

# Longtime wrestling coach selected for Hall of Fame

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matches and the next year (1958-'59) they won the Kansas State Championship which included schools of all enrollment sizes in the state.

A stuffed owl owned by Principal Gerald Travis became a lucky charm for the team so the season was named "The Year of the Owl".

The wrestling team also won state championships twice more, in 1961-'62 and 1964-'65, prior to the separation of schools into classes based on enrollment.

The Blue Jays, under Coach Durham, also won state championships in 1967-'68, 1969-'70 and 1972-'73.

His grapplers also placed second at state four times and third three times. His teams put together eight undefeated seasons. They won nine regional championships and eight district championships.

They were champions of the Northwest Kansas League six times and champions of the Mid-Continent League five times. They also won 29 tournament championships.

Durham coached 29 wrestlers, who won 40 state championships. He also coached 25 wrestlers, who won 35 second-place medals at state.

His previous awards include: Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1965, 1970 and 1983; National High School Athletic Coaches Association District 5 Coach of the Year in 1973 and 1977; Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame

in 1989 and Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame in 1992.

He was an outstanding wrestler in both high school and college. While competing at Granite City Community High School in Illinois, he was a three-year varsity letterman and co-captain of the wrestling team. He graduated from high school in 1946 and attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro from 1947-'51. At Arkansas State, he was a four-year varsity letterman and was team captain all four years. He was a four time Ozark AAU champion, Arkansas AAU champion, Midwestern AAU champion and Junior National AAU champion.

Before coming to Norton, he served in the Army and was a platoon leader in the 27th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Korea.

"Jake is being inducted into the most prestigious wrestling hall of fame in the United States," said Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "People in Norton don't realize the influence Jake has had on wrestling across the United States."

"He wrote an article for the *Amateur Wrestling News* suggesting that weight classes be added for heavier wrestlers."

At that time, there were no

weight classes between 175 and heavyweight.

"He had the foresight to realize that it would be good for the sport of wrestling to give larger boys the chance to participate in high school wrestling," said Coach Johnson.

Not until 1996 was the 215-pound class implemented. Ironically, Norton's Jeff Boyle won the state championship at that weight that year.

"Jake has also assisted with wrestling camps around the nation, including Iowa State, Nebraska and Kansas State," Coach Johnson said.

Harold Nichols was the coach at Iowa State. He was also Jake's coach at Arkansas State.

Jake also submitted a manuscript to the state High School Activities Association suggesting a change in eligibility rules. At the time, wrestlers who turned 19 before the first of the year were not eligible to compete the second semester.

The activities association changed the rule and, that year, Quentin Horning was allowed to complete his senior season and won his third state championship.



Jake Durham

By HELEN HELM

The Lyle United Methodist Church Bazaar will be held at the Community Building at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9. Everyone is welcome. There will be a lunch following the auction.

Margaret Magers and June Jolly accompanied Veda Wood to Norcat last Saturday for the soup supper and bazaar held at the Norcat United Methodist church. Teresa Reves joined them there. Eileen Hazelbaker and friend, Rose, Grangeville, Ind., met them there and the ladies were overnight guests of Mrs. Magers. They were here especially to attend the 50th wedding anniversary of Earnest and Donna Huff.

Elden and Charissa Huff and son, Richard, and David Huff of Perryton, Texas, hosted a celebration for their parents at the Golden Age Center in Oberlin on Sunday. A number of Lyle residents attended.

Neal and Frances Warner, Lebanon, Neb., called at the John Helm home Saturday and left them fresh turnips. Dean Jolly called on John Helm Saturday morning to let him know harvest was over.

Mrs. Kathy Van Meter accompanied her sister, Gladys Williams, Cimarron to Plattsmouth, Neb., to the home of Kennie and Shawna Dillon, Shantana and Alijah on Saturday. The occasion was a birthday party for Alijah's third birthday. Mrs. Williams is the

children's grandmother. The ladies returned home Sunday.

Jim Plotts was the lay-leader in charge of services at Lyle last Sunday morning. His wife, Carolyn, accompanied him. The new pastor was to have services on Sunday.

Eileen Hazelbaker and her friend, accompanied Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Magers to Party Pitch in Norton Sunday evening. The ladies left Monday to continue their vacation travels.

Veda Wood and Teresa Reves drove to Oberlin Sunday and accompanied Carol Moye to Colby to attend "The Good Tyme Medicine Show" presented by the Sweet Adelines. Mrs. Wood's daughter, Sandra McNames, is a member of the Sweet Adelines.

A men's quartet also sang during the evening and Bruce Bandy is a member. He lived here when his father was the pastor of the churches at Lyle, Norcat and Clayton. Following the program the ladies went to Sandra's home for a visit.

Mrs. Veda Wood was a supper guest of Teresa Reves Monday and Tuesday Teresa brought supper to the Wood home.

Mrs. Magers and Mrs. Van Meter went to Beaver City Tuesday evening to visit Van Cozad at the nursing home. They found another patient there that they had frequently played cards with at the senior center and had a game of cards in Mr. Cozad's room. He

enjoyed this a lot.

Mrs. Magers called at the home of Rea and Dee Magers in Norcat Wednesday to remind Dee of her birthday.

Wednesday evening Mrs. Magers and Mrs. Van Meter were invited to the home of Earnest and Donna Huff to see their anniversary gifts and helped them finish the anniversary cake.

June Jolly played cards in McCook Monday and filled in for bowling on Wednesday.

John Rinehart, Colby, had lunch with his grandparents, John and Helen Helm Monday and took them to the Red Willow County Legion meeting in Indianola, Neb. Mike Helm also attended the meeting and presented some ideas for the up-coming year. This weekend Mike is attending a meeting in Michigan. His family stopped at Grandma and Grandpa Fossum's and at Grandpa and Grandma Helm's Friday to see the Halloween costumes.

John and Helen Helm visited their son, Jim, at Danbury Friday to see how he was recuperating after having surgery on both his feet in Denver earlier in the week. This was repair work he had been putting off for some time.

There were a couple of "spooks" that wandered through the Helm home Halloween evening, unannounced. The Helms surmised they were looking for a card game somewhere.

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