

National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum Florida Chapter



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 2

Fall 2021

The President's Podium

In our last newsletter, I talked about our struggles of the past two years, the spirit of our Olympians, and the dedication of the Florida Chapter Board of Directors. I have to dedicate this article to the men and women, their spouses and the volunteers whom I am honored to work with, that make the Florida Chapter the unique and distinctive organization it is.

In July, our Board of Directors held a planning meeting for the upcoming Hall of Fame Induction ceremony at the Wyndham Hotel. Before this meeting, I had a meeting with the hotel staff to discuss any changes due to restrictions imposed by any governing agencies. The results were to continue as we have in the past, but be prepared to go with Plan B if there are changes. As a result, we went with plan A. Plan B was not discussed. I had the confidence with this team that we could adjust to any changes presented to us. The dedication of this board is astounding. To win a championship in wrestling, each wrestler stands alone and has to do his/her part to contribute to the team to win that championship. I feel our board is the same: each individual has a specific job but they also contribute to whatever it takes to get the job done as a team.

Forward to September and Hall of Fame weekend. We are inducting the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021. It has been two years since our last induction and we are doing double duty, plus we added some new features. For the first time in 22 years, I was a little unsettled. Am I asking too much of this board? Friday night's Social went as planned. Saturday morning's Testimonial Breakfast was a concern. We have 22 speakers! We were able to finish 55 minutes ahead of schedule. At Saturday evening's Banquet, we were presenting 10 inductees and the hotel requested us to be out by 10:00 pm to set up for another event. We finished 35 minutes ahead of schedule. This team started at 7:00 am Saturday and worked until 10:00 pm that evening. The whole event was near perfection.

Hall of Fame weekend is just part of our team's accomplishments. This board contributes 3000 to 4000 volunteer hours a year. Each Director has a specific job including website and social media, nominations, assisting inductees, registration, fund raising, developing sponsors, operations, maintaining the wrestling museum, Chapter home office, newsletters, programs and more. I cannot put into words what this group of men, women, and volunteers means to me personally and to the wrestling community. They are dedicated and their commitment level is unconditional.

I cannot put into words to you my love and affection for this group. They are a championship team.

*Remember, when we do it, we do it with class,
for we are honoring the best of the best.*

Thank you,

Gary Townsend

Know a new coach or AD in your district?

Changed your preferred email?

Changed schools?

If you can answer YES to any of these questions, please let us know so we can continue to deliver the newsletter to you, and to let others receive it too. Email the new information to: NWHOFfloridachapternewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you!

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2023 NOMINATIONS

Dear Wrestling Community,

Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. It is the wrestling community that is responsible for helping us find and recognize those men and women that have dedicated their lifetime to the sport of wrestling. We once again ask for your assistance to help us find deserving individuals to honor.

The timeline for making a nomination for the 2023 Induction Class is now and continues until August 30, 2022. Applications can be downloaded from our website at <https://nwhof.org/state-chapters/florida>. All applications need to include one letter of nomination and at least two letters of recommendation. Completed applications are to be sent to Robert Burns, 328 S.E. 2nd Court, Deerfield Beach, Florida, 33441.

If you have any other questions, please contact me at 954- 426-6457.

Thank you in advance and thank you for your continued support of the greatest sport in the world.

Bob Burns. Class of 2007

Florida Chapter Awards

The following awards are approved by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Given in recognition of 20 years or more of dedication to the development of leadership and citizenship in the youth through the sport of wrestling.

Outstanding American

Given to former wrestlers who are highly successful in other walks of life and use the disciplines learned in wrestling in their profession.

Medal of Courage

Presented to a former wrestler who has overcome what appear to be insurmountable challenges.

John Vaughn Award.

Some years, the Florida Chapter bestows this prestigious chapter award that was created to acknowledge those deserving individuals who otherwise may not receive recognition for their profound contribution to the sport of amateur wrestling in the state.

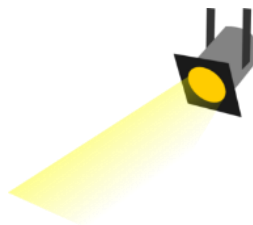
"I would never win an award for not loving pizza."

--Dwayne Johnson

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ralph Ballou

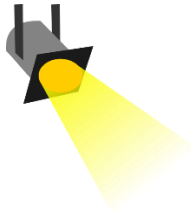
Class of 2005



Ralph, age 89 and going strong, recently spoke with Alan Solomon (Class of 2016) and updated what's been going on since his induction. Read on to find out about his very interesting hobby!

- Ralph and Mary were married for 62 years before she passed.
- They had five children (Ruth Ann, Mark, Ralph II, Lee, and Jerry), and now have six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren!
- He travels all over the country to see his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
- Rick Tucci got Ralph involved with officiating and he stayed with it for 25 years
- He called a lot of early matches (4- 5 PM) because his job allowed him to get there in time
- He remembers working tournaments with Gary and Jane Townsend
- Ralph works in the yard to keep fit
- That hobby? Ralph builds ships in bottles!
 - He is from Indiana and says the winters there gave him time to work on the ships
 - He built a 43" ship for a museum in Key West and a 74" Spanish Galleon for someone in Louisville, KY. It took two years to build!
 - And, after all these years, he still enjoys doing this.

"Surround yourself with what you love,
whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music,
plants, hobbies, whatever." George Carlin



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ron Jones

Class of 2008

Ron and his wife, Ruthie, are enjoying life in retirement. He recently spoke with Alan Solomon (Class of 2016) and had these updates for us:

- He still lives in Sarasota and stays busy with five grandchildren
 - His son, Brian, and wife have twin daughters
 - His daughter Callie and husband have three children
- Much time is spent watching and enjoying the grandchildren playing sports, such as softball and baseball
- Ron enjoys getting together with former wrestlers and does see other coaches and officials, such as Andy Gugliemini and Ernie Withers, regularly
- They have a vacation home in Alabama and appreciates time spent there
- Ron helped start the wrestling program at Sarasota Military Academy. He was involved for three years, but had to give it up due to health issues.
- Ron is planning to attend the NCAA Tournament next March.

"There's a lot of things that can happen in a match. You wrestle smart, you wrestle through it."

--Mark Hall, Penn State wrestler
2017 NCAA Champion

This article is a follow-up from last issue's article on Gary Freis.

On November 1st, 2021, during the City Council Meeting, the City of Fort Myers made an official proclamation declaring December 4th **Gary Freis Day**.



Thank you, Mayor Kevin Anderson and the Fort Myers City Council for this honor and acknowledgment recognizing our dad, Coach Gary Freis, and thus declaring December 4th as “Coach Gary Freis Day”. We are looking forward celebrating that day at the Freis Duals. This year’s duals has a great field of 14 teams with Solomon Fleckman bringing his team down. Thank you, Dennis Hackworth, for your hard work.

Most importantly a special thanks to Eric Herman for your hard work and initiative. It definitely will not go unnoticed. The importance of giving back truly works, moves mountains, and most importantly, brings out the best in people.

Thank you to everyone that came out today and continue to support the wrestling community and family. The wrestling family is a special family and knows the importance of going the extra mile and especially “Giving Back”. As many already know, “It’s not where you start, it’s where you finish.” We are not finished, only getting stronger and more technically sound. Thank you Jeff Ruskin for driving down, Eric Herman, Mrs. Markowski, Jeff Malavsky, Dennis Hackworth, Mike Henning, Mr. and Mrs. Kellum and AJ, Chris Patricca, Rob Daily, Paul Rothenberg, Matt and Colton, Angelo Vaughn, Joey Phillips for coming. If I missed someone, our apologies.

Kim and Heather, Gary’s daughters


THE RIGHT TO VOTE

by Robert Burns, Class of 2007, Alumni Representative on the NWHOF Florida Chapter Board

For over 100 years, women fought for the right to vote in political elections. On August 18th, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted them that right. Following your induction night, you earned the right to vote on the next year's Induction class, and for many years after. However, not exercising that right for two consecutive years will result in a loss of that voting privilege.

Fortunately, regaining your privilege to vote is very simple. The only requirement is that you must attend one of the Florida Chapter's functions or events. For example, participating in the Welcome Line at the State Championships, or attending any part of Honors Weekend can return your right to vote.

As with any organization, being an active member is the minimum expectation. Your participation increases the strength of our Florida Chapter. At the staging meeting during our Honors Weekend, I always say please don't be a "one and done" alumni member. What that means is "Don't make Honors Weekend the last time we see you". Please stay involved, and support the people that honored you. Voting is both your right and also your privilege.



*"There is no such thing as a vote that
doesn't matter."*

— Barack Obama

HONORS WEEKEND 2021

Memorable Moments from the Testimonial Breakfast

CLASS OF 2020

For Marc Allison –

“My son, my best friend.”

“He makes people feel special. Without Marc, I would not have been a coach, a ref, get my Masters, or become a school administrator,”

For Tom James -

“My high school coach, and he helped me get my first coaching job.”

“I am the man I am today because of him. He was a fine example of a person, coach, friend.”

For Dominick Mandicott -

“When he officiates, he is on time, looks good for the sport and the wrestlers, and gives 100%.”

“Congratulations to my best friend.”

For Nate Richardson -

“Nate the Great taught me patience, understanding, and fair coaching. He was always good at foreseeing the outcome.”

“Strong-willed, good-natured, a role model, and a proud father of his wrestlers that are in the Hall of Fame.”

For Mike Turner -

“Many of us had different paths, but all paths led to Coach Turner.”

For Ernie Withers –

“He calls me his little brother. He is a good man. He has integrity.”

CLASS OF 2021

For Dan Hartung -

“A solid official and fun to work with,”

“He has the willingness to work each and every day.”

For Bob Hendrickson -

“No time outs. No substitutes.”

For Daniel Walker -

“A coach – those two words hold a lot of weight. On good days, on bad days, coach showed up. I know he will always be in my corner.”

“Five years we went 0-7 in State Finals. Our last year together we had a state champ.”

An Inductee and his wife share their impressions of the events.

Thank you to the Florida Chapter of the Wrestling Hall of Fame for inducting my husband, Bob Hendrickson. The HOF Weekend was amazing from start to finish. They made the inductees feel very special - along with the wives and significant others. The little gift bags filled with goodies was so unexpected and very sweet. As for the Breakfast - Jane!! I loved how she kept all the speakers on time. It was very entertaining and she did it with smoothness. LOL!! Then, the Banquet. Go time! What an amazing way to honor the inductees from introducing them one-by-one into the room filled with all the family members, friends and colleagues. Then, accepting their awards and putting on their jackets. You really made them feel special. Florida Chapter HOF - you did it right!! Thank you, Debbie Hendrickson

To the Florida Chapter HOF Board,

What an awesome weekend. I didn't know what to expect, but it was special for each inductee, from the book and shirt signing to the conversations at the Social to the Testimonials at the Brunch. The heartfelt speeches at the Banquet capped this event. Thank you for acknowledging the deserving coaches, refs, and contributors that makes Florida wrestling great.

Thank you, Bob Hendrickson



Standing, Class of 2020: Ernie Withers, Mike Turner, Nate Richardson, Dominick Mandicott, and Marc Allison.

Sitting, Class of 2021: Bob Hendrickson, Daniel Walker, and Dan Hartung.

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Mark your calendars now!
The Florida Chapter of the
National Wrestling Hall of Fame
Honors Weekend
for the Class of 2022
is August 26-27, 2022.





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Officials Position

by Jim Smoot, Class of 2019, Officials Representative on the NWHOF Florida Chapter Board

High school wrestling season is upon us again. Hopefully the worst of Covid-19 is in our past and we can once again resume wrestling tournaments without restrictions. One of the most exciting aspects of this year's wrestling season is that girls wrestling is now a sanctioned sport. This will increase the number of matches and officials to referee them. Girls' postseason tournaments will run concurrently with the boys' tournament dates. This means we need to recruit even more new officials. The need may not be as impactful this year, but the fact that girls' wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, we can be sure that numbers will increase every season.

Now is the time to review your rule book and take the test to be a referee. Your associations should be holding training meetings and going over new rules or situations that can occur during a match. I'm sure many of you have refereed during the off-season to keep your skills sharp. If not, this is an option I would greatly encourage you to take advantage of as it not only keeps you in a wrestling frame of mind, but can help you improve dramatically.

One change that I want to mention is that the wrestlers are now to be weighed in wearing their singlets and both male and female athletes can be weighed at the same time. This can be accomplished right in the gym, so it should decrease the time needed for weigh-ins, especially for large tournaments.

I wish everyone a healthy and successful wrestling season. Remember knowing the rules, positioning, and a good demeanor will help you achieve this.

Best of luck,

Jim Smoot

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Museum Memo

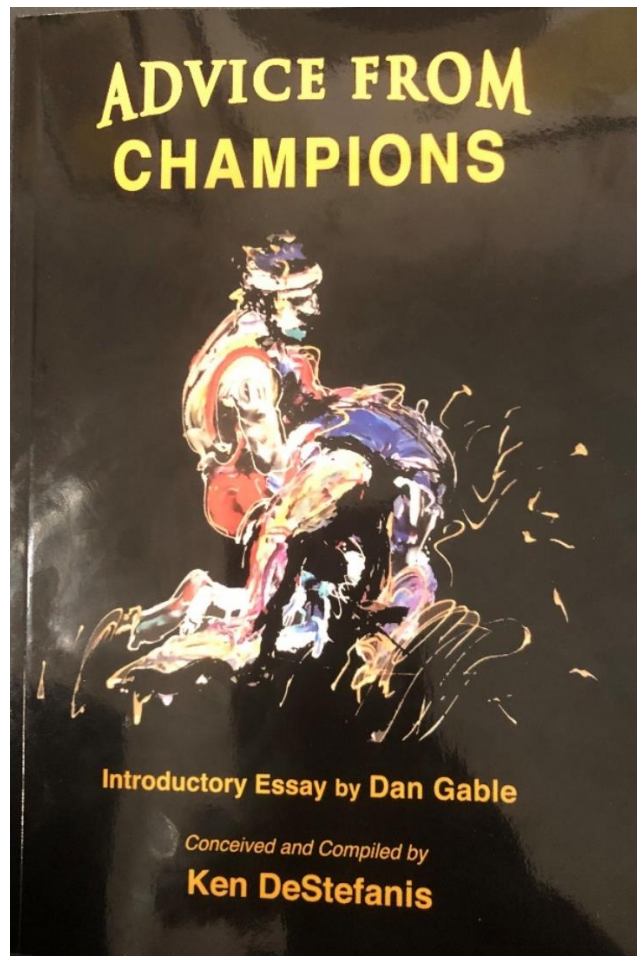
Pete Collins, Class of 2012, Mobile Museum Director on the NWHOF Florida Chapter Board.

The mission of National Wrestling Hall of Fame is to *Preserve, Recognize* and *Inspire* through wrestling. As part of the mission to preserve and share Florida's wrestling history the Florida Chapter has created a Mobile Museum.



Please plan to visit the Chapter's Mobile Museum March 3-5 during the 2022 FHSAA State Tournament at the Silver Spurs Area.

"If you're a champion, you have to have it
in your heart. —Chris Evert

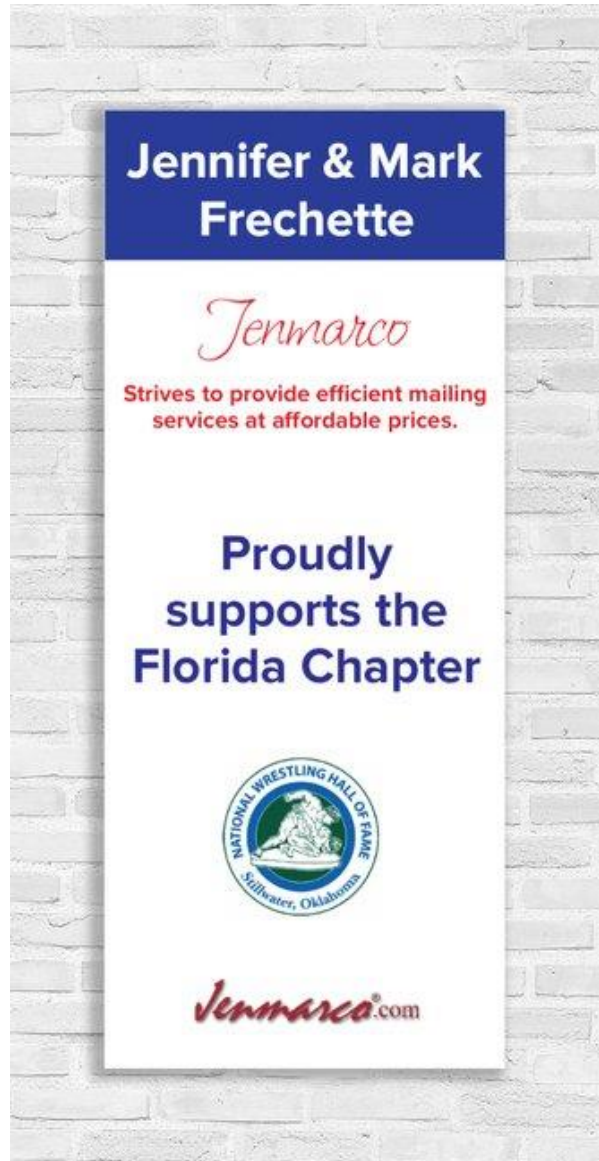


"I created this book to advance the sport of wrestling."
Ken DeStefanis - Founder of Project

This book can be ordered at www.advicefromchampions.com

All proceeds will be donated back to non-profit wrestling organizations
including the Dan Gable Hall of Fame Museum & NWHOF.

Please support the NWHOF Florida Chapter supporters



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<https://compedge.us/>

860-230-1553



Thank you, Frank Pettineo (Class of 2006)
for your continued support!

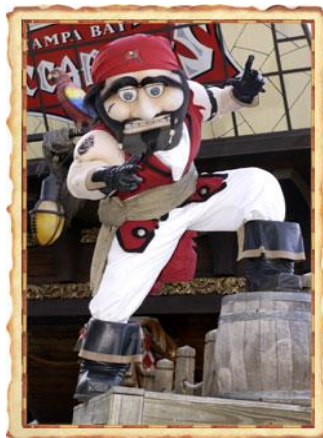
Website Wonder

by Bob Thomas, Class of 2017, Media Services Director on the NWHOF Florida Chapter Board

Honors Weekend Is In The Can, With Music!

Congratulations to the newest members of the NWHOF Florida Chapter. Our September induction for the Class of 2020 and 2021 was a huge success. Nathanael Richardson, Ernie Withers, Mike Turner, Thomas James, Dominick Mandicott, Marc Allison, Daniel Hartung, Daniel Walker and Bob Hendrickson are now represented within the NWHOF Museum located in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The State Chapter venue contains an interactive screen that contains the biographies of every member, arranged by state and class. If you're reading this and want to update your own biography, please send me your amended bio and I will be happy to update the database. This especially holds true for the many that are still coaching and officiating.

For the first time, the event introduced music into the ceremonial environment under the guidance and control of one Tippy Golphin, the current wrestling coach for Bradenton Southeast High School. Tippy has an unusual past: he was a college and pro team cheerleader! He cheered for his alma mater, James Madison University, where he was known for doing back handsprings the length of the field. Check out this video link to see him perform at half time. Warning: you may get dizzy watching! [Tippy Golphin Tumbles the Field - YouTube](#). Coach Golphin is also a retired cheerleader for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and was working the team's first Super Bowl victory and awarded his own Super Bowl ring. He has served as the DJ for official Buccaneer tailgate parties and he was 'Captain Fear' for three years. Yes, that's him in costume! Great job!



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS

RETIREMENT PLANS

Certain IRA holders have the opportunity to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations. For tax-free eligibility, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) must be sent directly from the IRA payable to the receiving qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Eligibility and Donation Limit

IRA holders must be at least 70½ years of age before the distribution. In addition, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs who meet the age requirement can also take advantage of QCDs.

For those who qualify, the maximum IRA charitable distribution is limited to \$100,000 per tax year. Any distribution in excess of this limit will not qualify for the tax exclusion benefit and will be treated as ordinary income. The provision applies for Traditional, Roth, and inherited IRAs, but does not typically apply to distributions from “active” SEP or SIMPLE IRAs.

Benefits of a QCD

If a taxpayer makes the donation as prescribed by the IRS, then the distribution will be excluded from gross income and counts toward:

- The taxpayer’s \$100,000 exclusion limitation for the year the distribution occurs and
- The taxpayer’s required minimum distribution (RMD) for the current year

With the increase in the standard deduction for 2018 and future tax years to \$26,600 for married filing jointly age 65 or older and \$13,600 for single filers age 65 or older, more Americans will be using the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions on their tax returns. QCDs are excluded from taxable income, but do not allow for an itemized deduction. If more individuals age 70 ½ or older use the standard deduction, the QCD is a great way to keep taxable income lower when satisfying an RMD and still get the full benefit of the standard deduction. By using the standard deduction, a taxpayer will receive no benefit for their charitable contribution unless it is processed as a QCD from an IRA. In addition, by not including a charitable donation from an IRA as ordinary income, an individual’s adjusted gross income is not increased, which could affect the ability to:

- Qualify for Roth IRA contributions
- Avoid other potential tax ramifications, such as:
 1. The 3.8% health care surcharge. (Even though distributions from IRAs are exempt from the 3.8% health care surcharge, taxable distributions from IRAs could push income over the threshold amount, causing other investment income to be subject to the surtax.)
 2. Paying more for Medicare Premiums.
 3. Taxation on Social Security Benefits.

QCD Tax Reporting

Typically, the custodian of an IRA will report a QCD as a normal distribution on the 1099R tax form, while QCDs from inherited IRAs are reported as death distributions. This gives the IRS no notification that an IRA holder intended to make a tax-free distribution from the IRA to a charity. It is the responsibility of the IRA holder or his or her tax preparer to properly report the QCD on a 1040 tax return. It is also strongly suggested that the IRA holder obtains a receipt from the charitable organization.

Is a QCD the right strategy for you?

Please seek the aid of a competent tax advisor or tax attorney for guidance.

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32018-01 Stifel does not provide tax advice. You should consult with your professional tax advisor regarding your particular situation.

*Memories of Great Matches Involving Florida Wrestlers
by Ira Fleckman, Class of 2006, Contributing Writer*

LISA HARRIS

Lisa was the eight-year-old sister of Ft. Myers wrestler Dean Harris. She arrived at my club practice and announced she wanted to wrestle. She found a willing partner in Danny Chrovian and acceptance from most of the other wrestlers in the room. At her first tournament, she surprised everyone with the intensity of her efforts, her ability to get off her back and her own version of a headlock.

In all her tournaments, she failed to place only once.

Returning from the first tournament, which was held at Dixie-Hollins in St Petersburg, we had to pass by the Civic Center in Punta Gorda where her brother was wrestling. I asked if she wanted to stop and watch her brother wrestle and she said, "No. He already gets too much attention." Her motivation for wrestling was to get her parents to notice her. Her older brother Dean, she felt, was monopolizing her parent's attentions with his wrestling achievements.

Lisa worked very hard in practice and in matches. She never held anything back. She was tough and cried less than most of the fellows in my club who were the same age that she was. This was a time when girls were not competing very much in sports and almost never against boys. Lisa got a great deal of press coverage and a lot of pictures in the local newspapers. She was cute and always spoke her mind, too. Lisa's mother bought her a "Wonder Woman" bathing suit, which became her wrestling singlet. In her "Wonder Woman" outfit she always attracted plenty of attention. Some of the attention was not very good. Some mothers of boys she pinned would let her parents know how unladylike it was for a female to wrestle boys. Lisa didn't seem to be bothered by remarks like these. It is also the case that some of the boys were extra rough wrestling her. That, too, didn't seem to bother her in the least.

The match I recall was in the Kids Qualifier, the State Championship for Kids. I believe the wrestlers were all nine and ten years old at this time and Lisa was a seasoned wrestler with as many moves as any of her teammates. One of the toughest opponents around was a youngster from the Port Charlotte Kiwanis Wrestling Club, Rommel Neu, a blond-headed young man with plenty of muscle for a ten-year-old, good wrestling skills for the age level. and enough aggression to worry any opponent. In a previous tournament, Lisa had beaten Rommel and it was clear from the instant he stepped on the mat that he wasn't about to allow that to happen again. Rommel wrestled a great match as did Lisa, but Rommel managed to win the hotly contested bout.

The funny thing is that Rommel, who usually had no trouble with Danny Chrovian, couldn't find a way to stop Danny from scoring. Lisa's teammate, Danny, beat Rommel. Danny was pinned by Lisa in their match-up and the results, when the pairings people counted the round robin points was that Lisa Harris finished first and

was the Champion, Rommel was second and Danny, with a smile from ear to ear, was third. When Dean Harris graduated from high school, Lisa's wrestling career came to a halt, too. I actually missed her in the room, as she was a hard worker and a tough wrestler.

Two years later Dean came out of retirement to wrestle in the Open Division and Lisa tagged along, now twelve years old. The comeback for the Harris kids was short lived and after just a few practices, I never saw Dean or Lisa again. I don't believe Dean wrestled in college and I never heard of Lisa wrestling again. However, the memory of "Wonder Women" is one of my own best wrestling memories.

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EBM ROOFING

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The mission of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame is to pay tribute to those coaches, officials, and contributors who represent the best qualities of what the sport of wrestling has to offer and who share those characteristics with young people day in and day out.

About the Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame was established in 2000.

Our mailing address is:

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1505 Crowberry Lane, Sebastian, FL 32958**

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it is an experience!

**America's shrine to the sport of wrestling, the
National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum has the largest
collection of wrestling artifacts and memorabilia in the world!**



Stillwater, Oklahoma



**State Chapter
Induction Banquets**



Waterloo, Iowa

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