

# PWCA WRESTLING HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT TWELVE NEW MEMBERS

## *Class of 2009 Increases Hall Membership to 351 Members*

*By Norm Palovcsik*

At its annual Fall meeting, the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association approved twelve new members for induction into the Hall of Fame, Class of 2009.

The Class of 2009 consists of the following former individuals (in alphabetical order): Mark Cesari (Wrestler-District 11); Joe Geesey (Contributor-District 3); Jim Husk (Wrestler/Coach-District 7); John McHugh (Wrestler/Coach-District 1); Tim McCall (Wrestler-District 10); Teague Moore (Wrestler-District 7); Eppie Nick Petronka (Wrestler-District 7); Fred Richardson (Contributor-District 3), Jeff Richardson (Wrestler-District 6), Rich Santoro (Wrestler – District 11), Troy Sunderland (Wrestler/Coach-District 6) and Bob Truby (Wrestler-District 7).

For the second consecutive year, the official ceremonies will be held separate from the PIAA State Wrestling Championships. The Hall of fame inductions will be held on Saturday night, April 18, 2009 at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania. A banquet will precede the induction ceremonies followed by the formal ceremonies and brief acceptance and recognition speeches by the inductees.

The Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association began inducting worthy individuals into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame since its inaugural class in 1970. This year's elected members swells the Hall of Fame membership to 351 members in its 40-year existence.

The following write-up provides a brief biographical sketch of each of the inductees. A more detailed biographical sketch will appear in the February 2009 issue of the Pennsylvania Wrestling Round-up.

**Mark Cesari (Wrestler – District 11)** – Mark Cesari is a graduate of North Schuylkill High School and North Carolina State University. He is a four-time PIAA state placewinners finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1986 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1987 before capturing state titles in 1988 and 1989.

**Joe Geesey** – Joe Geesey is a graduate of Columbia High School and Millersville State University. Joe Geesey has been one of the Pennsylvania and nation's top wrestling officials. Geesey has officiated every major state and national wrestling tournaments including the EIWA, EWL, PIAA and NCAA championships tournaments.

**Jim Husk (Coach- District 7)** – Jim Husk is a graduate of Waynesburg High School and Xavier University. He was a WPIAL champion in 1959 before moving to Florida where he coached at Archbishop Curley and Miami Southwest High Schools and won over 700 career matches.

**Tim McCall (Wrestler – District 10)** – Tim McCall is a graduate of Erie Strong Vincent High School and Indiana University. He was PIAA state champion in 1962 as a sophomore. At Indiana University, McCall placed in the Big Ten Champions in 1967 (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 1968 (champion) and placed twice in the NCAA Championships in 1967 (5<sup>th</sup>) and 1968 (3<sup>rd</sup>).

**John McHugh (Wrestler/Coach – District 1)** – John McHugh is a graduate of Cheltenham High School and the University of Maryland. He was a three-time Southeast Regional champion, three-time PIAA state qualifier and a PIAA state champion in 1953. He was a two time Atlantic Coach Conference champion, winning title in 1956 at 115 pounds and 1957 at 123 pounds. He coached the Terrapins for 32 years, amassing a 256-143-8 career coaching record.

**Teague Moore (Wrestler – District 7)** – Teague Moore is a graduate of North Allegheny High School and Oklahoma State University. He was a three time PIAA state placewinner finishing runner-up in 1993, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1994 and PIAA state champion in 1995. He earned three NCAA Championship medals by finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in 1997, first in 1998 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1999. He is presently the head wrestling coach at Clarion University.

**Eppie Nick Petronka (Wrestler – District 7)** - Nick Petronka is a graduate of Washington High School and Indiana University. Nick Petronka is a two-time WPIAL champion and a two-time PIAA state champion in 1953 and 1954. At Indiana University, Petronka was a Big Ten runner-up in 1958 and place 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1958 NCAA Championships. Nick was undefeated in dual meets at Indiana University.

**Fred Richardson (Contributor – District 3)** – Fred Richards is a graduate of Reading High School. He is arguably one of the finest wrestling official's in the state of Pennsylvania and United States. Richardson has officiated every major state and national

wrestling tournaments including the EIWA, EWL, PIAA and NCAA championships tournaments. In 2004, Richardson was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for Wrestling Officials by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**Jeff Richardson (Wrestler – District 6)** – Jeff Richardson is a graduate of Johnstown High School and Michigan State University. Jeff was a PIAA state champion in 1962 and finished as a PIAA runner-up in 1963, both at heavyweight. Jeff attended Michigan State as a two-sport athlete in football and wrestling. He was a Big Ten wrestling champion in 1965 and was a two-time NCAA placewinner by finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in 1966 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1967 at heavyweight. He was a member of the 1967 NCAA team championship Spartan team. In 1966, Richardson was a football letterwinner and was drafted in the 6<sup>th</sup> round by the New York Jets and played for the 1969 Super Bowl champion Jets.

**Rich Santoro (Wrestler – District 11)** – Rich Santoro is a graduate of Bethlehem Catholic High School and Lehigh University. Santoro was a three-time PIAA state qualifier and a two-time state champion in 1978 and 1979. At Lehigh, Santoro was a three-time All-American by placing 6<sup>th</sup> in 1980, 7<sup>th</sup> in 1983 and 5<sup>th</sup> in 1984.

**Troy Sunderland (Wrestler – District 6)** – Troy Sunderland is a graduate Mount Union High School and Penn State University. Sunderland was a two-time PIAA state champion by winning state titles in 1987 and 1988. At Penn State, he was a three-time NCAA All-American, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in 1991 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in both 1992 and 1993. He is currently the head wrestling coach at Penn State University.

**Bob Truby (Wrestler – District 7)** – Bob Truby is a graduate of Trinity High School and Penn State University. Bob Truby was a two-time state champion in Maryland in 1984 and 1985 and a two-time PIAA state champion at Trinity High School in 1986 and 1987. At Penn State, Truby was a two-time NCAA All-American by placing 5<sup>th</sup> in 1991 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1992.