

Reynolds Wrestling Website Memories by Art Williams

Purpose of the Website

I grew up one mile from Reynolds High School. I got to see the first sports events at the school. I was 10 at the time. I was a football, basketball and baseball player. I never wrestled except in gym class where I unfortunately had to wrestle "Bear" Loveless (Bob). That didn't go well. We did better in football together as he was the defensive end (5'9" 220 lbs.) and I was the outside linebacker (6'2" 215 lbs.).

I enjoyed watching wrestling right from the start up through my graduation in 1969 and beyond. I continued following the Raiders going to the regular season and into the postseason. I graduated from Edinboro (State College at the time) in 1974 and got a 5th grade teaching job in Whitesville WV and taught there for 16 years. I always came home in the summers and the holidays. Being away it was difficult to get timely results let alone individual stats on the Raiders. I would call my parents to get updates during the wrestling season. Then I moved back home in 1990 when my mother passed away. She was a Reynolds school bus driver for 16 years (Bus 23).

Being back home I was able to start going to the matches again. I know how I had wanted to get quick results and figured there were a lot of Reynolds Wrestling fans who didn't live in the area that would like that too. In the middle 1990s I started to create websites and in 1999 I created the Reynolds Wrestling website where I could post the schedule and results.

The Raiders were State Champs in 1998 and in talking with Coach Brian Hills telling him about the website he suggested that I start with the previous year, 1998. That worked out well as I had complete season of results to start the website with. I then started the 1999 season fresh. In another conversation with Coach Hills he suggested putting the stats and records on the website as well. I liked that idea because I liked stats and numbers. Coach Hills had maintained the stats that coach Lineman had passed along.

With the website setup and organized it was time to start getting the results and photos for the 1999 season. It was a lot of traveling. At the matches I would sit opposite the Raiders bench and fans so I could get match and misc. photos to post as well as the stats.

June Brown was a huge help the years JB was wrestling. She was computer savvy and I was able to give her a template of the results page which she put on her laptop. She would put the results in at the match and all I had to do was up load the page.

Over time I got to know the Record-Agus' sports writers. The Argus was located right behind where I lived and I would go over after matches and games sometimes. Don Shaffer was the first one I got to know. We did a lot together with the Raiders website, the Greenville Area website and the Greenville Football website. Then there was Ben Reed and then Whendy K. At times they would use some of my match photos.

Getting the regular season match results went pretty well. The tournaments were a little challenging with the traveling. At that time the Raiders went to the Mountaineer and Lewistown Tournaments. The tournaments were different then a regular match with just 12 or 13 matches. These were all-day affairs especially with the Raiders always doing well. All in all, it was fun. I got to meet Tom Elling at the Mountaineer Tournament. The one time I couldn't go to the Mountaineer Tournament because I had to film a wedding. By this time I had started ACW Productions in 1990 and was filming a lot of weddings. Cheryl Hollobough kept track of the results there and dropped off the program after they came home.

The Lewistown Tournament was a real trip. I remember going there with fellow classmate Jimmy Rowe and Bill Gardner. I had swapped an ad on the Reynolds Wrestling website for a couple of rooms at the local hotel. They took up to the 3rd floor where they were doing construction and gave us a couple of rooms.

Flo-wrestling came on the scene and so I was able to get real time results for the Powerade and Ironman tournaments.

The Ultimate Dual was a fun time. At the start there were 5 to 6 top teams in the state there. As the years went by it was still tough but not like the beginning. When the Duals started it was a two-day affair, Friday night and Saturday. I would go up on Friday and swap a room at Motel 8 for an ad. Bill Gardner who had moved out east would meet me there. At some point the Duals were only on Saturday. For years I would ride up with my friend George Subasic and his wife Kate, a former wrestling cheerleader. We would stop at the truck stop and have a breakfast buffet. Later I would ride up with Jimmy Rowe and Wayne Smargiasso for years. I also rode up once with Dale and Ryan Hills. Frank Lane, a former wrestler did the results for several years on his laptop at the media table for me.

The post season was always a fun time, lots of stats. The Team Duals started in 1998 and was held at Edinboro University and years later it moved to Sharon High School. At that time the Individual Tournaments, Sections and Districts were held

at Sharon and Regionals were alternated between Sharon and I believe Clarion. Later all the post season tournaments were held at Sharon. The floor manager there was a man named Hall I believe, he was a janitor at Sharon. I got to know him from when I would film dance recitals at the school. His wife was the one who printed out the stats at the end of the tournament for the media. Although not media I would wait around and she would print me a set as well. So, I had all the results I needed.

I have never been to the State team or individual tournament. I liked staying at home and updating the website. A couple of friends offered several times to take me down and pay my way but I declined as it was more fun doing the updates. At that time the PIAA site had results posted and I got my updates from them. Later Flo-wrestling was doing the State Tournament where they had live updates. In 2015 -17 I was able to get a State Press Pass for Ryan Hills who went and took photos for me. They can be viewed on the Reynolds Raiders website's Archives page.

The website was extended beyond stats and results to include a Guestbook 1998-2007 and online Chats 2000-2014 with coach Brian Hills and Casey Taylor. There were also two chats with Coach Lineman and one with Jerry Kendal. I also included videos of senior nights, cheerleader routines and a few matches.

The website also became an avenue for others to use their talents to highlight the Raiders. Columns from Bob Foust and Don Shaffer ran from 1998-2006; Reynolds Road Crew Outings photos were posted; Don Shaffer expanded his contribution by doing the digital Reynolds Wrestling Magazine (2009-2020) on the website. Later he started Reynolds Wrestling on Facebook and following that he produced weekly video updates.

With the PA-Wrestling website coming into full bloom I now have a link to PA-Wrestling website for the Raiders schedule, roster, records, etc. So, 26 years later I feel the website has accomplished its main goal of getting info out to the Reynolds Wrestling fans in a timely manner.

I still maintain the website keeping the stats and records updated and do the Wrestler Breakdown by Weight for D10 and D9 wrestlers doing the Post Season. It has been fun and part of the fun was getting to know some of the wrestlers and their parents along the way.