

History of the Reynolds Wrestling Website - 1998-2019

The Reynolds Wrestling website was created and is owned and operated by Art Williams, owner of ACW Productions. Art graduated from Reynolds High School in 1969 where he played football and basketball. He then went to Edinboro State College (now Edinboro University) where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and later earned his Master's Degree from West Virginia University. He taught 5th Grade in Whitesville located in Boone County West Virginia for 16 years.

He was in 4th grade at Transfer Elementary School when the Reynolds High School first opened in 1960. Living only one mile from the school, he and his dad went to most of the home sporting events. He became a wrestling fan and a fan of the other sports as well. He became a big fan during his high school years while watching classmates, Bob "Bear" Loveless, Larry Unangst, Dave Fedorczyk and Ross DiSalvo wrestle. After graduation, he still tried to keep tabs on how the Raiders were doing when he was home or with phone calls to his parents.

After returning back to Transfer in 1990, he was introduced to the internet and websites in 1997 by a friend he taught with in West Virginia who now lived in Michigan. With this knowledge, Art started to learn how to make a website so he could post information about the Raiders on the internet. He got started on this idea by creating his first website, the Greenville Area Website (www.greenville-pa.com), which he started to post the District 10 Tournament results in 1997.

Around this same time frame, Raider Head Coach Brian Hills was thinking how to expand the Raiders horizon. The Raiders had just competed in the first Ultimate Duals in 1997 at Brookville, PA, where some of the top AA teams were invited to wrestle. Now having a first-hand look at some of the top teams in the state, he was interested in how they were highlighted. So he got together with Bob Foust (the Raiders scorekeeper and announcer for 16 years) to look into this further. They searched the internet and discovered several of the top teams had web sites. The Wyalusing website was the one that caught their attention.

They were aware that Art had started to post the District 10 Tournament results on a website. So Brian asked Bob to contact Art to see if he would be interested in doing a website of the Raiders. Bob contacted Art in 1998 after the wrestling season. When they got together, Bob explained what he and Brian were thinking about. The timing was perfect as they were both headed in the same direction and the idea of the Reynolds Wrestling website was born.

The website would accomplish both Coach Hills' goal to expand the Raiders horizon across the state and the country and Art's goal of having a place where Raider fans could keep tabs on the Raiders.

Art and Bob put their heads together and decided that the Wyalusing website would be the best template for the Raiders website. Art used the elements of that website which included a bulletin board, the season's schedule, the roster (wrestlers & coaches), match results, individual stats, photos, a guest book and a column to create the Raiders website.

Art was thinking of starting the website in the upcoming 1999-2000 season, but Coach Hills and Bob suggested he start with the just completed 1998 season since the Raiders had just won the State AA Individual Championship. That worked out well as there was information to use in constructing the site. Coach Hills also wanted to include the Raiders stats & records. These stats were compiled by Coach Neal Lineman (Reynolds' second wrestling coach) from the start of the program in 1960-61 which were updated by the coaches after him. So Art created a Scrapbook section to put the stats and records in. Bob Foust and his wife Peggy helped with the typing to get the stats into the computer. Coach Hills was very cooperative in supplying the information needed to get the website started.

Bob Foust wrote the columns for the 1998-1999 season and then Don Shaffer wrote the columns for the next six years up through the 2005-2006 season. The Guestbook ran from the 1998-1999 season through the 2006-2007 season. In the 2000-2001 season Art included a Junior High and Cheerleader section (there was also an Elementary section for several years). Also, in the 2000-2001 season, he started a Live Online Pre-Season Chat with the Head Coach, which ran for 13 years (10 with Coach Hills and 3 with Head Coach Casey Taylor).

Another feature that was added to the website was the Post Season coverage of the Team and Individual Championships. It would provide Raider Results for the Reynolds wrestlers through Sections, Districts, Regions and States. The coverage also included the District 10 and NW Region wrestlers at States. It also provided links to where wrestling fans could find other Post Season Information, Brackets, Results, and Online Radio availability.

One of the key purposes of the site was to provide results for matches, tournaments and the post season in a timely manner for the Raider fans. To get the results, Art would go to all the regular season matches, tournaments and the post season tournaments except the state tournament. Over the years, many people helped him get the results and provided rides to the matches. Listed below are some of those people:

Getting to the Matches & Tournaments

George Subasic (1977 RHS) / Jim Rowe (1969 RHS) / Bill Gardner / and Ryan Hills (1999 RHS).

Gathering Results

June Brown / Cheryl Hollobaugh / Frank & April Lane (1968 RHS) / Don & Helen Swartz / and Judy Hull.

Other features that were posted on the website over the years include the following:

- * The District 10 AA Rankings by Dan Albaugh for over 10 years.
- * Photos of the Road Crew's Annual Golf Outing
- * Photos of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 State AA Individual Championships in Hershey taken by Ryan Hills.
- * Information & forms for the Road Crew Golf Outing, the Youth Wrestling Tournament & Boosters Club events.
- * Match videos filmed by Art and helped out by George Subasic and Ryan Hills.

For the first 12 years, the website was the only place to follow the Raiders. Then, in 2010, Don Shaffer (Raider Historian) started to publish the Reynolds Wrestling Mag, a five edition digital magazine covering the Raiders for each month of the season. Later, Don created a Facebook page, Reynolds Wrestling Mag on Facebook. In addition, he produced This Week in Reynolds Wrestling, a weekly video posted on YouTube that provided another way to follow the Raiders on social media.

With the website, and now the social media presence, the expanded horizon for Reynolds Wrestling that Coach Hills had envisioned 21 years ago, has been surpassed.