



1962 Oregon Collegiate Champions

55 year follow-up on what wrestlers do with their lives

Check reverse side to see how 10 wrestlers from middle class families used wrestling as a stairway to college which changed their lives

Wrestling is a tough, physical sport which maximally challenges participants. All 10 athletes gave wrestling credit for their success in life.

They became:

Mental health counselor

Finance expert

Business man

Commercial pilot

Orthopedic surgeons (2)

Cattle rancher

College full professor (2)

Olympic and D1 wrestling coach

If you are an athletic director or college dean, you might be proud to say these athletes studied and trained at your school.

Other aspects of the group are that they each cherished their wife and far and were the first in their family to graduate from college (except 2 that followed a wrestling brother to college)

Also, consider that wrestling is for all sized athletes which answers complaint that college sports are not for small people.

Ed Fletcher

Age: 77
Weight: 215
Meant to Me:
 Wrestling taught me courage, patience, and that hard work and talent go well together
Education: BS, BA, OSU in Business; Distinguished Military Graduate at OSU; Honor graduate Pacific Coast School of Banking at U of W
Profession:
 Senior Vice President and Mgr, Personal Financial Services Division, U S Bank with 14 departments including branch locations in Salem, Eugene, Medford, Klamath Falls and Bend
Married: 54 years on August 26, 2016 to wonderful, delightful, pretty, Judy
Kids: Jlm, married with 3 kids and one graduated from U of O...owns Portland vital Signs and Opus Creative with Son-In-Law, Nick Olson
Mary Beth Olson, married with 2 kids and has MBA and works for a Small Trust Co in Portland.
Done what: board of directors for:
 Albertina Kerr Homes; Eugene JC's; Eugene Sertoma; Rodeo Board Eugene JC's, American Heart Associate(Oregon Affiliate); Portland Estate Planning Council; Eugene Estate Planning Council; The Collins Companies(wood products firm HQ in PDX).
Positions held: Chairman of the Board, American Heart Assn; President Eugene Estate Planning Council; Secy Eugene Sertoma; Secy, Eugene JC's; Secy, Portland Estate Planning Council; Oregon State Bar Association, Continuing Legal Instructor; Certified Trust and Financial Advisor; Eagle Scout; 17 years as Trustee for the Wrestling Endowment Fund of OSU; Assistant Professor at PCC; Assistant Professor at LCC.

Name: Jerry Perez

Age: 76
Weight: 123
 1963 married (54 years and counting)
 Could not have gone to college without a wrestling scholarship. I tried basketball in high school but the BB coach said if you are less than 5'5" you will be a wrestler.
 Wrestling was a joy, right from the start.
 Lost to Tim English as a freshman and that was my only high school loss in 4 years.
 Without wrestling, I would not have met my wife and had my family that is so dear to me.
 I was a head high school referee for 35 years. I ref'd the Iowa vs University of Washington Match that drew 9000 spectators up in Seattle.
 My work was psych rehab at U Dub and Administrator for mental health clinics
 I retired from Hi Line Mental health center 10 years ago. I loved working with the mentally ill. We have two children, a son, who is a Manager of two Hotels and a daughter with two kids. She was a stockbroker until she had the children. Her husband is a surveyor architect.
 Wrestling has made me a lot of friends over the years and opened a door for me that allowed me to take advantage of my non-athletic talents as well.

Name: Len Pettyjohn

Age: 76
Your weight for this tournament: 130
What wrestling meant for you in your life: Most of this is below, but the discipline required to be a successful wrestler directly transferred to developing the class room focus to reach academic goals, business decisions and strategy for facing life challenges.
Education: BS, Portland State College; MS, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; PhD, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Profession: College Professor for 20 years; Owner-Manager of a Bicycling Company for Professional Cycling Teams and Cycling Event Management
Married how long: 23 years
Kids and what they are doing: None
Things you have done in your life, that make you proud: Followed through on all of my educational goals that gave me the foundations for creating a successful teaching career followed by the development of a 2nd career in professional sports.
 My cycling teams were among the best in the world as I coached multiple National, World, Tour de France and Olympic champions over a 40-year career. I continue to coach master's level cyclists throughout the world and I am able to travel with many of my clients on an annual basis to Europe each summer.
 I firmly believe a major factor for my achievements can be traced to the discipline and tenacity I learned as a high school, college, and post collegiate wrestler. I've been intimately involved in multiple individual and team sports, but everything pales in comparison to the commitment required to be a successful wrestler. The training, weight control, strategy and sheer physical demands are placed on a singular individual vs. a skilled opponent...it, along with boxing, are the two most pure challenges a man faces in sport. It's a perfect format for facing life's challenges.

Joe McFarland MD

Age: 75
Weight for this tournament: 137
What wrestling meant for you in your life:
 Most wrestlers at the college level hate to lose and will do anything and everything to be successful at their sport. This is like life itself - It does not come easy. If you want something important, you have to put on our big boy pants and work for it.
Education: College -pre med. Med school. Rotating internship. Residency Orthopedic Surgery.
Profession: Orthopedic Surgery. Retired 1999
Married how long: 46 years **Wife:** Mary (stolen from Boston) Doctorate Ed., Professor Emeritus OHSU school of nursing
Kids and what they are doing: One son, age 38, law school, currently working with me on weight loss app and website to cure the world of obesity.
Things you have done in your life, that make you proud:
 Was first wrestler from U of O to be accepted into medical school. I was followed by 4 more wrestler/factors until they dropped the program. I'm proud of you guys.
 Served in Vietnam with MACV and brought running water to RVN Field Hospital
 Practiced Orthopedics, Vancouver until 1999 and continue to enjoy working at a local Free Clinic. Wrote 1 books and 2 movie scripts, one about wrestling

Name: Tobe Zwegardt

Age: 77
Weight for this tournament: 157
Married: 1966 (51)
 Two children and 5 grandchildren
What wrestling did for me: If it were not for wrestling, many of the experiences of my life would not have occurred.
 moved here after growing up in Kansas. In college at OSU, I was second at the coast tournament as a sophomore and first as a junior and senior. I was the alternate on the USA Greco Roman team from 1962-64. I was in the Peace Corp assigned to the West Africa area including Senegal and Ivory Coast.
 on a cattle rancher deep in my heart and own a 3200 acre ranch and am active in my area: Asst coach OSU, Teacher coach Medford, Wrestling referee high school and college, long time ferrier, Prairie City chool board, Director Prairie City Fire board, FFA advisory board, Board of directors for Cattlemen's Assn, lions club, Pres, Grant County Rodeo Museum, president Prairie City Lions Club, Oregon State Director Lions club, and many more.
 am very proud of the life I have lived, my family and all the positions I have held in my geographical area, only a few of which are mentioned above.

Name: Len Kauffman

Age: 74
Your weight for this tournament: 167 lbs
What wrestling meant for you in your life:
 I learned that hard work and dedication are necessary for success in any endeavor. The sense of accomplishment has a lifelong affect if one has truly earned that success.
Education: B.S. (science) and M.S. (Education) at OSU
Profession: College Professor and Coach, Airline Pilot
Married how long: 44 years (as of November 2016)
Kids and what they are doing: Todd (age 50) is partner and principal at Ernst & Young (professional service firm). Kortni (Age 41) is account manager at Possible (digital strategy, and creative design)
Things you have done in your life, that make you proud:
 1. Serving 26 years in the U.S. Army and Oregon Army National Guard, including Vietnam service as helicopter pilot, holding command positions and retiring as Colonel.
 2. Head wrestling coach and associate professor at Portland State University.
 3. Pilot for American Airlines for 16 years.
 4. We are very proud of our kids.

Bob Keeney

Age: 74
Weight: 177
 I was proudly born from a working class family and never considered college. When I started high school wrestling I weighed 118 pounds and was 5 feet 1 inch tall. After a few years of wrestling my coach told me I could earn a scholarship. My comment was: "You mean someone would pay me to wrestle?" business at the University of Oregon and was PAC 10 champ at 177 and 191 my junior and senior years.
 I am proud of my coast guard service and my career in the wood products industry using my skills from college. I did a variety of jobs including labor negotiations, product procurement and I was responsible for managing 50 million dollar budgets and shipping 700,000 tons of wood loved my work and believe wrestling saved me from suffering through life, doing a boring job.
 My wife (Judy) works for George Fox Universities with the advanced degrees committee.
 Without wrestling, my life would be so different. I met my wife at college and we have been married 47 years. My college attendance stimulated many in my family to get an advanced education like I am most proud of my family and my work history. Wrestling provided the opportunity for a better world to me, by allowing me to do the sport I love and get an advanced degree to open up the world to me.
 I am very proud of my family and my work history.

Pat Clock

Weight: 191
Lewis and Clark: Physics major
 After college at Lewis and Clark, I did 4 years teaching physics, chem., gen science at high school.
 Enlisted Army 1966, OCS, 3 years service in signal corp.
 1968 - 1969 RVN officer in microwave communications
 After separation from the military I got my masters degree in math at PSU.
 I now teach math at PCC part time.
 Married in 1970 to my first wife Shirley, who died prematurely.
 I fortunately found another wonderful woman, Janet, and was remarried in 2015.
 I'm proud of my athletic past in wrestling and football and my academic credentials. My oldest son, Mike played football and wrestled and coached as well as teaching math in college and we see the same genetics.
 Life has been good to me
 I love my kids: Jay - RCW website manager. Former physics math major at Pacific University.
 Lisa, swimmer OSU works with her husband in HIGHER GROUND in Ketchum Idaho (disability).
 Andy, home remodels. Jennie owns a house cleaning business. Nine delightful grandkids.

Darrell Kauffman MD

Age: 77
Heavyweight
 Wrestled at Oregon State, Pacific Coast Champion, AAU All-American
 Wrestling taught me to persevere and never give up, no matter what! This lesson served me well in my medical profession.
Education: B.S. from OSU, DMD from OHSU, residency in maxillofacial surgery, U of W, Orth residency at USC.
Profession: Orthopedic surgeon in San Jose, Corvallis, and Lebanon, Oregon.
 Published three medical papers and presented one research project at annual meeting of Orthopedic Society of America.
Married almost 50 years.
Kids: Oldest daughter, Dayna, is an artist in Maui, Hawaii. Son David is an attorney and a color sergeant in the US Army National Guard. Daughter, Diana, is a graduate of USC Marshall School of Business and is married to an attorney.
Things I am most proud of in my life include: my career, my children, and my grandchildren. K is attending Dartmouth, Kyle is attending the U S Air Force Academy, and Huxley is about to be a kindergarten.

Ron Finley

Weight: 147
 Unfortunately Ron died of cancer in 2016. He was a dedicated father and husband. His memorial service was held at the same gym where this photo was taken. His memorial was attended by a thousand wrestling fans from the State of Oregon. Ron was on USA Greco team and later coached the same team. He coached at Oregon from 1970 until retirement in 1998. Ron's death was a blow to the Oregon wrestling community. He was a tremendous competitor and a fine man, loving husband and father. Ron was a lifelong wrestler. He taught us how to live and he taught us how to die. Rest in peace, Ron.

These wrestlers worked as hard on their careers and family as they did on their mat. After 55 years they continued to be devoted to their wives, children and grandkids.

In summary:

Life is a journey and these 10 wrestlers from 55 years ago had an edge by engaging in a physically hard sport that is difficult to master.

Doing hard things in life prepares us for this life journey as documented in the lives of these wrestlers.

If you are a college AD or Dean or perhaps someone that wants more wrestling, pick up a phone and begin the conversation on starting a wrestling program in your area.

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