renowned Waterloo Boys Club wrestling program of the 1970's and early 1980's. Working with Bill Tate Sr. and others, Coach Sallis guided many young wrestlers during his seven years with the program. Many of his wrestlers went on to win Iowa state championships, placements, and NCAA championships.

Coach Sallis served for 18 years as an assistant coach to Steve Knipp at East High, where he helped coach the 1983 state championship team.

Coach Sallis was also very active in USA Wrestling, attaining a high level ranking in officiating in both Freestyle and Greco Roman. Coach Sallis refereed at the USA Junior National Tournament for 15 years. Additionally, Coach Sallis coached wrestling, football, track and basketball at multiple middle schools.

Coach Sallis continues to support local wrestlers and has completed extensive work to recognize and display the rich wrestling tradition of East High School. His family includes his wife Barb, sons Derek (Colorado Spring, CO), Ryan (Waterloo) and TJ (Cedar Rapids). He currently is following his grandson, Eli, who wrestles for East High.

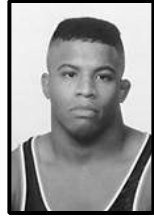


Dave Cunningham – East High 1972

Dave Cunningham was a 1972 state champion at East High under Coach Bill Dotson. Dave continued his wrestling career at UNI under Coach Chuck Patten. Cunningham was a three-time NCAA Division II All-American as well as a runner-up on the 1975 Division II championship team. The 1974-75 championship team was inducted into the UNI Athletic Hall of Fame.

After graduating from UNI, Cunningham began his career in education and coaching with stints at North Tama, Cedar Falls and Waverly-Shell Rock before settling in Forest City. He coached one state champion and 17 place winners. Cunningham served Forest City for 26 years as a teacher, coach, counselor and administrator.

Coach Cunningham and his wife, Deb, currently live in Forest City. Their son, Ryan, and his family live in Okoboji; their son, Kyle, and his family live outside West Des Moines.



Dr. Jamal Fox – West High 1992

Jamal Fox was a two-time state third place finisher in 1991 and 1992 at West High for Coach Don Huff and Assistant Coach Steve Gillen. Fox went on to continue his wrestling career at Wartburg College under hall of fame Coach Jim Miller, where he was an integral member of Wartburg's rise to Iowa Conference dominance and multiple NCAA Division III championships.

While at Wartburg, Fox was a three-time Iowa Conference Champion and three-time All American winning third, second and first place finishes in 1994, 1995 and 1996 respectively. His 142- pound national final win in 1996 helped clinch Wartburg's first team national title in any sport. He is still the all-time winningest wrestler at Wartburg, with a 158-36 record.

Dr. Fox graduated from Wartburg with a biology degree then attended Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia where he earned his Doctor of Optometry degree. Dr. Fox then practiced Optometry in Greensboro, NC, before moving to the St. Louis, MO, area. Dr. Fox currently owns and is an optometrist at JJ Optical, LLC in Florissant, MO. Dr. Fox is also an Adjunct Professor of Optometry at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Dr. Fox's wife, Abiola, is a pharmacist for Walgreens and they have three children, Addison (10), Jacobi (8) and Jonathan (4).

Congratulations to the 2019 Battle of Waterloo Hall of Fame Inductees!