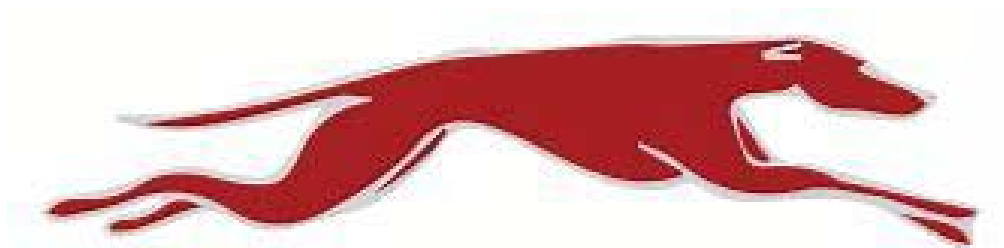


SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL

GREYHOUNDS

Wrestling Legacy
(1928 – 1965)

Limited Edition



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and

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Shamokin Wrestling Historian

Shamokin High School
Greyhounds
Wrestling Legacy
(1928 – 1965)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter One – Shamokin: A Cradle of PA Wrestling	3
Chapter Two – The First Big Dance	9
Chapter Three – The World War II Years	11
Chapter Four – Golden Age of Shamokin “Greyhound” Wrestling ...	16
Chapter Five – Coach Mal Paul’s Remarkable Dual Meet Record ...	31
Appendix A – Pennsylvania Schools with 10 State Champs or More ..	36
Appendix B – Pennsylvania Coaches with 8 State Champs or More ..	37
Appendix C – Shamokin High’s State Champs and Runners-up	38
Appendix D – Shamokin High’s State Qualifiers	40
Appendix E – Shamokin High’s Northeastern Regional Champs	43
Appendix F – Shamokin High’s District Four Champs	44
Appendix G – Shamokin Coaches’ Dual Meet Records	48
Appendix H – Shamokin’s Robert A. Kemp Trophy Winners	49
Appendix I – Shamokin’s Legends: Mal Paul and Lyman Weaver ...	50
Appendix J – The Welker Family Wrestling Legacy	55
Afterword	61

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CHAPTER ONE

SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL “A CRADLE OF PENNSYLVANIA WRESTLING”

The first four scholastic wrestling programs in Pennsylvania were Bethlehem Liberty High School (1923), Dormont High School (1924) under the direction of Charles Dickerhoff, Manheim Central High School (1926) initiated by head coach Paul Stern, and Shamokin High School (1928), the first wrestling program in District Four.

It was Wilbur “Dutch” Lehman who first introduced wrestling at Shamokin High School. His recruiting techniques included acquiring linemen from the school’s gridiron team. While the backs and ends participated in basketball during the winter months, there was nothing for the stocky linemen. Coach Lehman solved that problem by recruiting them to compete on the wrestling team, along with the smaller and middle-weight athletes.

There were very few high schools who had wrestling back then, so Coach Lehman set up matches with prep schools and college “Freshmen” teams the likes of Lehigh University, Penn State, University of Pennsylvania and Franklin and Marshall. In 1929, Coach Lehman took his mat squad to Lehigh University to compete in the first Eastern Interscholastic Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Although he won only one dual meet his first year, the Shamokin “Greyhounds”

were third in the Eastern Interscholastic Invitational championships, producing two champions: Bob Shuman (7-0 for the year) and Mike Novack.

In his second and final year as Shamokin's head wrestling coach, Lehman converted his green and inexperienced team into one of championship caliber. Shamokin went undefeated in dual meets, defeating Wyoming Seminary, Bloomsburg State Teachers College Freshmen (twice), Lancaster, Manheim High School (twice), and F & M Academy. They also placed first in the Eastern tournament, producing four champions (Eddie Richards, Mike Surowiak, Mike Novack, and Lamar Kahney) and two runners-up in Walt Kozac and Atwood Blanksby.

When Coach Lehman left Shamokin to start another mat program in 1930, Coach Ken Horner took over the reins of the Shamokin wrestling program, a position he held until 1943. He kept the program headed in the right direction, going 4 and 1 in duals and producing four Eastern champions: Lamar Kahney, Paul Lutzkovetz, Mike Novack, and Eddie Richards.

In 1933, Coach Horner produced the school's second undefeated dual-meet season. From 1934 through 1936, Shamokin produced some of its greatest wrestlers. During these three years, they won 23 dual meets,

losing only three. They defeated such teams as Lehigh University Freshmen, Hazelton YMCA, Temple Freshmen, Manheim Athletic Club, and Wyoming Seminary Reserves.

Bob Weimer was an Eastern champ in 1934. Robert Kemp and Mal Paul won the event in 1935. Second place honors went to Bob Martin, John Mikus, while Frank Burgess placed third.



*Robert A. Kemp
Champion Wrestler and War Hero*

Robert Kemp was undefeated as a “Greyhound” wrestler, securing a 29-0 record on the mats. Kemp matriculated at Washington and Lee College in Lexington, Virginia, where he continued his wrestling career. Kemp won 41 of his 43 matches at the school. He was also a three-time

Southern Conference Champion. Most impressive, Robert Kemp was an Olympic semi-finalist - the only Shamokin wrestler to reach such heights.

Captain Robert A. Kemp was killed in action in WWII. He was so revered as an athlete, that the Shamokin Football Stadium was named in his honor. Furthermore, due to his prowess on the Shamokin “Greyhound” mats and beyond, the “Most Outstanding Wrestler” award was name in his honor when wrestling at Shamokin High School was reinstated in 1946.

Mal Paul later became the school’s most decorated wrestling coach in the years to come, and annually presented the Kemp award to a deserving senior “Greyhound” grappler.



***Mal Paul
Eastern Collegiate Champion
1935***

In 1936, the Shamokin “Greyhounds” did not compete in any post-season events, but their only dual meet loss was to Kingston, 12-11.

Outstanding wrestlers that year were Mal Paul, Sully Schlegal, John Mikus, and Larry Pulaski.

1937 was another banner year for Coach Horner's grapplers. Shamokin posted a dual meet record of eight wins and one loss. They defeated Mt. Carmel (twice), Pottsville, West York, Wyoming Seminary, Cornell University Freshmen, Franklin and Marshall Academy, and Lehigh University Freshmen. Their singular defeat was at the hands of Kingston High School. Frank Burgess, Roland Scandle, Richard Scandle, and Harold Welker, who were known as the "Four Aces," were all undefeated.

Note: Frank Burgess later wrestled at Franklin & Marshall at the 121- pound category. In a four-year career at the College, Burgess compiled a record of 37-1-0. In NCAA tournament competition, he was an NCAA Division I finalist his senior year, losing to Joe McDaniels of Oklahoma A&M College. He earned a trophy for the most wins by falls in collegiate tournament action.

Frank Burgess was also the 1938 second-place finisher in the Mid-Atlantic Region Tournament and a member of Sigma Pi fraternity. After graduating with a degree in economics, Burgess served as a wrestling official in the PIAA and the EIWA until 1968. He was also the sales account executive for Servomation Corporation and served on the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

Shamokin's 1938 grapplers were 7 – 1 - 1 in dual meet competition. Their only loss was to Pottsville, who they later defeated. District

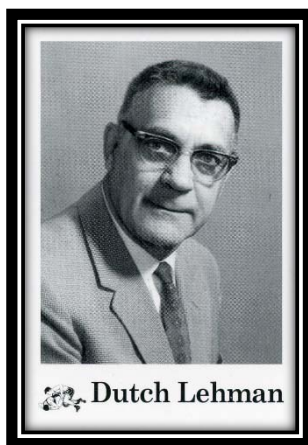
Four in 1938 consisted of Shamokin, Muncy, Mt. Carmel, and Sunbury.

Due to the efforts of Coach Lehman and Coach Horner and other scholastic and college coaches (especially Penn State's Charlie Speidel) across the Keystone State, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) was convinced to initiate the first PIAA State Wrestling Championships in 1938 at Penn State's "Rec Hall".

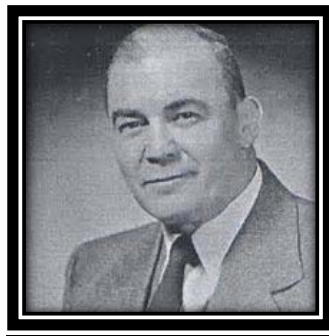
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Wilbur "Dutch" Lehman
1928 – 1930
"Shamokin's First Wrestling Coach"



Charlie Speidel
Head Wrestling Coach
Penn State University
1947 – 1964
"Early Pennsylvania Wrestling Pioneer and Promoter"

CHAPTER TWO

THE FIRST BIG DANCE

The initial state wrestling championships in 1938 were held in Penn State's "Rec Hall" on March 18th and 19th. States would be competed there the first nine years. The Tournament Director was Charlie Speidel. There were 78 competitors from 27 schools.

Shamokin High School had five "Greyhound" contestants who qualified for the tournament: Roland Scandle at the 115-pound weight class, Quentin "Chappy" Peters at 125 pounds, 135-pounder Guy Yocum, Harold Welker, the 145-pounder, and Harb Faust, wrestling at the 155-pound weight category.

Roland Scandle defeated Elmer Hershey of Manheim Central in the quarter finals and Fred Mauk from DuBois in the semi-finals to reach the championship match. Scandle was crowned the 115-pound state champion when he decisively defeated Andy Puchany of Canonsburg – and became the first state champ in Shamokin's rich wrestling history.

There was quite an interesting story regarding Harold Welker, the second "Greyhound" to win a state title in 1938, defeating Angelo Carmella of Dubois (Appendix J). In the quarter-finals and semi-finals, Welker defeated Trafford's Virgil Valmassoni and Dominic Davis of



Pottsville, respectively.

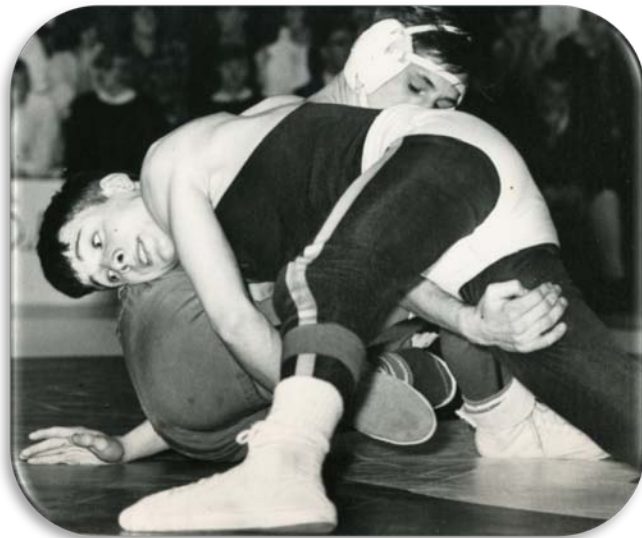
Quentin Peters defeated Dormont's Edward Pappert in the quarter-finals, but came up short in the semi-finals, where he was decisioned by Joe Quethera from Clearfield.

Guy Yocum's tournament participation was short-lived, as he was pinned by Stan Moody of Grove City in the quarter-finals. Harb Faust also lost in the quarter-finals by a decision against Cletus Gentzler of West York.

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“Excuses stop on the mat.”

CHAPTER THREE

THE WORLD WAR II YEARS

Coach Horner continued at the helm of the Shamokin mat squad until 1942. During those years, the state championships continued to be contested at Penn State's "Rec Hall".

In 1939, there were 82 competitors from 29 schools. Coach Horner qualified four wrestlers for the state tournament, led by returning state champion, Roland Scandle, competing at the 125-pound weight class.

Roland Scandle defeated Tom Bremer from Kingston in the quarter-finals and decisively defeated Richard Crouthamel of Abington in his semi-finals match. But his dream of being a two-time state champion was foiled, as Canonsburg's Andy Puchany avenged his loss to Scandle the previous year, taking home the gold.

Lee Middlesworth, competing at the 105-pound weight category, was defeated in the quarter-finals by Jerry Spence from Grove City. At 135 pounds, Joe Homiak lost in the preliminary round to Vic Jamison of Upper Merion. Quentin Peters' second trip to states was disappointing to him, losing his first match by a decision to Ted Serafin from Trafford.

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The 1940 state tournament was comprised of 89 wrestlers from 32 high schools. A three-time District Four Champion for Coach Horner, Roland Scandle, the lone wrestler from Shamokin, made his third trip to State

College. Although he won decisions against Charles Wilson from Bedford in the preliminary round and Charles Blair from Waynesburg in the quarter-finals, Scandle was pinned in the semi-finals by Tony Verga of Erie Academy.

Roland Scandle's three-year record at states was 7-2.

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The 1941 state meet was comprised of 87 wrestlers from 33 high schools. Coach Horner arrived on the scene with two qualifying, District Four Champions: Lyman "Beans" Weaver, wrestling at 115 pounds and 165-pound wrestler, Mitch Miscowski.

Lyman Weaver's only trip to states was very impressive. He defeated Kryden Mattern of State College, 4-0, in the quarter finals. In the semi-finals, Weaver flattened Dick Miller of Lancaster in four minutes and 40 seconds into the bout. His opponent in the finals match was Bob Bach of Forty Fort. It was Bach's fourth state-championship appearance – and it would be the "charm" for him. Bach defeated Weaver by a narrow score of 6 to 5.

Lyman Weaver was the second of ten state runners-up for the Shamokin "Greyhounds". After high school, Weaver immediately joined the war effort, and was a brave "gunner" who flew 50 missions during



World War II, returning to Shamokin as a true war “Hero”.

Years later, Weaver assisted legendary coach, Mal Paul, during Shamokin’s “Glory Years” at states.

Miscowski decisively defeated Frank Ruyak of Bethlehem by the score of 8 to 6 in the quarter-finals, but lost in the semi-finals to Lower Merion’s Jack McCullough, 6 to 1.

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During his final year as head coach at Shamokin High School, Coach Ken Horner was unable to qualify any wrestler for the 1942 states. That year there were 92 entries from 31 schools participating in the state tournament.

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The 1943 state tournament consisted of only 70 wrestlers from nine PIAA Districts. Coach Woody Ludwig became Shamokin High School’s third coach, who only mentored the “Greyhound” mat men for one year. He had a dual meet record of two wins and one loss. Many high schools had already discontinued their wrestling programs due to the war effort.

There was no District Four tournament that year, but a few wrestlers from District Four did compete in the state tournament. They had to pay



their own way with no financial backing from their schools. Coach Ludwig entered five “Greyhound” wrestlers at states, whose parents were more than willing to foot the bill: Steve Horoshak, Robert Derk, Lew Gaydon, Pat Chivaroli, Don Crone.

At 120 pounds, Steve Horoshak decisioned Carl Bowser of West York by a score of 6 to 4 in the quarter-finals, but lost to Waynesburg’s four-time state champion, Jim Conklin, 4 to 0 in the semi-finals.

Robert Derk, who wrestled at the 145-pound weight class, was upended by Clearfield’s Harry Jordan, 9-6, in the quarter-finals.

Shamokin’s 154-pounder, Lew Gaydon, also lost in the quarter-finals to Harold Mathison of Grove City by the narrow score of 8 to 7. And Pat Chivaroli, who competed at the 165-pound weight category, was defeated by Walter Lepley from Boswell by a 6 to 2 decision in the quarter-finals.

Shamokin’s fifth wrestler at the state tournament was Don Crone, who defeated Robert Csakany of Bethlehem by a score of 6 to 1 in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, Forty Fort’s Fred Sutliff outscored Crone, 4-0.

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Due to the war, Shamokin High School did not suit-up a wrestling team, again, until the 1946-47 sports season, which was the beginning



of Shamokin's "Era of Dominance" on the Pennsylvania wrestling mats.

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1965

Harry Weinhofer

District Four Champion

103 Pounds

(Front Row – Center)



CHAPTER FOUR

THE GOLDEN AGE OF SHAMOKIN “GREYHOUND” WRESTLING

Returning to Shamokin after the war, U.S. Army Captain, Mal Paul, joined Shamokin’s teaching staff as a history instructor and became the “Greyhounds” fourth head wrestling coach. And what a coach he was!

Starting from scratch, Coach Paul and his loyal assistant, Lyman “Beans” Weaver, gradually began to build a Pennsylvania wrestling dynasty, starting in the fall of 1946.

The 1947 PIAA state tournament was held at the West Side Armory. There were 99 wrestlers from 37 schools competing in the state championship event. First year coach, Mal Paul qualified three District Four Champions for the state tournament. That year the state tournament was short-lived for the “Greyhound” wrestlers.

Wrestling at the 103-pound weight class, Jerry Shervanick lost to Chan Nicholas from State College by a score of 4 to 1. Tom Zelinski, Shamokin’s 112-pound wrestler, defeated Bethlehem’s Jerry, 10 to 2, in the quarter-finals, but was pinned by Charles Thomas from Forty Fort in the semi-finals, 6:28. John Nemetz was pinned by Tyrone’s Merle Bickel in the 185-pound weight class in 5:58 during the preliminary round.

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The 1948 state championships were also contested at Kingston’s West Side Armory, hosting 100 participants from 40 schools. That year, Coach

Paul brought five Shamokin District Champions to the state tournament: Jerry Shervanick, Ken Faust, Tom Zelinski, Tom Welliver, and Francis Galaszski.

Coach Paul produced his first state champion in Jerry Shervanick at 103 pounds. Shervanick decisioned Ed Burgoon from Tyrone, 6 to 3, in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, Jerry Shervanick pinned Bedford's Charles Barnhart in 4:17. In his finals match, Shervanick manhandled Jim Bencivengo from Farrell, 8 to 1, thus, becoming the Shamokin "Greyhounds" third PIAA State Champ.

At 112 pounds, Kenny Faust was decisioned by Haverford's Robert Long, 5-2, in the preliminary round. Tom Zelinski, wrestling at 120 pounds, was defeated by Harold Miller from Washington, 5-1, in the quarter-finals. Tom Welliver was also beat in the quarter-finals by Ed Proleika from Forty Fort, 6-2, in his 127-pound match.

Competing at the 185-pound weight class, Francis Galaszski upended John Barbour of Pittsburgh Peabody, 6-4, in the quarter-finals round. He fell short in the semi-finals, losing to Wayne Cimino of Chartiers Township, 3-0.

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The 1949 PIAA State Wrestling Championships were moved to Lancaster McCaskey High School. It accommodated 98 wrestlers from over 40 schools. Shamokin qualified eight District Four Champs to the

state tournament: John Moore, Fred Futchko, Ken Faust, Bill Miller, Tom Welliver, Tom Persing, Bob Miller, and John Nemetz.

The 95-pounder was John Moore, who was pinned in the quarter-finals by Ray Osbourne from Forty Fort in 6:39. Frank Futchko was decisioned by Hershey's Doug Cassel, 9-7, at 103 pounds in the quarter-finals.

The Greyhounds third contestant was Ken Faust, who defeated Richard Rabbenstine from Hanover, 4-0, in the quarter-finals, wrestling at 112. In the semi-finals, Faust lost to Forty Fort's Sam Coursen, 7-1.

At 120 pounds, Bill Miller was pinned by Quindi Pompilli from Easton in 4:06 of the quarter-final match. Wrestling at 127 pounds, Tom Welliver outlasted Carl Wilson from Washington by a score of 4 to 2 in the quarter-finals, but fell short in the semi-finals to the eventual state champ, Clearfield's Jerry Maurey by a 12 to 3 decision.

Shamokin's 138-pounder, Tom Persing, was defeated by Dick Perry from Grove City in the preliminary round by a score of 7 to 2. In the 165-pound weight category, Bob Miller decisioned Manheim's Harold Mummau, 10 to 7, in the quarter-finals, but lost a heartbreaker "overtime match" in the semi-finals, 13 to 11, to Jack Straub of State College.

At 185 pounds, John Nemetz pinned George Moses from Wilkes Barre Meyers in 5:39 during his quarter-final match, but was himself a semi-finals loser by fall in 2:42 to Henry Schilling from Manheim.

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The 1950 PIAA State Tournament was held at Washington High School. There were 99 wrestlers from 40 high schools. The Coach Paul-led, wrestling delegation included nine mat men: Walter Murdock, Fred Futchko, Ken Faust, Charles Cawthorn, Tom Welliver, Bill Miller, Jack Rummel, Dick Haddock, and Jim Kopenhaver.

Coach Paul produced his second and third state champions during the 1950 states in Kenny Faust at 120 pounds and Tom Welliver who competed at the 133-pound weight class.

Ken Faust pinned Bob Miller from Lancaster in 3:28 during the quarter-final round. In the semi-final round, Faust decisively defeated Dale Conn of Greenville, 12 to 2. His opponent in the championship finals was Clearfield's legendary official, Glenn Flegal. When the dust settled, Kenny Faust outwrestled Flegal by a score of 6 to 3.

Coach Paul's third state champ was Tom Welliver, who wrestled at 133 pounds. In the preliminary round, Welliver beat Gordon Webster for Upper Darby, 6 to 0. His opponent in the quarter-finals bout was Fred Thomas from Boswell, who Welliver defeated, 9 to 2. In semi-finals,

Welliver decisioned Carl Morgan of Kingston, 10-5. He won the “gold” when he outpointed Greenville’s Norm Lenker, 4-1, in the finals.

At 95 pounds, Walter Murdock was outwrestled by Manuel Pihakis from Canonsburg, losing 6 to 0 in the quarter-finals. Pihakis, a sophomore, would later become Pennsylvania’s fifth three-time state champion.

In the preliminary round, Fred Futchko, wrestling at 112 pounds, beat Jim Kursar of Nanticoke, 4 to 0. Futchko was upended in the quarter-finals by Canonsburg’s Ron Roman, losing 6 to 0.

Wrestling at 127 pounds, Charlie Cawthern flattened Joe DeVito of Farrell in 6:34 during his quarter-finals match. He fell short when Bellefonte’s Tom Musser beat him, 6-2, in the semi-finals.

Bill Miller’s trip to states was a brief one. Wrestling at 138 pounds, he was pinned in 1:50 in the quarter-final round by Washington’s Don Young. Shamokin’s 154 pounder, Jack Rummel, was also defeated in the quarter-finals by Richard Bertolini from Boswell, 6-2.

Representing the Shamokin “Greyhounds” at 165 pounds was Dick Haddock, who defeated his Kingston adversary, Bob Masonis, by a score of 9 to 6. But then lost a tough semi-finals match to Lester Weise of Hollidaysburg, 3-1.

At 185 pounds, Shamokin's heaviest wrestler, Jim Kopenhaver, defeated Hanover's Earl Hartlaub, 8 to 4, in the quarter-finals, but was defeated by Tyrone's Elwood Reese, 6 to 0, in his semi-finals match.

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In 1951, the PIAA State Wrestling Championships was moved for the fourth time to the Cambria County War Memorial in Johnstown. This was also the first year that regional tournaments were instituted due to the increasing number of high schools adding wrestling to their athletic programs.

In essence, district champions in three or four districts would meet each other at one of the state's four regional tournaments to determine the one wrestler, in each of the 11 weight classes, who would qualify for states. Thus, the state championships would be host to 44 wrestlers, four in each weight class. At states, there would only be two place winners: Champions and Runners-up.

(At this point, it is interesting to mention that state winners were "true state champions" until the PIAA state tournament was broken into two classes in 1974. And also note, only the champion in each post-season tournament could move to the next level.)

Shamokin qualified three regional champions for states: Kenny Faust, Charlie Cawthern, and Dick Haddock.

Moving up to the 127-pound weight class, Faust decisioned Don Zenner, 13-3, from Washington in the semi-finals. He earned his second state title, defeating the defending state champ at 127 pounds, Bellefonte's Tom Musser, by a score of 6 to 3.

Charlie Cawthern lost at 138 pounds in the semi-final round to Clearfield's Tom Halford by a decision, 3-1. Dick Haddock also lost in his semi-finals match against Andy Lentvorsky of State College, 5-3.



**Kenny Faust
Shamokin's Two-Time State Champion
1950 & 1951**

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The 1952 state championships returned to its original site, Penn State's "Rec Hall," where Shamokin High School's "Greyhounds" would compete until the winter of 1965, prior to consolidating with Coal Township the fall of 1965.

Coach Mal Paul only qualified one Northeastern Regional Champion, Bob Smith, wrestling at the 154-pound weight class. He was defeated by the eventual state champion, Trinity's Ed DeWitt, in the semi-finals by a fall in 1:31.

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In 1953, Shamokin qualified two wrestlers to the 16th Annual PIAA State Wrestling Championships: Ron Jacobs at 112 pounds and Joe Cawthern, competing at the 120-pound weight class.

Ron Jacobs defeated Dean Tripony from Clearfield by a score of 6 to 5 in the semi-final round. In his finals match, Jacobs lost a hard-fought match to Joe Shook of Trinity, 8 to 5, becoming Coach Mal Paul's first PIAA State Runner-up.

Joe Cawthern was decisively defeated by Ed Peery of Shaler Township, 10 to 1, in the semi-final round, eliminating him from the state tournament. It is interesting to note that the late Ed Peery would eventually win three NCAA Division I National Championships and is a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

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At the 1954 state championships, two Shamokin "Greyhounds" would shine at the prestigious event: Les Varano and Dave Einsel.

Les Varano would walk away from the competition as the 154-pound state runner-up. After pinning Louis Craig in 3:08 in the semi-final

round, he was decisioned by Dave Johnson, 7 to 1, in his finals match.

Thus, Varano became Coach Paul's second state runner-up.

Wrestling at 165 pounds, Dave Einsel became Shamokin High School's seventh state champion, and Coach Paul's fifth. In his semi-final bout, Einsel pinned George Terembes of Jefferson in 3:08. His championship match was not an easy one, but he was able to outpoint Joe Wozunk of State College by a score of 4 to 2.

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The 1954-1955 wrestling season was another banner year for Coach Mal Paul's "Greyhound" wrestlers. Shamokin qualified four grapplers to the state tournament: Rich Dapra, Tom Quinn, Ron Lentz, and Alvin Henninger.

At 112 pounds, Rich Dapra decisioned Steve Jendricks of Conemaugh Township, 9 to 2, in his semi-finals match, but fell short in his championship match, losing by 3 to 0 to Trinity's Roland Taggart. Dapra was Coach Paul's third state runner-up.

Crowned the champion of the 120-pound weight class was Tom Quinn. In his semi-final match, Quinn upended Bill DeMaine from Upper Darby, 5-1. He fully controlled his finals opponent, Ralph Littleberry from Trinity, by a score of 4 to 1, becoming Shamokin's eighth state champ and Coach Paul's sixth state champion.

Both Ron Lentz, Shamokin's 127 pounder, and Alvin Henninger, who wrestled at the 145-pound weight class, lost in the semi-finals round.

Lentz was decisively won by Ralph Clark from Clearfield, 6-4, while Henninger lost a tough 5 to 4 bout against Clearfield's Russ Triponey. Ironically, Ron Lentz defeated Ralph Clark, 9-7, in their dual meet earlier in the year.

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Shamokin High School had a two-year hiatus from the 1956 and 1957 PIAA State Wrestling Championships. But at the 1958 state championships, Shamokin was represented by 120 pounder, Tom Gorant, and Jim Strausser, who wrestled at the 133-pound weight class.

Tommy Gorant defeated Stan Gibble of Manheim Central by a score of 3 to 0 in his semi-finals match, but was pinned by Dick Tressler of State College in 3:59, becoming Shamokin's fourth silver medalist.

Strausser was not as fortunate. He was pinned in 1:10 by Earl Harris of Philipsburg-Osceola in his semi-final bout.

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The 1959 PIAA State Championships was another prosperous year for Coach Mal Paul and his two "Greyhound" qualifiers: juniors Floyd Welker and George Edwards.

Both wrestlers made it to the finals. Welker, competing at the 120-pound weight class, defeated Landowne-Aldan's Ed Lentz by a score of 13 to 7, while Edwards, wrestling at 133 pounds, whipped Charles Shaffer from Northern Joint, 8 to 3, in their semi-final matches.

Their finals matches were bittersweet and controversial. Floyd Welker outpointed his adversary, Ron Maunder from Lewistown, 3-1, becoming

Shamokin's ninth state champ and Coach Paul's seventh state gold-medal winner.

George Edwards, a brilliant technique-wrestler, did not fare out so well, losing to State College's Gene Tressler by a referee's decision in his finals match, becoming Shamokin High School's sixth state runner-up.

Shamokin mat enthusiasts were very upset and wary of the outcome since states were being held at State College. Their displeasure over the situation has some merit. Tressler also won his semi-finals bout by a referee's decision. The "Greyhound" fans felt there was "home cooking" and that the referees won both matches, not Tressler, which taints his two state victories.

But there's more. Gene Tressler also won his Central Northwest regional finals match by another referee's decision the week before states. Unbelievable, three winning referee's decisions in a row, no wonder the Shamokin fans felt George Edwards was "robbed" by the official.



***George Edwards
NCAA Division I Fifth Place All-American
Penn State
1964***

Again, Floyd Welker and George Edwards qualified for the 1960 PIAA State Wrestling Tournament. In Welker's 120-pound semi-finals match, he decisively won against John Davis of North Allegheny by a score of 6 to 2. But a second state championship was not to be. During his finals match, Welker was winning when Jerry Twoey from Philipsburg-Osceola applied a slick double-grapevine, pinning him in 3:20 of the second period.

George Edwards fell short in his semi-finals match at 138 pounds, losing by a tight 4 to 2 decision to George Reese of Trinity High School. Reese was later crowned state champion.

Upon graduation, George Edwards headed off to Penn State while Floyd Welker received a senatorial appointment to West Point. Below is a photo of George Edwards (Left) and Floyd Welker after they won their respective weight classes at the West Point Freshmen Tournament. It was a meeting of two Shamokin greats who enthralled "Greyhound" partisan fans on the Shamokin mats for years.



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Shamokin had no qualifier for the 1961 PIAA State Wrestling Tournament, but Charlie Carpenter arrived on the scene for the 1962 state championships, and made a name for himself on the Keystone State mats.

In his semi-final match at the 127-pound weight class, Carpenter upended Bob Shriver of Waynesburg by a score of 9 to 5. In the finals, he lost a tough decision to Bob Robbins of Greenville, losing 5 to 0, becoming Coach Paul's seventh state silver medalist. Robbins later became a well-respected Pennsylvania State Senator, while Charlie Carpenter became Shamokin's Fire Chief.



**Charley Carpenter
1962
PIAA State Runner-Up
120 Pounds**

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At the 1963 PIAA State Tournament, Coach Mal Paul produced another state champion in sophomore Bill Welker, Floyd Welker's younger brother and Harold Welker's cousin.

A sophomore wrestling at the 95-pound weight class, Welker defeated Bill Gardner from Jefferson-Morgan by a decision of 3 to 1. In his state finals bout, Welker outpointed Sherm Hostler of Newport High School, 4 to 2, becoming the third Welker in

Shamokin's wrestling-rich history to win the "gold". He was Coach Paul's eighth and final state champ, and Shamokin High School's tenth Keystone State champion.

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Coach Paul sent another sophomore wrestler, Harry Weinhofer, to the 1964 PIAA State Wrestling Championship. Competing at the 95-pound weight class, Weinhofer's state experience came to a quick end. He was pinned by Duane Patterson of Chartiers-Houston during semi-finals in :16.

(Note: Harry Weinhofer redeemed himself in the 1966 state championships as a Shamokin Area "Indian," after Shamokin High School consolidated with Coal Township High School in the fall of 1965. He was crowned the new school's first state champion at 112 pounds.)

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The 1964-1965 wrestling season would be the final year of Shamokin High School, which was opened in 1914. And Coach Paul would be accompanying the school's last wrestler to wear a "Greyhound" uniform, Bill Welker, to the 1965 PIAA State Wrestling Championships. The stands in "Rec Hall" were now filled to capacity, with 1000s of fans. And there were now nearly 500 schools in Pennsylvania that offered wrestling to their student athletes.

Welker decisioned Mike Zuk of Carnegie High School, 5-2. However, he lost in his championship match by a "riding time" point to West York's first state champion, Dana Luckenbaugh, 4-3. Thus, Bill Welker would become Shamokin High School's final state champion and state runner-up.

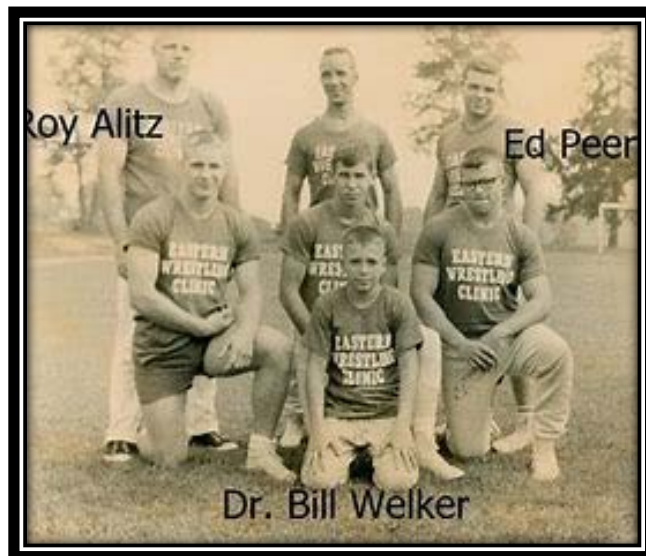
By the combined efforts of Coach Lehman, Coach Horner, Coach Ludwig, and Coach Paul, Shamokin High was home to ten PIAA state champions and ten PIAA state runners-up. Quite impressive statistics when you take into account there was only one class, and only the champion could advance to the next post-season tournament. To use an analogy, it was like being “second in a gun fight” at every level of the elimination process.

It is also interesting to note that by the 1950s, there were so many wrestling teams in the Keystone State that the post-season action was composed of four weekends of the elimination process: Sectionals, Districts, Regionals, and finally, States.

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Billy Welker
1963 State Champion
with Wrestling Legends
LeRoy Alitz – West Point
Ed Peery – U.S. Naval Academy
Cheshire Wrestling Clinic
Cheshire, Connecticut
1960

CHAPTER FIVE

COACH MAL PAUL'S ASTOUNDING DUAL MEET RECORD

During his 19 seasons as head coach of the Shamokin High School "Greyhound" Wrestling Team, Mal Paul amassed a record of 195 wins, 35 losses, and 2 ties. That's a winning percentage of 85-percent. Coach Paul's squads lost an average of less than 2 matches per year, and home dual meets were "standing-room-only" spectacles.

Another amazing statistic is the fact that ten of Coach Mal Paul's wrestling teams had only "one-loss" seasons. And note, Coach Paul never, ever shied away from wrestling the best teams in the state at the time: Philipsburg, Bellefonte, Clearfield, and Lock Haven.

In 1964, Shamokin was pitted against Kingston High School, which was on a dual-meet winning streak. The outcome was quite interesting, indeed. Below is the *Williamsport (PA) Grit* newspaper January 19, 1964 account of the most unusual athletic situation:

. . . Shamokin High's Wrestling team . . . snapped Kingston High's dual meet win streak at 35 with a 26-23 victory. "Hoagie" Herrold, the Shammie's 325-pound heavyweight pulled the match out for Shamokin. Herrold was on top of previously undefeated Mike Rakiewicz, whom he outweighed by about 120 pounds, and was using his bulk to good advantage.

The Kingston coach threw a towel onto the mat to signify that his boy had had enough. The ref threw the towel back. Kingston fans stormed on to the floor and the match was declared over with Herrold, a default winner. In the action, a Kingston fan allegedly kicked or punched Herrold in the face . . .

The referee for the match was Hall of Fame wrestling arbitrator, Glenn Flegal, who declared the match over and William "Hoagie" Herrold the winner. Both authors of

this book witnessed the entire incident first hand. A very unforgettable experience for all in attendance.



William “Hoagie” Herrold

It is significant to note that the 1957–1958 wrestling squad was Coach Paul’s only undefeated dual meet squad, winning all 15 of its regular season matches.

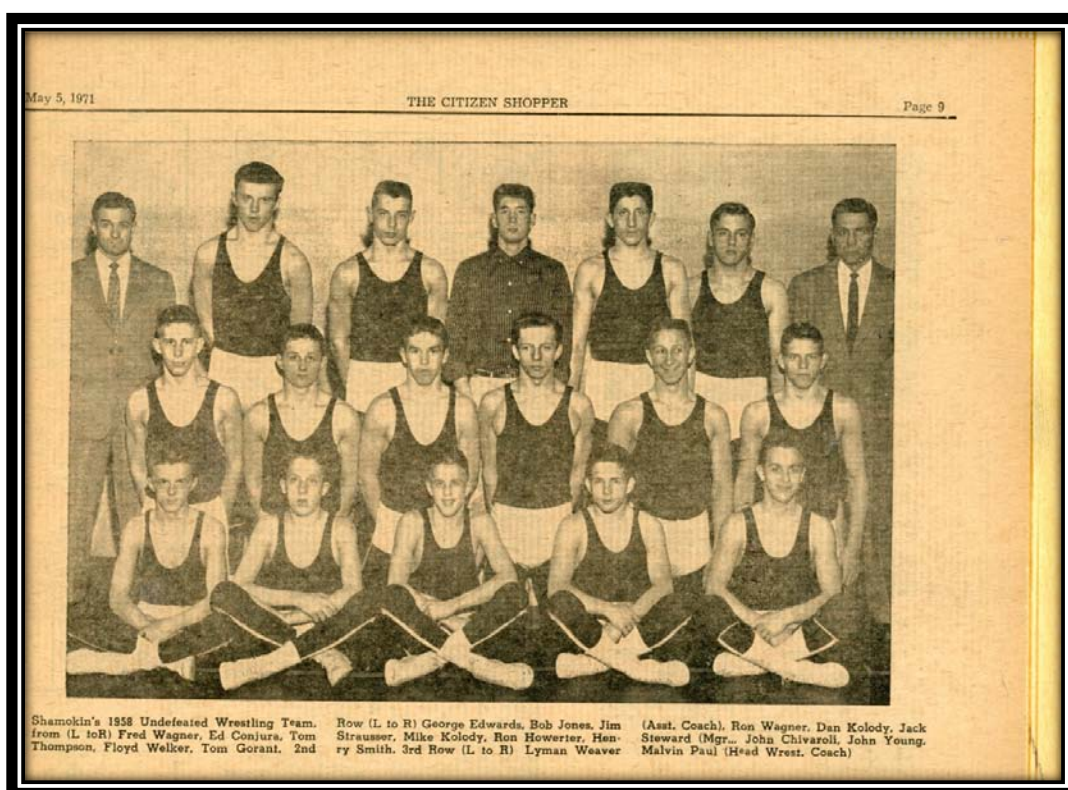
But it was no easy feat. To make it happen, the Shamokin “Greyhounds” had to defeat the very powerful “Wildcats” from Lock Haven High School. To make matters worse, Lock Haven’s first three wrestlers were state champions.

Coach Paul was a born strategist and knew what had to be done to beat Lock Haven. The “Wildcat” coaches expected falls from their first three champion wrestlers. Shamokin’s first three wrestlers were Fred Wagner, Tommy Thompson, and Floyd Welker. Coach Paul’s instructions were quite simple for his three proteges – don’t get pinned and keep the match close. If

they could do so, the heavier “Greyhound” wrestlers would make up the difference and secure a victory. All went as planned and the Shamokin “Greyhound” grapplers won, 20-15. The Lock Haven “Wildcat” fans were stunned.

Just as intriguing as the win was the fact that a “hand shake” from Coach Mal Paul was indeed, a rarity. He would only offer this gesture of respect to those few wrestlers who won individual state championships.

But at the end of the 1957-1958 wrestling season, he lined up all members of the undefeated squad, and went down the line, shaking each “Greyhound” wrestler’s hand. It was the first and last time Coach Mal Paul ever shook the hands of all team members. It was a big deal!



THE 1958 SHAMOKIN “GREYHOUND” UNDEFEATED WRESTLING TEAM 15-0

Front Row (L to R): Fred Wagner, Ed Conjura, Tom Thompson,

Floyd Welker, and Tom Gorant.

**Second Row (L to R): George Edwards, Bob Jones, Jim Strausser,
Mike Kolody, Ron Howerter, Henry Smith.**

**Third Row (L to R): Lyman Weaver (Asst. Wrestling Coach), Ron
Wagner, Dan Kolody, Jack Stewart (Manager), John Chivaroli, John
Young, Mal Paul (Head Wrestling Coach).**

**Yes, they were legendary times in the annals of Shamokin High School
and its wrestling program. It was a perfect combination of great coaches,
dedicated wrestlers who were willing to sacrifice, parents who were
totally involved, and a school administration who firmly supported the
program. These ordinary coaches, athletes, and parents “Seized the
Day,” accomplishing extraordinary feats.**

**The old Shamokin High School edifice is still standing and has become
a county office building, but there is a plaque next to the front doors
designating that its halls were once filled with students studying and
preparing themselves for their dreams of promising futures.**

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SMALLEST AND BIGGEST WRESTLERS

The photograph demonstrates the two extremes on the Shamokin Squad. At the left is Billy Welker, 95, and at the right is Billy “Hoagie” Herrold, 325. They were members of the 1962 team which captured the Keystone Conference Title.



APPENDIX A

PENNSYLVANIA WRESTLING SCHOOLS TEN STATE CHAMPIONS OR MORE RANKINGS 1938 – 1965

Ranked First: Clearfield High School with 31 State Champions

Ranked Second: Canonsburg High School with 21 State Champions

Ranked Third: Waynesburg High School with 20 State Champions

Ranked Fourth: Trinity High School with 15 State Champions

Ranked Fifth: Lock Haven High School with 14 State Champions

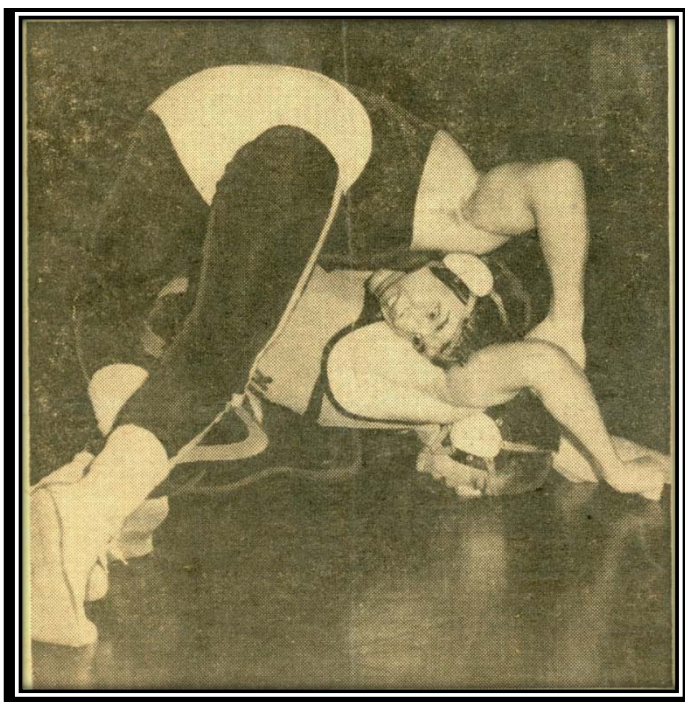
Ranked Sixth (Tie): Shamokin High School with 10 State Champions

Forty Fort High School with 10 State Champions

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“In wrestling, your toughest opponent is fear.”

APPENDIX B

PENNSYLVANIA WRESTLING COACHES WITH EIGHT STATE CHAMPIONS OR MORE AT ONE SCHOOL 1938 – 1965

Ranked First:

Art Weiss with 31 State Champions at Clearfield High School.

Ranked Second:

John Ross with 11 State Champions Canonsburg High School.

Ranked Third (Tie):

Mal Paul with eight State Champions at Shamokin High School.

Tony Paulakas with eight State Champions at Farrell High School.

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“Do it because they said you couldn’t.”

APPENDIX C

SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS AND STATE RUNNERS-UP 1938 – 1965

State Champions

1938 – Roland Scandle (115)

1938 – Harold Welker (145)

1948 – Jerry Shervanick (1948)

1950 – Ken Faust (120)

1950 – Tom Welliver (133)

1951 – Ken Faust (127)

1954 – Dave Einsel (165)

1955 – Tom Quinn (120)

1959 – Floyd Welker (120)

1963 – Bill Welker (95)

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State Runners-up

1939 – Roland Scandle (125)

1941 – Lyman Weaver (115)

1953 – Ron Jacobs (112)

1954 – Les Varano (154)

1955 – Rich Dapra (112)

1958 – Tom Gorant (120)

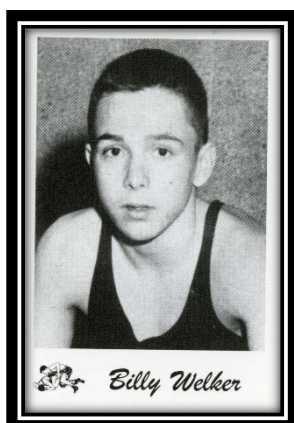
1959 – George Edwards (133)

1960 – Floyd Welker (120)

1962 – Charley Carpenter (120)

1965 – Bill Welker (112)

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**STATE WRESTLING CHAMPS
SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL**



**Rollie
Scandle
1938**



**H.
Welker
1938**



**J.
Shervanick
1948**



**T.
Welliver
1950**



**K.
Faust
1950-1951**



**D. L.
Einsel
1954**



**T.
Quinn
1955**



**F.
Welker
1959**

W. Welker 1963 (Photo Unavailable)

APPENDIX D

SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL STATE QUALIFIERS 1938 – 1965

1938:

Roland Scandle

Harold Welker

Quentin Peters

Guy Yocum

Harb Faust

1939:

Roland Scandle

Lee Middlesworth

Joe Homiak

Quentin Peters

1940:

Roland Scandle

1941:

Lyman Weaver

Mitch Miscowski

1943:

Steve Horoshak

Robert Derk

Lew Gaydon

1943 (cont'd.):

Pat Chivaroli

Don Crone

1947:

Jerry Shervanick

Tom Zelinski

John Nemetz

1948:

Charlie Cawthern

Jerry Shervanick

Ken Faust

Bill Miller

Tom Welliver

Francis Galaszkeski

1949:

John Moore

Fred Futchko

Ken Faust

Bill Miller

Tom Welliver

1949 (cont'd.):

Tom Persing

Bob Miller

John Nemetz

1950:

Walter Murdock

Fred Futchko

Ken Faust

Charlie Cawthern

Tom Welliver

Bill Miller

Jack Rummel

Dick Haddock

Jim Kopenhaver

1951:

Ken Faust

Charles Cawthern

Dick Haddock

1952:

Bob Smith

1953:

Ron Jacobs

1953 (cont'd.):

Joe Cawthern

1954:

Les Varano

Dave Einsel

1955:

Rich Dapra

Tom Quinn

Ron Lentz

Alvin Henninger

1958:

Tom Gorant

Jim Strausser

1959:

Floyd Welker

George Edwards

1960:

Floyd Welker

George Edwards

1962:

Charley Carpenter

1963:

Bill Welker

1964:

Harry Weinhofer

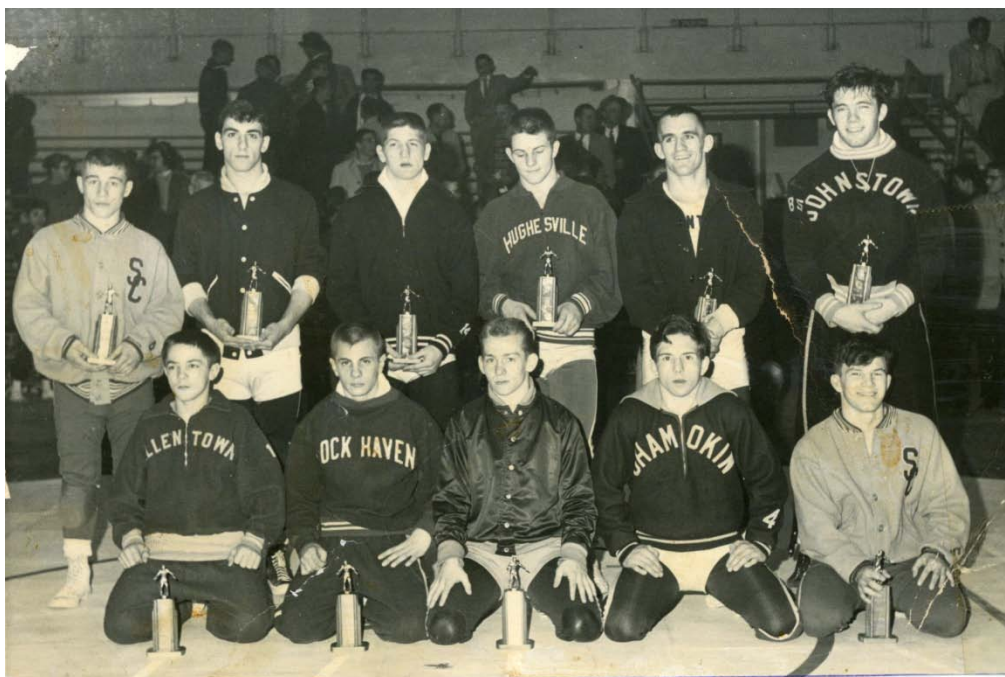
1965:

Bill Welker

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1959

**Floyd Welker
State Champion
120 Pounds**

Where's his trophy? Who has it?

His very proud younger brother.

APPENDIX E

SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONS 1938 – 1965

1951 – Ken Faust (127)	1955 – Alvin Henninger (145)
1951 – Charlie Cawthern (138)	1958 – Tom Gorant (120)
1951 – Dick Haddock (154)	1958 – Jim Strausser (133)
1952 – Bob Smith (154)	1959 – Floyd Welker (120)
1953 – Ron Jacobs (112)	1959 – George Edwards (133)
1953 – Joe Cawthern (120)	1960 – Floyd Welker (120)
1954 – Les Varano (154)	1960 – George Edwards (138)
1954 – Dave Einsel (165)	1962 – Charley Carpenter (127)
1955 – Rich Dapra (112)	1963 – Bill Welker (95)
1955 – Tom Quinn (120)	1964 – Harry Weinhofer (95)
1955 – Ron Lentz (127)	1965 – Bill Welker (112)

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**Coach Mal Paul
and his 1955 District Champions**

APPENDIX F

SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR CHAMPIONS 1938 – 1965

1938:

Quentin “Chappy” Peters

Roland Scandle

Harold Welker

Guy Yocum

Harb Faust

1939:

Roland Scandle

Lee Middlesworth

Joe Homiak

Quentin Peters

1940:

Roland Scandle

1941:

Lyman “Beans” Weaver

Mitch Miscowski

1942:

No District Champion

1943:

Steve Horoshak

Robert Derk

Lew Gaydon

Pat Chivaroli

Don Crone

1944 to 1946:

No District Tournament

1947:

Jerry Shervanick

Tom Zelinski

John Nemetz

1948:

Jerry Shervanick

Ken Faust

Tom Zelinski

Tom Welliver

Francis Galaszkeski

1949:

John Moore

Fred Futchko

Ken Faust

Bill Miller

Tom Welliver

Tom Persing

Bob Miller

John Nemetz

1950:

Walter Murdock

Fred Futchko

Ken Faust

Charlie Cawthern

Tom Welliver

Bill Miller

Jack Rummel

Dick Haddock

Jim Kopenhaver

1951:

Joe Cawthern

Ken Faust

1951 (cont'd.):

Fred Futchko

Charlie Cawthern

Bob Fessler

Dick Haddock

1952:

Ron Lentz

Jim Fiebig

Les Varano

Bob Smith

Dick Haddock

1953:

Ron Lentz

Ron Jacobs

Joe Cawthern

Jim Fiebig

John Adams

Les Varano

Jim Dilliplane

1954:

Tom Quinn

Carl Deitrick

1954 (cont'd.):

Ron Jacobs

Joe Cawthern

Les Varano

Dave Einsel

1955:

Tom Gorant

Rich Dapra

Tom Quinn

Ron Lentz

Alan Henninger

1956:

Tom Gorant

Tom Quinn

Joe Thompson

1957:

Bob Jones

Earl Pensyl

1958:

Tommy Thompson

Tom Gorant

Jim Strausser

1958 (cont'd.):

John Young

1959:

Gary Woodley

Floyd Welker

Ken Krah

George Edwards

Ron Howerter

1960:

Floyd Welker

George Edwards

1961:

Charley Carpenter

Tommy Thompson

1962:

Rich Carter

Bill Welker

Charley Carpenter

Bill Frederick

1963:

Bill Welker

William Herrold

1964:

Harry Weinhofer

William Herrold

1965:

Harry Weinhofer

Bill Welker

Bob Kopenhaver

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1959

Shamokin High School

District Four Team Champions



APPENDIX G

**SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL COACHES DUAL MEET RECORDS
1928 – 1965**

<u>COACH'S NAME</u>	<u>WINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>TIES</u>	<u>WINNING %</u>
WILBUR LEHMAN	8	5	0	62%
KEN HORNER	62	25	3	71%
WOODY LUDWIG	2	1	0	67%
MAL PAUL	195	35	2	85%
<u>DUAL TOTALS:</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>80%</u>
#		#		#



**1958
Shamokin High School
Team Champions
Bloomsburg University Invitational
APPENDIX H**

**SHAMOKIN HIGH SCHOOL
ROBERT A. KEMP
MEMORIAL TROPHY
“MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER AWARD”
(STATE CHAMPIONS AND STATE RUNNERS-UP RECIPIENTS)**

1948: JERRY SHERVANICK

1950: TOM WELLIVER

1951: KEN FAUST

1953: RON JACOBS

1954: DAVE EINSEL

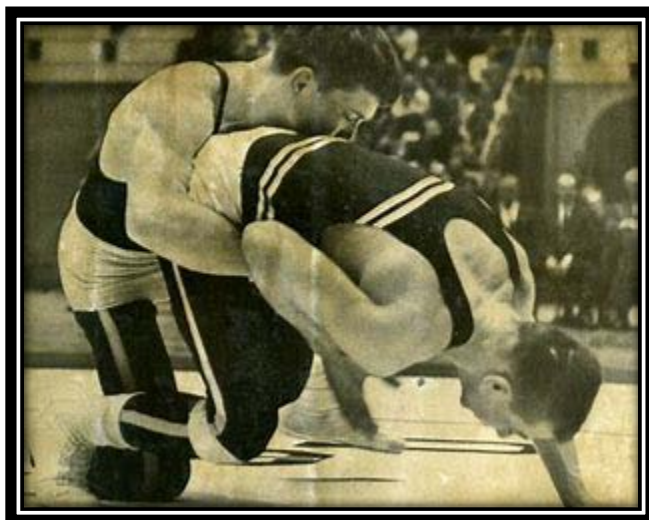
1955: TOM QUINN

1958: TOM GORANT

1960: FLOYD WELKER

1962: CHARLEY CARPENTER

1965: BILL WELKER



“If there’s still time on the clock, there’s still time to win.”

APPENDIX I

MAL PAUL & LYMAN WEAVER



MAL PAUL

“A MASTER OF THE MATS”

Coach Paul, along with his loyal assistant, Lyman "Beans" Weaver, produced champion after champion via sound fundamentals and the innate ability to instill a "winning spirit" in his wrestlers. During Mal Paul's tenure as wrestling coach at Shamokin High School, his teams won 14 District Four Team Championships. (Note: There were no regional or state team titles at that time.)

Furthermore, Coach Paul developed 82 district champs, 22 regional winners, 8 state champions, and 8 state runners-up. He is still ranked in the Top 20 coaches with the most state champs. Considering the fact that back then the state elimination process involved four weekends of strenuous competition, these statistics are truly phenomenal. Likewise,

the athletes from small schools and large schools competed against each other, and you had to win every match to earn a state championship.

Coach Mal Paul's dual meet record was 195-35-2 over his 19-year coaching tenure. That's an average of less than two loses a year, with no losing seasons! Coach Mal Paul was inducted into the "Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame" as a charter member in 1973. But even more rewarding to him as an educator are the scholarships many of his wrestlers acquired at such fine colleges as West Point, Lehigh, Temple, Michigan, Penn State, West Virginia, Pitt, and Rutgers.

In sum, Mal Paul symbolized the best in coaching, not only in his knowledge of the sport, but also in the professional manner in which he always conducted himself during many "pressure-packed" situations. Without question, Coach Paul taught his wrestlers how to play the game with dignity--both on and off the mats!

Coach Paul passed away February 20, 1998.



LYMAN ‘BEANS’ WEAVER

By Bill Welker



As a child growing up in Shamokin, I was surrounded by many wrestling luminaries (former state champs, All-Americans, and coaches). And, of course, I listened intently to many wrestling stories. One of those anecdotes dealt with Lyman “Beans” Weaver and his college days at Millersville State College after his military service in WWII.

If Hall of Fame Coach Ted Rupp were alive today, he would tell you that Lyman Weaver, and a couple of his wrestling friends at Millersville, approached him and ask Coach Rupp to start a wrestling program at the school. The rest is history.

A PIAA state runner-up in 1941, after graduating from Shamokin HS, Coach Weaver joined the U.S. Air Force during WWII, where he completed 50 missions as a B-24 radio gunner over Italy.

Lyman “Beans” Weaver matriculated at Millersville and was a charter member of the “Marauders” inaugural wrestling team under Coach Rupp.



Prior to a sports-ending injury his junior year, Weaver was a runner-up at the 1947 Middle Atlantic AAU Championships and PSAC runner-up in 1948.

Weaver then worked as Coach Rupp's assistant coach his junior and senior years. He remains one of only 5 wrestlers in Millersville's wrestling history to receive the Theodore H. Rupp Award on two separate occasions.

Upon graduating from college, Lyman "Beans" Weaver returned to his hometown alma mater – Shamokin High School – where he and fellow Hall of Fame Coach, Mal Paul, made Pennsylvania wrestling history for over three decades, producing many team and individual champions.

What people don't realize is the fact that Coach Weaver and Coach Paul travelled to various neighboring schools, such as Ashland (later became North Schuylkill), Northumberland, and Selinsgrove, to assist many area schools in setting up their own wrestling programs.

I had the honor of wrestling under Coach Weaver and Coach Paul. They were the perfect combination of Good Cop and Bad Cop. Coach Paul was the Bad Cop, pushing us to our physical limits. Whereas, it was Coach Weaver who then built us up, molding our characters to face life with positive moral values.

Coach Weaver passed away on May 19, 2006.

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The Magnificent Mat Mentors

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APPENDIX J

The Welker Family Wrestling Legacy *“The Oldest Family of Pennsylvania State Champions”*



Harold Welker

1938 PIAA State Wrestling Champion

It was a blistery winter Saturday night that March of 1938. Harold Welker, a senior for Shamokin High School, was warming-up for his finals match against Angelo Carmella of Dubois. As he looked around the facility, Harold realized that he had never before been in such a huge gym.

It was Penn State’s “Rec Hall” and Harold Welker was competing in the first high school state wrestling tournament ever held in Pennsylvania. He was nervous, but not scared. He knew nothing about his opponent except where he was from.

Coach Ken Horner walked over to Harold and said, “It’s your turn to win the second individual state championship for Shamokin today. Roland Scandle won at 115, and you can do it at 145. This is important, Harold. You guys will be the first state champions in Pennsylvania scholastic wrestling history. I can sense that this is the beginning of something very special. Are you ready to make it happen, Harold?”

“Yes sir.”

“Then let’s go. You’re up.”

The match was not an easy one for Harold. Neither wrestler scored a point in the regular match, so the bout would now go into overtime.

During the minute’s rest (which was required in wrestling back then), Harold, breathing heavily, said to Coach Horner, “Give him the freakin’ match; I’m too damn tired!”

“That’s not going to happen, Harold. Don’t quit on me now. This is too damn important. Now get your butt out there and win the match!”

Harold did both.

Thus, began the Welker family legacy in Pennsylvania Wrestling.

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Floyd Welker

1959 PIAA State Wrestling Champion

The next two Welkers to reach the state finals were brothers Floyd and Bill. Floyd Welker won his state title in 1959 at the 120-pound weight class as a junior. His opponent that year was Ron Maunder of Lewistown. The final score of the match was 3-1. Floyd became the ninth Shamokin “Greyhound” to be crowned a PIAA State Champion.

The following year Floyd Welker again reached the state finals at 120 pounds. His opponent was Jerry Twoey from Philipsburg-Osceola. Floyd was winning the match at the end of the first period, but made a fatal mistake and was pinned by his opponent applying a double grapevine, shocking everyone in attendance.

Floyd Welker went on to become a civil engineer, earning both a BS (Penn State) and MS (Purdue) degree. Floyd retired as a computer

analyst for the Xerox Corporation in 2004, having worked there for over 30 years.

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Bill Welker

1963 PIAA State Wrestling Champion

Bill Welker was the third member of the Welker family to win a PIAA State Championship in 1963 as a sophomore. Wrestling at 95 pounds, Bill's opponent in the state finals was Sherm Hostler of Newport.

He decisively won 4-2 to become Shamokin's tenth and one of the youngest state champions ever. Sherm Hostler went on to win states at 103 pounds the following year.

Bill again returned to the state finals his senior year at the 112-pound weight class. His finals opponent was West York's Dana Luckenbaugh. At the start of the third period, the score was tied 3-3.

Welker was in the bottom position the third period. An escape would win him his second title. But it was not to be. Luckenbaugh rode him out to win by a “riding-time” point, 4-3. Thus, Dana Luckenbaugh became West York’s first state champion.

Bill Welker later earned both a BS and Master degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Doctorate of Education degree from West Virginia University. Bill retired as a 40-year veteran k-12 classroom teacher in 2009.

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Cousin Harold Welker started it all the winter of 1938, but unfortunately passed away at a very young age. Floyd and Bill Welker became the first “brother-team” to win states in District Four. And Bill Welker holds the record for the most victories (83) in old Shamokin High School’s storied history on the mats.

The trio of “Shamokin Greyhound” Welkers won their state titles during a time when there was only one division of schools, and you couldn’t lose at any level of the elimination process. They were “true” state champions.



THE WELKER BROTHERS WRESTLING STATISTICS

Floyd R. Welker

Three-Year Varsity Performer

Record: 58-10-1

**Two-Time Sectional Champion
(1959-1960)**

**Two-Time District Champion
(1959-1960)**

**Two-Time Regional Champion
(1959-1960)**

1959 PIAA State Champion

1960 PIAA State Runner-up

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William A. Welker

Four-Year Varsity Performer

Record: 83-10-2

**Three-Time Sectional Champion
(1962-1963-1965)**

**Three-Time District Champion
(1962-1963 -1965)**

**Two-Time Regional Champion
(1963-1965)**

1963 PIAA State Champion

1965 PIAA State Runner-up

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Afterword

There are unique programs in all sports that seem to possess the right combination of coaches, athletes, and parents that are on the same page, producing athletic legacies. The Shamokin High School “Greyhound” Wrestling Program fits that success mold. It produced so many past “Legends of the Mats,” whose names have often been mentioned in awe.

However, time tends to gradually rub out such grand performances, regarding the many individual and team championships the people of Shamokin were blessed to witness for nearly 40 years. This must never happen to our “Greyhound” wrestlers.

Now to fully understand the significance of Shamokin High School’s successful “Greyhound” wrestling program, you must be made aware of the customs and mindset of its local citizenry during those days of mat glory.

During the 1920s to the mid-sixties, Shamokin, Pennsylvania had grown into a thriving community of nearly 40,000 people. Its demographics were comprised of immigrants from Ireland, Poland, German and other Slavic countries. The main industry was the mining of Anthracite coal. Other



local businesses included the Eagle Silk Mill, the National Ticket Company, F & S Brewery, and lots of cigar stores and pool halls.

The community of Shamokin was deeply connected with its schools. The support of its high school was at a premium, especially when it came to athletics in general and wrestling in particular.

An interesting footnote, many coal truck drivers in the region would actually place bets with each other on their favorite school's wrestling team. Needless to say, the Shamokin coal truck drivers were very fortunate gamblers.

These were simpler times for wrestling in Pennsylvania. There was only one state division in the mat sport. Furthermore, if one lost on the mat during any post-season bout, they were done. There was no top three or four who qualified for states. Just one per weight class from each of the four regions advanced to the state tournament, ultimately producing true state champions. In essence, it was a prelude to adult living, where second chances are a rarity.

On a more human note, greed in scholastic sports had as yet to surface. What we're referring to is "Recruiting," the fall of true and authentic hometown athletes.

The Shamokin "Greyhound" wrestlers were all homegrown. In fact,

many of them were childhood neighbors. And yet, the “Greyhounds” produced 10 State Champions, 10 State Runners-up, 22 Regional Champions, and 100 District Champions.

Such athletic accomplishments must not be forgotten in the annals of Shamokin’s storied, wrestling history. Bill Welker and Ron Weller, Shamokin’s Wrestling Historian, have seen to it in this writing that the history of Shamokin “Greyhound” wrestling from 1928 until 1965 will pass the test of time.



1962 Coach Mal Paul's 14th and Final District Four Team Championship

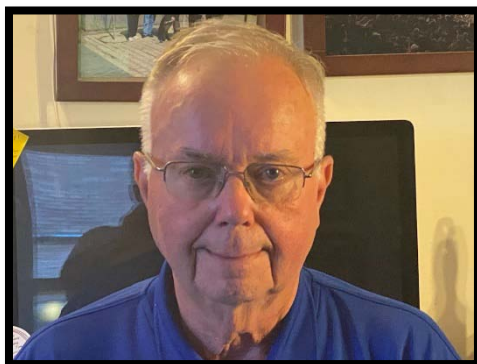
ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Dr. Bill Welker

An award-winning educator and one of the country's foremost authorities on Folkstyle wrestling, Dr. Bill Welker has published four books, including his national best-seller, *The Wrestling Drill Book*.

A former Pennsylvania State Champion, Welker is a member of five wrestling halls of fame, including the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (West Virginia Chapter), and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. He has been selected twice as the National Wrestling Sportswriter of the Year by *Wrestling USA Magazine*.



Ron Weller

Ron Weller has been involved in chronologizing Shamokin wrestling and its history for over 60 years. He has also served as president of the Shamokin Area Wrestling Boosters Club during the 1998-1999 wrestling season.

When Shamokin and Coal Township High Schools consolidated, Ron Weller was there offering his services to the new "Indian" wrestling program. Weller put his writing talents to work by publishing a *Shamokin Area High School Wrestling Brochure* annually for Shamokin "mat sport" enthusiasts. Ron Weller received national recognition from both *Amateur Wrestling News* and *Wrestling USA Magazine* for his efforts in promoting Shamokin scholastic wrestling.