

West York Wrestling

Head Coach – Brian Gross | WYAD – Roger Czerwinski | Booster President – John Riedel

1/10/09 West York Wrestling Recognition/Reunion of the 1977-78 Y.C.I.A.A. Championship Wrestling Team Record – (14-0)



Introduction of 77-78' Team Members...

- **First - The 1977-78 WY Championship Team Members
(that are not here today)**

 Joel Pugh, Clyde Poe, Ken Shorts, Van Emig, Dennis Heath,
Lynn Martin and Dr. Perry Tallman.

Now, the

- **Introduction of the 1977-78 WY Team and Coaching Staff** ▪

 **Rod Stough** – Rod graduated from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WVA with a BS in Industrial Engineering, and also has a Master's degree from Tulane. Rod, an industrial packaging expert and Director of Operations with Spears Label Co., has been married for 21 years to his wife, Carol. Rod enjoys fishing, motorcycling and West Virginia University Mountaineers football.

 **Don Botterbusch** – Don moved to Florida after graduating from West York, and spent 6 years in the US Air Force and is a Desert Storm veteran. The last 17 years have been with the St. Lucie County Fire Dept. as a Fire Inspector and Investigator. Don has 2 daughters, Jessica & Brooke. Don is a state volleyball-softball-wrestling official in Florida, and is also working towards a BS in Fire Science.

 **John Silar** – After West York, John spent 4 years in the US Army and has since been working for a mechanical contractor. John has 2 children and also works as a ski patroller... and, ski instructor at Ski Liberty Resort in Carroll Valley, Pa.

 **Dave Stram** – After graduating from West York, Dave went to work for Campbell Chain, then PH Glatfelter. Dave is married to his wife Deb - and they have a son, Troy, who is a freshman at Penn State's main campus in State College, Pa. Dave likes to travel, bike, hunt, fish, attend Penn State Nittany Lion football games and watch son Troy's triathlons.



ESU Larry Gay – An East Stroudsburg University graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice, Larry started out as a police officer in Wildwood NJ, before moving back to York and marrying Jane Detzel, a teacher at the West York Middle School. Larry earned a degree in Mortuary Science and now works at Etzweiler Funeral Home as a Director. Larry and Jane have 2 children – Dan and Lauren, both athletes at West York. Larry directs the Speed & Agility Training Program at West York, along with his brother Barry... and proudly serves on the board @ Living Word Community Church.

ESU Barry Gay – An East Stroudsburg University graduate with a degree in Exercise Physiology, Barry earned 3 varsity letters in wrestling while at ESU. Barry placed 2nd in the 1983 PSAC Wrestling Championships and also placed 5th at the prestigious EIWA Wrestling Tournament in 1983 with a 9-4 decision over Penn’s Andy Taitel. Barry was also voted the ESU Team Outstanding Wrestler in 1983. Barry has been married for 19 years to his wife Kathy. Barry and Kathy have two sons - Andrew and Sam. A Senior Director of Operations at Excel, Barry enjoys working with brother Larry directing the Speed & Agility Training Program at West York and is the treasurer for the West York Boys Soccer Booster Club. Barry also enjoys the beach and watching all West York sports.

ESU Bruce Stambaugh – An East Stroudsburg University graduate with a varsity letter in wrestling in 1980, Bruce met his wife Colleen while at ESU and they have settled in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. Bruce and Colleen have a daughter, Leigh at Loyola College and two sons, Connor and Dylan – both of whom are wrestlers. Bruce, a Regional Director at USM, enjoys golfing and is coaching a local elementary wrestling team. Bruce’s brother Mike, was also a standout wrestler and football player at West York and East Stroudsburg University.

 **Randy Blasdell** – Randy, a Lehigh University marketing graduate... has spent the last 26 years building an investment practice. Randy is currently serving as President of the Sanctuary Financial Group in Mountville, Pa. Randy is married to his wife Kris and they have four boys...Will, Taylor, Ben and Luke. The Blasdell’s enjoy entertaining, working out, golf, skiing, the beach, Lehigh wrestling, Flyers hockey, the mountains and also watching the “youngest three” play lacrosse for Hempfield High School. Randy is co-president of the Lehigh Alumni Club of the Susquehanna Valley and is the founder and chairman of the Annual American Red Cross Golf Outing which has raised over \$300,000 to date for the Red Cross!

▪ **Former West York Head Wrestling Coach – The “Dean”**

 **John T. Toggas** – Coach Toggas is in the National, PIAA, District III, South Central, Adams and York County... Wrestling Hall of Fames! Coach Toggas had a 307-110-4 record at Biglerville and West York High Schools for a .729 winning percentage in his 30 years of coaching. A graduate of York High and Gettysburg College with a masters from Western Maryland College - Coach Toggas’ teams won 5 YCIAA titles and 6 YCIAA Sectional Team Championships... and, he has coached 83 individual Sectional champions, 12 District III champions, 12 Regional champions, 18 PIAA State qualifiers, 2 - 3rd place PIAA finishers, 2 - PIAA runners-up and 3 PIAA state champions. Coach Toggas was also voted YCIAA Coach of the Year (twice), was a PIAA Wrestling Official, and was a member of the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee as a high school representative. Coach Toggas is retired as a teacher at West York and now enjoys golfing and refinishing furniture. Coach Toggas lives in Gettysburg with his fantastic wife and ardent supporter of WY Wrestling - Mary Jane.

West York Wrestling 1st Assistant Coach...

 **John Sprenkle** – John is a 1969 graduate of West York and a 1973 graduate of Virginia Tech. While at West York, John earned Big 33 & All-State football honors in 1968... and, capped off those huge accomplishments by winning the 1969 Sectional wrestling title, District III wrestling title, Southeast Regional wrestling title & the PIAA State Wrestling title at heavyweight with a fall in the finals. John was named Honorable Mention All-American by USA Wrestling Magazine in 1969. John also ran the hurdles and threw the shot and discus for the West York Track Team. After West York, John went on to letter 3-years (1970,71,72) for the Virginia Tech Hokies football team. The first 2 years under Head Coach Jerry Claiborne and the last 2 years under Head Coach Charlie Coffey and Offensive Coordinator, Dan Henning. A highlight came in John’s senior year, when the Hokies upset then 19th ranked Oklahoma State in Blacksburg. Don Strock was the quarterback of that 72’ team and Don’s brother, Dave Strock, kicked the game winning field goal with 12 seconds remaining for the 34-32 win! John is married to his wife & “children’s book author” Connie, and has two children - Abby Clark, who is married to former West York wrestling star, Trevor Clark... and, son Matt, a 5th place PIAA State wrestling place-winner for West York in 1994. John and Connie also have two grandchildren – Christian and Gabriel Clark. John is a former Health and Phys. Ed teacher at West York and also coached football. John was recently named “West York’s #1 Greatest Athlete” of all time by the York Daily Record. John now enjoys training champion beagles at the York & Adams Beagle Club in Thomasville, PA.



West York Wrestling 2nd Assistant Coach 1977-81...

ESU Don Lehman – Don is a 1973 graduate of West York and a 1977 East Stroudsburg University graduate, where he earned 4 varsity letters in wrestling. Don and wife Debbie, also an ESU grad who teaches health and phys. ed at West York's Wallace and Trimmer elementary schools, live in York. The rest of the family includes oldest son Eric (a York College grad) who is living in San Antonio, Texas; daughter Katie (a Penn State grad) and youngest son Todd (a Millersville U. grad), both living in York. Don is a 28 year consumer healthcare and pharmaceutical sales professional who enjoys golfing, riding his Harley and is also the current webmaster for www.westyorkwrestling.com.

- **Ending...** * *from Randy Blasdell (hand the microphone to Randy)*

* I would like to thank John Riedel and the West York Wrestling Booster Club, Roger Czerwinski – West York AD and the current West York Wrestling Coaching Staff for organizing this recognition of the 1977-78 West York 14-0 Championship Wrestling Team. A “special” thanks goes out to the parents, fans, cheerleaders, and former booster club members who supported the team during the 1977-78 undefeated wrestling season!



The 1977-78 West York Wrestling YCIAA Championship Team (14-0)

Front Row (L-R) Joel Pugh, Rod Stough, Van Emig, Ken Shorts,
John Silar, Clyde Poe, Dennis Heath & Don Botterbusch.
Back Row (L-R) Barry Gay, Larry Gay, Lynn Martin, Bruce Stambaugh,
Dave Stram, Randy Blasdell & Perry Tallman.