

MHSA ATHLETES' HALL OF FAME

Duane Olson

Big Sandy High School (1967)

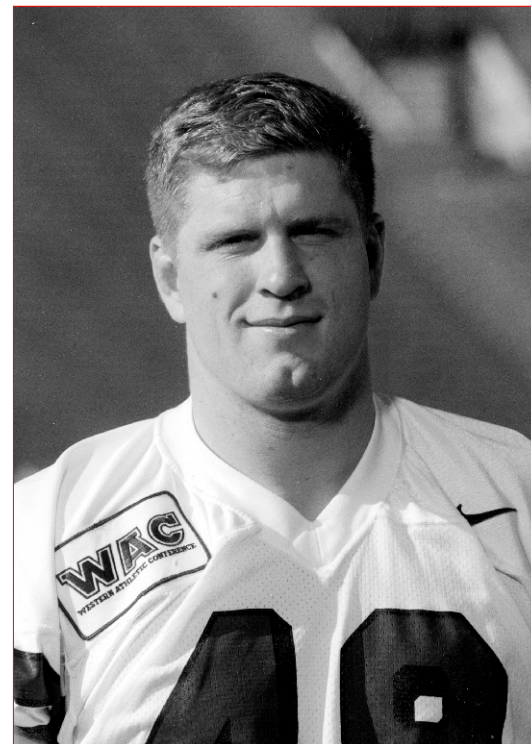
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Inducted 2020

Duane was an outstanding wrestler and football player at Big Sandy High School from 1964-67. He was co-captain of the football team, earned All-Conference Honors both his junior and senior years and awarded the Most Valuable Football Player award his senior year. Duane was a natural athlete in football and track, but wrestling was where he found his niche. While wrestling at Big Sandy High School, Duane was a 3-time Montana State Wrestling Champion at 145 lbs. and went undefeated his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons (1965-67). At this time there were no school size classifications for individual matches. He wrestled opponents from AA-A-B & C schools. His three state championship matches were against wrestlers from Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls. Duane was awarded the Outstanding Wrestler of the State Tournament his senior year while leading his team to a Class BC state championship and an overall 5th place team finish. After graduation, Duane attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on a full-ride wrestling scholarship for two years. Duane wrestled in the Big 8 Conference tournament and placed 4th. He also placed 2nd in the Great Plains tournament in Nebraska. In 1969 Duane wrestled in the NCAA National Wrestling Tournament where his team took home the NCAA National Championship Title. While at Iowa State University, his wrestling partner and teammate was Olympic Gold Medalist, Dan Gables. Duane lost his life on February 22, 1976, during a house fire in Syracuse, Kansas where he was working at the time.

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Jeff Ellis

Skyview High School (1991)

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Inducted 2020

Jeff was a standout football, wrestling, baseball, and track athlete from Billings. In football he was a three-year varsity starter playing middle-linebacker, fullback, tight-end, punter and field-goal kicker. As a sophomore Jeff was second team all-state linebacker, his junior year he was First Team All-State linebacker and Second Team All-State fullback, and his senior season he was selected First Team AA All-State linebacker and fullback, as well as AA defensive player of the year. Jeff was selected for the East/West Shrine team earning outstanding defensive player of the game. His football jersey #47 is the only retired jersey at Skyview. Jeff also wrestled and took fourth place at state his freshman year at 171 lbs. During his sophomore season his only loss was in the state championship match, and both his junior and senior years he was a state champion at 189 pounds. In track, Jeff was the state champion in javelin, setting a new school record of 210 feet. He also played baseball as a pitcher and third baseman for the Billings Royals. After graduation Jeff received a full-ride scholarship to play D1 football at Brigham Young University where he played middle linebacker and special teams. Jeff played in the Cotton Bowl in 1996, the year the Cougars broke the NCAA record for most wins in a single season going 14-1 and ranked #5 in the nation. Jeff also wrestled for BYU as a heavyweight. Jeff is married to Renae Ellis and has 2 daughters and 3 sons. He is currently working for Intel Corporation and living in Hillsboro, Oregon.

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