

NORTHWEST WRESTLING

Hall of Fame



~ Alpha Mayfield ~ Coach

Alpha W. Mayfield graduated from Morgantown High School in Morgantown, West Virginia in 1956. He earned varsity letters in football, wrestling, and track. As a junior and as a senior, he established a school shot record that stood for several years. He started wrestling in his senior year. As a 185 pound heavyweight, he pinned the first seven matches he wrestled including the man that later beat him in the State.

He attended Marshall University on a full athletic scholarship and earned six varsity letters. He was voted football and wrestling senior captain. He graduated from Marshall in 1961 and was hired as the head football and basketball coach at Clinton High School.

In 1963, he started the Northwest High School wrestling program while still coaching the Clinton 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. Northwest was the first and for several years was the only "small school" in Stark County that had a wrestling program.

The combination of Al Mayfield and the Northwest youngsters quickly proved an excellent mix. His teams "held their own" over the years in duals, tri's, and in many large tournaments even though wrestling only had of a single classification.

In 1964 he directed the first Northwest Invitational Tournament. This tournament featured a consolation follow-up bracket, the elimination of control (commonly know as riding) time, and bonus points for first period pins. The awards of each weight class were presented by student body elected queens. There were usually top teams from West Virginia., Kentucky and Pennsylvania at the invitational. These teams were housed in local homes.

Coach Mayfield served as an advisor to *SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING NEWS* contributing articles for the magazine. One featured article has a method using two mats to complete a three team meet in less than three hours. To this day, it is often referred to as the Northwest 3-Way.

Northwest High School was the location for the first Stark County AAU Freestyle Tournaments. In 1968, Coach Mayfield was selected to serve as a referee/announcer for the National Junior Team tournament held in Worldland, Wyoming. A Canal Fulton flood prevented him from his duties in the Golden Colorado Meet with the Russians.

He served as a 1974 assistant Ohio Team Coach at the Iowa National Junior Tournament and head Freestyle and Greco Roman team coach the following year. The Ohio team placed 13th.

- Milestones:
- 1974 Team became the first undefeated Northwest team in any sport.
 - Dual meet record of 175-78-1
 - OHSAA Northeast Advisory Board member
 - Two State Runner-ups
 - Two teams to finish in the State Top Ten
 - Five Senate League Championships
 - Twenty-two Team Tournament Championships
 - 1982 Stark County "Coach of the Year"
 - 1982 Ohio AA - "Coach of the Year"
 - 1988 Stark County Amateur Hall of Fame
 - 2004 Northwest Wrestling Hall of Fame

Al and Carolyn enjoy three children and eight grand children

Class of 2004

