



*1964-1968
Wrestling Team
Reunion*



Idaho State
UNIVERSITY

Pocatello, Idaho

October 11-12, 2015

Contributors:



Friends of ISU Wrestling



Alumni Association





1964-1968 Wrestling Team Reunion

Idaho State University
1964-1968 Wrestling Reunion

Dear Teammates,

On behalf of the planning committee, I want to welcome you to the 1964-1968 Idaho State University Wrestling Reunion. It has been an honor to bring everyone together.

The mayor of Pocatello, Honorable Brian C. Blad, stated that "your legacy as a member of the Championship ISU Wrestling Team lives on." How true! Your passion and your dedication to ISU are evident as described in your stories. We overcame some tough times to "forge strong bonds and make each other stronger," as stated by Rick Yeates. This camaraderie developed "guys that had the heart of a Bengal Tiger and wore the Black and Orange with the utmost pride," as eloquently stated by our trainer, Mike Nesbett.

We applaud the Mayor's welcome and the commitment from members of ISU's leadership team to ensure a successful reunion. KC Felt, Executive Director of Alumni Relations; Dr. Kent Tingey, Vice President for University Advancement; and Dr. Adrienne King, Director of Marketing and Communications, are to be commended for their heartfelt interest in our reunion. They foster the same dedication to students and graduates as the great leaders we had during one of the best eras of ISU.

Thanks to all of you for taking [vision to action](#). Through your stories and your attendance you continue to champion Idaho State University.

Sincerely,

Fred J. Rodriguez

Fred Rodríguez, Chair

Rick Yeates, Gary Huff & Harry Oliphant
Planning Committee Members



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BRIAN C. BLAD
Mayor

Pocatello City Council:

STEVE BROWN
CRAIG COOPER
W. JAMES JOHNSTON
GARY MOORE
EVA JOHNSON NYE
MICHAEL L. ORR

Idaho State University
1964-1968 Wrestling Reunion

Dear Reunion Participants:

On behalf of the citizens of Pocatello, I am pleased to welcome you to the 1964-1968 Idaho State University Wrestling Reunion and to our beautiful city. We are honored to have you here in Pocatello once again.

Idaho State University plays an integral part of what makes Pocatello a wonderful place to live, work and play. Your days as an ISU student may be gone, but the memories of friends and events will live forever. Your legacy as a member of the Championship ISU Wrestling Team lives on.

Some of you may have called Pocatello "home" for only a short time while you pursued your education, while others have remained in the area. Many things may have changed in our community, but the people remain friendly and welcoming. While you are visiting Pocatello, please take time to enjoy some of the amenities Pocatello has to offer. We have wonderful entertainment opportunities to choose from, along with a variety of food and shopping establishments. Visit businesses and enjoy a stroll through historic Old Town Pocatello or a take a walk along the Portneuf River Greenway.

We are excited to have you in our wonderful city. Please enjoy your time while you are in our community.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Blad
Mayor

1964-1968 WRESTLING TEAM REUNION

September 11 – 12, 2015

FRIDAY 9/11

5:30 - 7:30

Meet-and-Greet Social

ISU Magnuson Alumni House
554 South Seventh Avenue
(Corner of 7th & Halliday)

Sponsored by ISU Credit Union
&
ISU Alumni Association



SATURDAY 9/12

Breakfast at Hotel Cafe

12:00 Noon

Recognition of Wrestling Team
Preceding Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
L.E. & Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center
1002 Sam Nixon Avenue

12:30

Campus Tour (by Van) with ISU Student Ambassador

2:00

Tailgating & Snacks Courtesy of Alumni Association
Holt Arena Parking Lot

6:00

Team Dinner at Buddy's
Open menu ~ Cash Bar
Reminiscing ~ Red Lion Hotel East Lobby Lounge after Dinner



1964-1968 Wrestling Team Reunion

ISU Wrestling team members and Coaches 1964-1968

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| John 'Skip' Andrews | 65/66 | (also 62-64) | | |
| Jessie Eddy | 65/66 | 66/67 | | |
| *Leroy Harris | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 | (also 68/69) |
| Gary Huff | 64/65 | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 |
| Bob Huff | 64/65 | 65/66 | | |
| John Hutchison | 66/67 | 67/68 | (1 st Semester) | |
| Bud Johnson | 64/65 | | | |
| Frank Kolendich | 64/65 | 65/66 | | |
| Ben Miller | 64/65 | | | |
| Rodger Michiner | 64/65 | | | |
| *Ray Millward | 66/67 | 67/68 | | |
| *Harry Oliphant | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 | |
| Bill Pederson | 64/65 | | | |
| John Porter | 64/65 | | | |
| Jerry Readinger | 67/68 | | | |
| Leon Rider | 65/66 | 66/67 | | |
| Dan Riley | 66/67 | 67/68 | | |
| Fred Rodriguez | 64/65 | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 |
| Ray Schnabel | 64/65 | 65/66 | 66/67 | |
| Alan Takahashi | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 | |
| *Carlton Tanaka | 66/67 | 67/68 | | |
| Wayland Vance | 64/65 | | | |
| *Rick Yeates | 64/65 | 65/66 | 66/67 | 67/68 |

Rick Russell & Rick Hooban injured and missed their seasons.

Coaches 1964-65

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Dean Thomas | (Died in a Christmas auto accident) |
| Babe Caccia | (Football coach took over as interim coach) |
| Bob Beaton | (Team Trainer took over for final 2 months) |

Team placed 2nd in Big Sky Conference

ISU Wrestlers and Coaches 1964-68 continued

Coaches 1965-66

Earl Lynn (Wrestled at Oklahoma State. Left after one season)
Team placed 2nd in Big Sky Conference

Coaches 1966-67

Jim Harvath (Left as coach after an early season loss)
Gary Anderson (Graduate Assistant took over as interim coach)
Team won Big Sky Conference

Coaches 1967-68

*Tom Jewell, Head Coach: Went on to win a total of 7 Conference Championships.)

Jessie Eddy, Assistant Coach

Team won Big Sky Conference.

Team Manager: Mike Nesbitt 1966-68

Asterisk (*) indicates Inducted into the ISU Sports Hall of Fame – Wrestling



1968



1967

STORIES

ISU Wrestling Team Story 1964-68



There is no intention to malign or impugn the integrity or reputation of anyone, in particular the University, in this narrative, but only to portray the challenges and adversity this team faced during their tenure at ISU. Through fate or happenstance, the team experienced eight coaches during the 64-68 period. In spite of that, the team won two Big Sky conference Wrestling championships and placed 2nd twice. Here is our story in a nutshell.

Dean Thomas, the coach who recruited us in 1964, had a dream to build a conference championship wrestling team at ISU. A former football star at ISU, he had been assistant football coach and wrestling coach since 1957. We were all drawn to him, his personable style and charisma. Rick Yeates knew him well. Rick remembers, "During my high school wrestling career I had the occasion to meet Coach Dean Thomas many times. I had a special affinity with him as he would often remind me. We grew up in the same small town in southern Idaho. He would tell me he had a vision of developing a powerful wrestling program at ISU and he wanted me to be a part of it."

As our team assembled in the fall of 64, our first test came up against a more established program. Our team started out strong and by the end of the meet had unexpectedly dominated them. The exuberance our coach exhibited was like the kid who came down Christmas morning to find the bicycle he so coveted under the tree. The ride home was alive with excitement as we discussed the potential of our future. We all left for Christmas break excited but returned to find that our much admired and highly respected coach Dean Thomas had lost his life in an automobile accident.

It was a huge shock and it took the team a long time to get over it. The team entered a downward spiral where there were times we would recruit wrestlers of limited experience to fill in weight classes rather than forfeit them. Legendary Athletic Director, Dubby Holt and football coach Babe Caccia, both did what they could to fill in. But they couldn't hire a new permanent wrestling coach until the beginning of the next season, because the wrestling coach also had to be an assistant football coach. By the end of the 64/65 season, the last two meets with Utah and Utah State were canceled with the intent of preparing for the conference finals. To quote the yearbook "After coach Thomas' death the wrestling team was plagued with illnesses, dismissals, and dropouts." The team still finished second in the conference, even with the diminished roster. We finished with three individual conference champions and our team trainer as the interim coach. And the core, recruited by coach Thomas at the beginning of the year, were all still with the team.

The second season brought renewed hope with the hire of a new coach who had a strong wrestling background. Early on, word filtered down that the 65/66 recruits would have to help build the team because no one from the original team was "that good." This had the potential to cause division as it seemed we were once again being disrespected. But our team placed second again in the Conference. This coach did not return for our third season. We were now faced with our fifth coach, who again was hired as a football coach and would also coach wrestling. Due to some poor decisions, likely caused by his overconfidence, we lost a match with a junior college. So, this coach left in the middle of the season and we were once again faced with a temporary coach, followed by a graduate assistant to finish the season. In spite of the turmoil, our team won the conference championship, beating out the long-dominant Montana State team. This would be the second of 7 straight conference championships for ISU wrestling.

Our fourth year brought another new coach who was number eight. Tom Jewell was handed a difficult situation. He had a team that was very skeptical of another football coach who would also coach wrestling. We saw the same old scenario, and continued to feel disrespected and undervalued. We had become a group of individuals competing from a sense of pride rather than the feeling of a team. Tom slowly gained our confidence and demonstrated that he truly cared about our well being. Our team had talent but lacked focus and a sense of unity. Tom turned this around and for the first time since Dean Thomas, we felt we had an advocate who had our back and cared about us as individuals. The team came alive and finished the season with seven out of ten conference champions, three All Americans, and three future ISU Sports Hall of Famers.

Our four years were filled with a lot of adversity, disappointments, a lack of continuity and our perception that the University did not value our sport as highly as we thought they should. It was only due to perseverance and tenacity that we found success. The team found its potential when finally placed in a situation where it was allowed to thrive. Proverbs 27 tells us, "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." This adversity strengthened us and caused us to bond as a team and created lifelong friendships. The lessons we learned through this experience provided the framework for success in life.

We want to make it clear that the University was facing the same troubles and was not at fault, but through the eyes of those involved, there were many disappointments. We all owe Idaho State University a debt of gratitude for the experience and the education which provided the cornerstone for the success we found during the rest of our lives. In fact, 8 members of our ISU team went on to obtain Master's degrees and 2 would get their Doctorate degrees. Our team would produce a college president, a chief of police, a principal, business owners, 3 pilots and hall of fame coaches. It was truly a student/athlete team who valued learning as well as sport.

Written by:

Rick Yeates and Gary Huff

Individual Team Member Stories 1964-1968



Jessie Eddy: After ISU, Jessie Eddy became the wrestling coach at Parma High School. Charlie Litchfield of the Idaho Press Tribune reported that he coached wrestling for over 34 years at Parma, retiring in 2003 after becoming the most winningest coach in state history, which in turn led to a National Wrestling Hall of Fame induction. He won six state titles and 443 dual matches. Jessie continues to coach tennis and teach driver's education courses.

Jess and Jean Eddy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They were married June 14, 1964, in Lamar, Colorado. The couple has two children, Randy (Jodi) of Parma and Greg (Tara) of Lamar, Colorado. They also have five grandchildren. Jessie and Jean celebrated by going to their granddaughter's wedding in Lamar. They were married on June 14 as well, so that made the anniversary day very special.



Leroy Harris: After leaving ISU I had tryouts with the San Francisco 49-ers and in 1970 with the Baltimore Colts as a defensive back. That was the year they had the biggest NFL strike, with no vets in camp. The Colts ended up winning the Super Bowl that year. I am currently teaching and the football coach at Clark County School District.

In 1980 I was hired as Highlands High School's football coach, becoming the first African American to hold such a position in the Sacramento area. Our teams had immediate success, winning 11 games taking the Scots to the Sac-Joaquin Section championship game in our first season. I was also honored to be the high school football coach of the year. Our teams won the area championships and the California State Championship. I have also held the position of Vice Principal and Principal at Grant High School and Martin Luther King Junior High School. Other honors include being inducted into the ISU Hall of Fame for Football and Wrestling, 1966-1969.

Back in the 80s I was in private business owning my own restaurant. That was quite an experience and it gave me an opportunity to meet people from all parts of life. I earned a Master's degree from California State University, Sacramento.



Bob Huff: After graduating in 1968 I spent over five years in the Army as an Infantry officer. I went through Airborne and Ranger schools and served a tour in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. I was a rifle platoon leader for 6 months and a rifle company commander for 6 months operating along the Cambodian border and into Cambodia during the invasion. In June of this year I attended the first ever reunion of our rifle company which was held in Chandler, OK. Over 50 members of the company attended and I had not seen any of them for 45 years. It was an amazing and emotional experience. While in the Army I met my wife, Cynthia, and we have been married over 43 years.

After getting out of the Army I spent the next 25 years in law enforcement as a police officer with Santa Barbara and then the Pasadena Police Department. I had lots of interesting assignments including as a patrol officer during the time when the powerful drug PCP was rampant. I am glad they didn't have cell phone cameras back then. I was a motorcycle officer for two years, and then a homicide detective which was probably the most interesting and demanding of all. I rose through the ranks as a patrol sergeant, watch commander and finally became the chief of the 350 member Pasadena Police Department. While with the PPD I also spent three years planning for the security of the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl games. After I retired we moved to Grants Pass, OR the next day where we have been ever since. I can't stress how much my wrestling and weightlifting background helped me in my military and police careers.



Gary Huff: After graduating from ISU, I enrolled in the Doctor of Religion program at Claremont Graduate School of Theology in Southern California. My focus was on understanding and working with teenage drug users. Psychedelic drug use was out of control in the late 1960's. I received my doctorate in 1972 and my wife Lony and I celebrated heartily. Since our marriage, in my second year of grad school, she had worked to help put me thru school. We were both from Anaconda, Montana so we also had some California cultural shock to go through. During grad school I wrestled in a AAU club for a couple of years and coached high school wrestling, on the side.

After graduation I did a one year internship as a youth minister in Arcadia California and was ordained in the Methodist Church. Lony and I soon realized that wasn't a good fit for us. So after the internship I took a position with the YMCA in Fullerton CA, in a Y that was just for teenagers, and I served as a counselor for disturbed teens. After two years, the Y CEO asked if I would help start a new Y next door, in Yorba Linda, CA and focus on prevention rather than rehabilitation. It was the perfect fit for me: a mix of body, mind, spirit and social skills.

I would spend the next 26 years in various YMCA positions: Associate Executive at the Downtown Seattle YMCA, CEO at the Boise Idaho Y, Regional consultant covering the 56 Northwest Y's for the National YMCA and finally as leader of the 16 Seattle Area YMCA's. My wife Lony and I enjoyed all the positions. She was helpful in moving my career forward. She worked as a legal assistant where ever we went. The discipline I learned during my wrestling

years helped in everything that I did. I retired in the year 2000 and we moved to Sequim, WA, foothills of the Olympic Mts.

I wanted to retire at an age (55), so that I was young enough to follow my passion for hiking the mountains and running trails. Each year I do about 50 hikes and run at least one trail marathon. It has kept me at my high school wrestling weight, 145 pounds. I recently spent 10 days hiking in Peru on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. I also continue to volunteer with the YMCA, serving as a Board Chair and Campaign Chair for my local Y. I've been on the Y Board for 13 years and counting. Right now I look forward to seeing everyone at the wrestling reunion.



John Hutchison: After graduating from Idaho State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education I joined the Navy (1968) and spent a little over 21 years as a Naval Aviator and Naval Officer. I was honored to receive the Navy Wings of Gold in 1970 as a pilot/naval aviator. After a tour at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, I received a Master of Science degree in Systems Acquisition Management. Others tours of active duty included:

- Squadrons flying jet aircraft including training as "TOP GUN" adversary instructor pilot.
- A-4 Project Officer at McDonnell Douglass in Long Beach, California where I had oversight of production and flew acceptance test flights of A-4 aircraft.
- 3 years as an analyst for the Navy in the Pentagon and 5 years as the Planning Programming and Budgeting Officer for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (Handling Naval matters in the Persian Gulf area just prior to retirement).

After I retired, I flew for commercial airlines for three years. Later I started my second career as a teacher for 17 years, teaching NJROTC in a high school in Ewa Beach Hawaii. After approximately 30 years in Hawaii, we moved to Overland Park KS. The most important event along the way was my accepting Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing all of you again in September. I am married to Sherry and our blended family consists of 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Frank Kolendich: After leaving ISU I returned home and completed my BA and masters degrees at the University of Montana. While completing my degrees at the University of Montana I refereed numerous college and high school matches. My first teaching and coaching job was at class A Columbia Falls high school. After two successful years at Columbia Falls high school I was hired to teach and coach at class AA Billings Senior high school. During our summer breaks I worked for the Montana migrant education program and in 1974, I became the Montana State director of migrant education - having 11 summer schools, 1200 students and 300 staff members. In 1979 I entered the real estate field and eventually became broker/owner of the Coldwell Banker franchise in Billings Montana. In 1987 I started a construction company that eventually became Environmental Contractors LLC. Our company is now the largest scaffolding, remediation and demolition company in our five state area. We provide our services to oil refineries, power plants, paper mills, government agencies, and numerous private and commercial clients.

During the above period of time I served on the board of the Boys and Girls club, chairman of the Billings United Way, chairman of the Billings school board, and just resigned from the National advisory board for Grizzly athletics. Toni and I have three great children, Casey, Kevin,

and Kelsey. The two boys are board certified in internal and gastrointestinal medicine. Kelsey has a degree in elementary education and is a stay-at-home mom with a business that she runs from her house. Toni and I have been married for 45 years and, have 6 grand children and life is good. For those of you scratching your head - yes I married way over my head. Looking forward to reuniting after all these years.



Mike Nesbitt, Team Trainer: Mike Nesbitt, President and Owner of Jonesco Trucking, has been a Head Athletic Trainer, an Instructor, an Assistant Professor, an Associate Professor and a Tenured Associate Professor; but trucking has always been his first love.

According to Nesbitt “trucking was my golf game, my recreation, my hobby, my everything!” He would drive fuel trucks on the weekends while he was teaching and coaching and use the drive time to unwind, reflect and plan for his students and players. Eventually he bought his own truck and Jonesco Trucking was founded on April 4, 1979.

Nesbitt and his partner Jones combined the spelling of their last names to create the company’s name Jonesco. Nesbitt would go to work at his trucking company from 5 AM to 9 AM, then go to work at the university, then back to the Trucking Company in the evening. Jones would service the truck and haul the fuel. After about one year Nesbitt bought his partner out and as sole owner Nesbitt has made Jonesco a premier provider of fuel transportation; celebrating thirty-three years in business on April 4, 2012!



Harry Oliphant: After graduating from ISU in January of 1969 I moved back to Oklahoma. I taught and coached wrestling in high school for 3 years. Also during that time I refereed wrestling matches for Oklahoma State University (during their National Championship years) and a few other colleges and high schools. Sometime in the middle 80's I had the opportunity to return to ISU and wrestle in a (Varsity / Alumni) match. This event turned out to be a great experience and brought back lots of great memories, especially since Tom was still the coach. In the late 70's I discovered a hidden desire to be an Airline Pilot, hence began flight training to qualify as a

commercial pilot. In the 80's I was hired as a co-pilot for my first Airline job. For the next 24 years, I continued as a pilot for Atlantic Southeast Airlines, America West Airlines, US Air, and eventually ended my flying career flying for Flight Options. In 2007, I retired and moved to Texas, to be closer to family. I now live on a golf resort (Tapatio Springs) 30 miles NW of San Antonio. I spend my days, either riding my horse and doing trail rides for the resort, or out on the golf course.

I have 2 daughters who are both successful RN's in the Dallas area.



Leon Rider: Following graduation from ISU, we moved to Elko, Nevada, where my wife Cindy and I remain today, having grown to love the high mountain desert. Working as a teacher at the Nevada Youth Training Center, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to begin the athletic sports program, ultimately coaching football, wrestling and track and enjoying successful programs in all three sports. During those years, I refereed more wrestling matches in Northern Nevada than I can remember! On leaving NYTC, I worked for Newmont Mining Corporation, in both the housing and training departments. Upon retirement, we have enjoyed golfing, grandchildren, houseboating at Lake Powell and

occasionally getting to various sporting events including the National Wrestling Championships held in Oklahoma City. We have two children - Monte, who lives in Spring Creek, NV and Kelly, who lives in Reno, NV (and who is also an alumni of ISU). Grandchildren number three and are

scattered from Los Angeles to Reno to Boise. We are celebrating our 52nd wedding anniversary in August and looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion in Pocatello.



Fred Rodriguez: I have enjoyed a wide range of experiences since graduating from ISU. Thanks to ROTC, I began my career as an Army officer and served a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam as a Ranger-tabbed, combat infantryman. I was awarded three Bronze Star Medals with “V” Device, the Air Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

When I returned from ‘Nam, I separated from active duty and attended Colorado State University where I earned my Master’s degree. I then served 25 years as a university professor and wrestling coach in California.

At Long Beach State University I had some pretty good teams and was even considered for “Rookie Coach of the Year,” but wouldn’t you know, Dan Gable was also nominated that year. It’s pretty easy to guess who won!. In 1980, I completed my Ph.D. in Education from the University of Utah. Shortly after that I returned to active duty through the California Army National Guard, directed the ROTC program at USC and then was stationed in Panama to work with United States Army South. That was really fun, because I traveled extensively throughout Central and South America. I left active duty once again to assume the position of Dean/CEO of the Panama Canal College. Following those international challenges I came back to the States and resumed teaching in the California State University System.

I met my wife, Janet in a Spanish class at ISU. We got married in December, 1968 just before we both graduated mid-year. We’ve been married 46 years and currently live in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



Ray Schnabel: I graduated from ISU in 1968. After graduating I accepted a teaching job at Vallivue H.S., in the Caldwell-Nampa area, teaching mathematics. I was the head wrestling coach for 15 years. I also coached football and track.

After giving up the head wrestling job I officiated wrestling and later went back to coaching wrestling at the Jr. High level, which I found very rewarding. I received a Masters degree in education from College of Idaho.

Vicki and I will have been married 45 years come August 1st. We have two lovely children; Kara who is a stay at home mom with two fantastic children of their own, Rebecka 11 and Caleb 13. We also have a son Russell who is a California Highway Patrolmen.

I have now been retired for 16 years during which I golf, go to the Nampa Recreation Center to work out and play Pickel Ball, ride my bicycle and do a little fishing. Also my wife and I have gone on a few cruises and did some traveling in our 5th wheel which we have now sold.



Alan Takahashi: I graduated from ISU in 1970. After that I coached wrestling at Hillside Junior High School in Boise and also refereed for the Idaho District and State Championships. I later entered the investment and insurance business where I continue to work mutual funds, stocks, bonds, and limited partnerships. I have been honored to receive the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Rookie of the Year Award (1972) and the Life Insurance “Leaders of Oregon” Award, National Sales Achievement Award, and the Million Dollar Roundtable (1974).

My hobbies include travel, photography, fishing, skiing, scuba diving, hiking and biking. During the 80s I won several karate awards: Karate – National Champion (Ryobu Kai – Kata), Karate – National runner-up (Ryobu Kai – Kumite) and the Multnomah Athletic Club (Portland, OR) “Wall of Fame.” My biking awards include 2005-2006 Mountain Biking State Champion (Cross Country) and 2011-2012 Mountain Biking State Champion (Downhill).



Rick Yeates: After graduation from ISU I entered flight training in the Navy. I served two tours in Viet Nam flying F-8's from the deck of the USS Oriskany. After those tours I was selected to be an instructor in the first group to introduce the F-14 to the fleet.

After that tour I got out of the active Navy and entered the Reserve Navy continuing to fly the F-4 until the reserves transitioned to the F-14. After active duty, I began work for Delta Air Lines and retired from both Delta and the Navy.

After retirement I went back to school and got a masters from Western Seminary. I am currently the president of an organization training people to become missionary pilots and do chaplaincy work helping vets and working with my church. I am married with two children; a son and a daughter. My son followed in my footsteps currently flying the F-15 for the Portland Air Guard and Delta Air Lines.

I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing the bond we developed from the shared experience. Those of us that started in 1964 went through a lot of ups and downs, agony, disappointment, often feeling uncared-for and disrespected during a chain of 8 coaches. I think we used the adversity to forge strong bonds and to make each of us stronger. That perseverance started a tradition in which ISU won 7 consecutive conference championships until the wrestling program was terminated.

Coaches



Dean Thomas: By Joe Richmond, Sports Publicity Director (a re-print from the Bengal, 1964)

“Perhaps the one thing persons will remember about the late Dean Thomas, ISU wrestling and assistant football coach, will be his youthful anticipation and eagerness toward the task at hand, whether it be in athletics or any other endeavor.”

“Mr. Thomas, whose untimely death came Christmas morning following injuries suffered in an automobile accident the night of December 23, was a credit to his profession and to the intricate world of football and wrestling.”

“In his eight years as a member of the Bengals’ athletic staff he proved his versatility, personality and leadership qualifications by serving in no less than five different capacities, all of them vastly important in operating a major intercollegiate program.”

Coach Thomas' family, includes Vivian (Mike) Dunlap, Pocatello, Idaho; Dan (Katherine) Thomas, Brunswick, Georgia; Debera (Lane) Fullmer, Nampa, Idaho; and Troy Dean (Mary Ann) Thomas, Sacramento, California.



Tom Jewell: I grew up in Detroit and attended four colleges in four states. I earned a bachelor's degree from Idaho State University in 1962. As a senior, I earned All Conference Honors as well as Honorable Mention State All American. I was then drafted by the San Francisco 49ers and the Denver Broncos (there were two leagues at the time). I signed with the 49ers, but got cut and returned to Pocatello to graduate.

In 1960 I married Carole Marks. Carole and I had two children, Teri and Tom. Both families had two boys. Carole lost her life to an illness in 1998. Teri was fatally injured in an auto accident in 1996.

I taught and coached at Pocatello High School for one year, and Highland High School (Pocatello) for four years. I was then hired at Idaho State University in 1967 to coach wrestling and football. I coached football for thirteen years and wrestling for twenty years, before becoming the Director of Athletics for five years. As wrestling coach we won the Big Sky Conference in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1984. I retired in 1996. Honors I have won during my athletic and coaching career include: Member of the Idaho State Athletic Hall of Fame, Ring of Honor in Holt Arena, Football Jersey retired, Distinguished Alumni Award, Life Time of Service Award and inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Seven time Big Sky Wrestling Coach of the Year Award.

After retiring I moved from Pocatello to Island Park, Idaho which is twenty-two miles from Yellowstone National Park. I ran for Mayor of the City of Island Park in 2004 and I am currently finishing a third four-year term. I look forward to seeing how young everyone looks! Thanks Fred Rodriguez and everyone involved in this reunion effort!

Wrestling – Champs



1965



Headed by Deb Thoren, athletic trainer, who took over as coach, this year's wrestling squad included Frank Colsonitch, Bob Hill, Louis Hunter, George Huff, Edie Yenta, Wayland Vance and Fred Rodriguez. Not pictured are Bill Anderson, Paul Johnson, and John Porter.

1964

Special Thanks



K.C. Felt, Executive Director, Alumni Relations

K.C. Felt is the Executive Director of the Idaho State University Office of Alumni Relations. Felt has been with Idaho State University since 1993 working for three years in the Bengal Foundation and for 14 years as Director of Annual Giving in the ISU Foundation. Felt became Alumni Director in 2010. She was in the banking industry for 21 years before joining ISU. She earned a BBA in Marketing from Idaho State in 1970.

Her ties to the Pocatello community are many. She is a member of the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce and is a past Chief of Chiefs for the Pocatello Chiefs. She is a member of the Pocatello Rotary Club's board of directors and belongs to the ISU Alumni Association.





General Dwight David Eisenhower wrote that the qualities of a great person are “vision, integrity, courage, understanding the power of articulation, and profundity of character.”

He believed that the qualities of goodness in a person include a broad sympathy for the human condition, and awareness of human weaknesses and shortcomings and a willingness to forgive them, a sense of responsibility toward others, a genuine modesty combined with a justified self-confidence, a sense of humor, and most of all a love of life and of people.