

RONALD E. MAUCK

“There’s no ‘I’ in team.”

“My moral and ethical mentor in high school and college was that unique man known as ‘Coach K’. One of my most memorable experiences with the legendary coach, George Kovalick, is when a first team wrestler was injured. I took his place and actually wrestled one varsity match as team manager for Coach Kovalick as a ‘Hilltopper’ at West Liberty State College. Although I lost the match by ‘riding time,’ Coach K was very pleased with my performance.”



“I enjoyed initiating the wrestling program at old Follansbee High School in 1967, where I had my first state champion in 1968, Louie Daily. Those were tough years. We used tumbling mats with mat covers thrown over them for practice. We practiced in the school’s basement with one light bulb. It was a struggle, but the struggle is the glory.”

“Even as coach, I learned from my wrestlers as well. Foremost of the mat men was John Craig. John never competed in any sport in high school until he came out for wrestling his senior year. He was a quick learner and actually defeated a number of experienced wrestlers his first year on the mats. But that was only the tip of the iceberg at West Liberty State College he became a NAIA Finalist and then, as a coach at Steubenville and Winterville High Schools, he earned a reputation as one of the smartest mat mentors in the Conference, winning six OVAC Over-All Championships, the third winningest Conference coach – over shadowed by only

two legendary coaches – George Kovalick and John “Corky” Vrotsos, both winning seven tournament championships. Yes, John Craig taught me the true definition of perseverance and that hard work eventually pays off. I can still remember the first day John Craig came out for wrestling, he said, ‘Give me a chance’. I’m so glad I did.”

Another wrestler Ron Mauck admired on his first Follansbee varsity wrestling team was Pete Bolock. Although he did not experience much success on the mats, Bolock loved the sport of wrestling.

After graduating from West Liberty State College, Pete Bolock taught one year at Weir Elementary School. Pete then spent the next 40 years at Weirton Steel before retiring.

During the 1980s, Pete Bolock and Doug Mason started a youth wrestling tournament in Brooke County. In 1995, Pete Bolock partnered with Harry Alward, coaching the mat sport at Follansbee Middle School. Then Pete assisted Harry, who was hired as the head wrestling coach at Brooke High School in 1997.

Although he is retired and resides in Weirton, Pete Bolock still supports the Brooke High School Wrestling Program in many capacities.

I as an island stands alone.”

“I still remember after being named the initial wrestling coach at Brooke High School, producing the first state champion in any sport in 1970 – Jim Suddoth. And I’ll never forget my first champion at the OVAC Wrestling Championships – Nick Tate.”

“My last season as Brooke’s wrestling coach in 1972 was a year to remember. I produced two OVAC champs in Doug Mason and Dick Nicholls, and two runners-ups – Pat Lupinetti and Nick Tate (champion the previous year), and Kevin Felton and John Geary, third and fourth, respectfully. Kevin Felton later won the OVACs and a West Virginia state championship at 98 pounds. Another one of Coach Mauck’s wrestlers, Ken Robinson,

also won OVACs the next year at 138 pounds. The Brooke “Bruins” wrestling team was tied with the Weir “Red Riders” as runners-up at OVACs that year.”

“John Geary went on to be the ultra-successful head wrestling coach at Fairmont East High School, producing 24 individual state champions and three West Virginia state runner-up finishes. He is a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame – West Virginia Chapter. Likewise, Pat Lupinetti was named the “Outstanding Wrestler” at West Virginia University his senior year.”

“We, together, can accomplish amazing things!”

“As I look back at my years as a teacher, coach, and administrator, I can honestly say I learned as much from my students and athletes as I taught them.”

“My most humbling experience as tournament director of the OVAC Wrestling Championship was Tom Rataiczak announcing at the wrestling press conference that the tournament would be named in my honor in the fall of 2005. As my family congratulated me, I had tears in my eyes.”

“One of the most shocking surprises to me and my dear friend Coach Bill Hinegardner was being presented embossed plaques with beautiful inscriptions and our likeness on them. The plaques are now on permanent display, along with Bill Van Horne and George Kovalick in the lobby of Wesbanco Arena.”

“Tom Rataiczak was the Master of Ceremonies of the affair. I will never forget his kind words on my behalf, especially coming the man who singlehandedly conceived and ultimately created the OVAC Sports Museum and the OVAC Hall of Fame with the aid of his staunch supporters, myself included. Below are his kind words on my behalf.”

Educator, administrator, community leader, tournament director, and Ohio Valley's ambitious and dedicated patron of wrestling.

Little did George Kovalick realize when he was introduced to Ron Mauck in the late '50s as a student at Bridgeport High School that Ron Mauck would assume the role of tournament director in 1979 and run the meet until 2010. While Coach George Kovalick had built the tournament into one of the most respected and largest tournaments in the United States, Ron Mauck added the pageantry that made the prestigious tournament it is today.

Beginning his connection to the mat sport as a manager for Coach Kovalick at Bridgeport High School and West Liberty State College, Ron entered the coaching ranks in 1965,

program at

Likewise, Ron

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the newly

High

addition, he

standings in

directed five

Wrestling

1983 – 1986 – 1987)

also served on the staff for the 1979 NAIA and 1984 NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships when they were held in Wheeling.



starting the wrestling

Follansbee High School.

was selected to initiate

wrestling program at

consolidated Brooke

School in 1968. In

created the dual meet

1971. Ron also

West Virginia State

Tournaments (1979 – 1982 –

at the Wheeling Civic Center. He

An integral part of the OVAC, Ron Mauck also served as the All-Star Football Game Director (1985 until 2000). He was a close associate with the Mumley legions – Sam and Rudy. Ron Mauck has been on numerous OVAC committees and boards, was instrumental in creating the OVAC Hall of Fame and Ohio Valley Sports Museum, and continues to hold schools and coaches accountable to the standards that he was taught by the master of wrestling – Coach George Kovalick.

Because of Ron Mauck's direction and dedication to the mat sport, the OVAC named their annual wrestling tournament the "Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament in 2006.

My most rememberable experience with Ron Mauck as OVAC tournament director involved a wrestling-coaches meeting a number of years ago. Before the meeting, Ron Mauck gave the coaches assignments to complete. Most of them failed to do so. Ron reprimanded them, using a metaphor. He told them they were on a boat without a paddle, spinning in circle. Ron Mauck further explained that a wheel is only as strong as its spokes. They got the message and were thoroughly prepared for future meetings. I was so impressed that I gave Ron Mauck a paddle inscribed with words of praise for his leadership

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and the OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association honor his efforts with his very unique plaque.

Ron Mauck Implements Dual Meet Championships

In 1971, Ron Mauck initiated yearly dual meet standings. The goal was to further promote wrestling in the Ohio Valley. They started with two classes – Class AAA and Class AA. There were eleven teams in AAA eleven teams in AA. The

challenges that Ron Mauck faced were getting coaches to call in results and match cancellations. Mauck often had to contact coaches for their dual meet results. He also had to send out information sheets for the coaches to fill out their individual schedules.

In the first year 1971, John Marshall High School was the Class AAA Dual Meet Champions with Winterville High School coming in second place. The Class AA Dual Meet Champions were St. Johns High School followed by runner-up, Warwood High School.

Over the years, the number of teams and classes grew. In 1975, there were 14 Class AAA teams, 14 Class AA teams, and seven Class A teams. John Marshall won the AAA division with Triadelphia coming in second. There was a tie for the AA class: Jefferson Union and Union Local. The Single A dual meet champion was Warwood.

In 1976, there was even more growth. Class AAA had 16 teams with Weir High School winning and the runner-up was John Marshall. Cadiz was the AA champs and Barnesville came in second. Warwood High School won the single A division and Beallsville High School was runner-up.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, the dual meet championships grew to five divisions (Class 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A). It was at this point, Ron Mauck developed a three-ring book binder with all wrestling-team schedules and the later recording of results. It was a great addition to the OVAC Dual Meet Championships. (Years later, with the emergence of the technical age, all wrestling information can now be found on the OVAC website.)

With the advent of numerous school consolidations in the 2000s, it was decided to have a tournament to determine all-class champions. They developed four-team brackets for all classes. Ron Mauck initially directed the first championships before handing the director reins over to Sean Smith and finally Jim Rocchi. In 2013, the OVAC Executive Board named the dual meet tournament in honor of Bill Hinegardner, the ultra-success wrestling coach at John Marshal High School.

“I have been blessed and humbled by the many accolades I have received from my community, my profession, and especially the sport of wrestling. I have been truly blessed with the love I devoted “best friend” in life – Mary Lou. She and I were further blessed with loving children and wonderful grandchildren.”



“I sincerely believe that success in life involves hard work, perseverance, and surrounding one’s self with great individuals. I am deeply indebted to the likes of Tom and Linda Rataiczak, Rudy and Sam Mumley, Bob Koch, Dr. Bill Welker, Dick and Pat Edge, Dennis Magruder, Frank Rodriguez, Tom and Linda Myers, Dr. Vince and Kay Monseau, John Stephenson, Bill and Shirley Hinegardner, Dr. Dan Doyle, Dick Wolf, Doug Huff, Bob Koch, Dirk DeCoy - and so many others.”

Ron Mauck’s Athletic, Educational, and Community Service

Awards and Positions

Over the decades, Ron Mauck received many, many awards for his undaunted efforts as a professional educator and community leader. The following are just a few honors he received.

1985 & 1997 – The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Robert D. McKelvey Award and Outstanding Achievement Award for director of OVAC Football All-Star Game and Wrestling Tournament

1986 – Mr. Mat Recipient

1987 – West Virginia Wrestling Coaches Association Man of the Year

1988 – Wheeling Park High School Service Award as Chairman of the After-Prom Party

1995 – West Virginia Athletic Director of the Year presented by the West Virginia Athletic Coaches Association

2001 – Super Six Football Committee H. V. Corcoran, Sr. Award

2001 – Ron Mauck OVAC All-Star Football Game Scholarship (\$500) for a deserving West Virginia Football Player, along with the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game Scholarship (\$500) for a deserving Ohio Football Player

2006 – Brooke High School Wall of Fame

2006 – National Wrestling Hall of Fame (West Virginia Chapter) Inductee

2006 – Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Inductee

2013 – *Wrestling USA Magazine's* West Virginia Wrestling Man of the Year

2020 – OVAC Wrestling Coaches Association Lifetime Service Award

2021 – Brooke High School Athletic Hall of Fame

2021 – Shriner's Hospitals for Children "100 Million Dollar Club" Award

As a longtime member, Ron Mauck was twice selected as the “Warwood Lions Club Citizen of the Year.” He has served as president of the West Virginia Safety Association, the Bridgeport High School Alumni Association, and the Warwood Junior High School Athletic Association. Ron Mauck is also a member of the Warwood Vets Club, where he was always ready to give a helping hand.

His dedication to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is nonpareil. Below is the list of OVAC committees he serves on:

Hall of Fame Committee

Museum Committee

Wrestling Coaches Committee

All-Star Football Game Committee

Wrestling Coaches Committee

Mr. Mat Committee

McDonald All-Star Band Committee

Coach of the Year Committee

Ron Mauck is still giving. He presented past OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak, Wesbanco Civic Center Manager Dennis Magruder, and present OVAC Executive Secretary Dirk McCoy with a check for \$25,000.00 to be used for the OVAC Hall of Fame and the OVAC Museum. He also did the same at Warwood’s Corpus Christi School in honor and memory of his wife, Mary Lou Mauck.

Ron Mauck and Friends Promote Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Sports Program

In November of 1978, Frank Rodrigues, Civic Center Manager bought wrestling score clocks and presented them to Ron Mauck, Rudy Mumley and Sam Mumley,

OVAC Executive Director. By April of 1979, these men saw to it that Mr. Frank Rodrigues was reimbursed for the score clocks. It's important to note that Dr. Vince Monseau, West Liberty University's legendary wrestling coach, was able to procure a \$5,000.00 donation from Weirton Steel to assist in paying for the score clocks.

As OVAC Executive Secretary, Same Mumley also instituted the OVAC Foundation, a group of local businessmen who assisted in acquiring revenue for the Conference.

Rudy Mumley was the OVAC Wrestling Tournament souvenir program coordinator from the early 1970s until 1980. Ron Mauck then acquired the services of Dr. Bill Welker to produce the souvenir program until 1996, at which time Dick Wolf performed the same duties until the late 2000s. The souvenir program is now being prepared by Sonya Fedorko of the Wesbanco Arena.

Ron Mauck also worked with Rudy and Sam Mumley with the All-Star Football Game. In the early years, the Wheeling Shriners were heavily involved in the football game. They hosted the Fifth Quarter Dinner where awards were presented after the football game. They also assisted in starting the Queen of Queens Pageant. In the spring of those early years, they also sponsor a dinner for the Queen of Queens participants.

The first organizer of the Queen of Queens was Marjorie Lyons of Stone and Thomas. Later, Ron Mauck and Rudy Mumley solicited the services of Linda Myers to oversee the Queen of Queens Pageant.

With the passing of George Strager, St. Clairsville's ultra-successful football coach, the OVAC initiated the "George Strager Night of the Stars Dinner" for the All-Star football players prior to the game.

Ron Mauck assumed the duties of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1979. He held that position until 2008. Dr. Dan Doyle took over reins of the tournament at that time. Ron Mauck also started the dual meet championships in 1979.

During Rudy Mumley's waning years as a resident of Warwood's Home for Men, Ron Mauck saw to it Rudy attended numerous meetings and affairs. There is a heartwarming story about Rudy and his sister, Lillian. Years ago, the Conference was struggling financially. To assist the Conference during those dire times, Rudy and his sister actually mortgaged their house to keep organization running. They literally saved the Conference.

Rudy and Sam Mumley were totally dedicated to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and are deeply missed.

Tom Rataiczak

"A Man Devoted to Ohio Valley Athletics and a True Friend"

Ron Mauck cherishes his association with Tom Rataiczak for nearly three decades. When Tom was selected to run the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, Ron knew nothing about Tom, except that he was from Bellaire. But his admiration for Tom Rataiczak quickly surfaced. Ron learned how dedicated Tom was to Bellaire High School, both in the school's academic programs and in the promotion of "Big Red" athletics. Tom Rataiczak also served on Bellaire's Board of Education.

Ron Mauck is so impressed with Tom's work ethic, especially regarding his total dedication to the OVAC.

"Tom Rataiczak is a man of his word. If he said something would be done in a week, it was actually completed by the next day. Tom is a "Do'er". I have seen Tom Rataiczak complete more chores for the OVAC in one day that would take others a week. He truly got things done!"

"In reference to OVAC wrestling, Tom Rataiczak was always there for us. He was instrumental in purchasing the wrestling clocks which are on display and are in operation during the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. He even built storage boxes for all the wrestling apparatus stored at the Wesbanco Arena."

"A visionary, Tom Rataiczak initiated the formation of the OVAC Hall of Fame and the OVAC Museum displayed at the Wesbanco Arena. No other scholastic athletic conference in the nation can boast such an array athletic memorability and photos that span over six decades of great athletes and outstanding coaches."

"Though few people realize it outside of the Bellaire High School boundaries, Tom Rataiczak also holds an athletic record, himself. Tom has kept score for Bellaire High School's basketball team an amazing 2109 consecutive reserve and varsity games over a 52-year period. That is truly unbelievable!"

"I am humbled and honored to be one of Tom Rataiczak's closest friends. Thank you, Tom."

Conclusion

Ron Mauck views his lifelong association with the Ohio Valley Athletic

**Conference a “Great
Mary Lou, his partner
enjoyed working and
many outstanding area
people are the strong
Wheel” that serve the youth of the Ohio Valley.**



**Adventure”. He and
in life, immensely
socializing with so
individuals. These
spokes of a “Sturdy**



In loving memory of
MARY LOU NAUTZE
Loving Wife, Mother, Friend and Educator
Enjoyed a lifetime of memories at beautiful Opibay Park