

# Bear Necessities:

If There's One Thing Worse Than Kissing Your Cousin, it Might be Having to Pin Him

I would be very happy to share that once in a lifetime experience — the time I had to pin my cousin Denny Berry, who of course was wrestling for the Greenville Trojans. As you well know, at that time, a first-period pin was worth six points and a pin in either the second or third period was only five points. So, not only did I have to pin Denny, but I had to pin him in the first period.

That particular match had an everlasting effect on me, and played a big role in my decision to go into teaching and coaching wrestling — something that I am still doing to this day. I am presently in my 34th year of teaching and I am still coaching wrestling out here in Arizona.

The Reynolds-Greenville match of 1968 afforded me the opportunity to observe wrestling fans in an entire unique perspective regarding ethical and rational behavior. Even to this very day whenever I am in the Greenville area people still remind me of how exciting it was for them to watch that particular match, and how they will never forget it. My cousin Denny and I were (and still are) very close. We spent a lot of time together, especially during the summer months and during the holidays. It is safe to say that I was as close to Denny as I was my own brother.

I can remember vividly after pinning Denny having tears in my eyes explaining to him that "I had to do it." Denny, of course, being no stranger to the emotions associated with wrestling, fully understood. Denny's father, my Uncle Mel, who of course is remembered as the patriarch of wrestling in the Greenville area, obviously had a major impact on me and my participation in wrestling. I can remember Denny and me as youngsters, wrestling on his living room floor in their house on Clinton Street.

Above all, I remember Coach Lineman after the match. I know Coach Lineman was very happy, but much more importantly he recognized that my success that evening was a very emotional event for me, because

he knew that Denny and I were very close. Of course it was Denny's father — my Uncle Mel who was Coach Lineman's mentor when he was in high school. I will never forget how Coach Lineman, knowing that I indeed needed some personal "alone time" after that match, kept a vigilant watch on exactly who came into the locker room. He was protecting me and my emotions, much like a father would protect his own child. It was at that time that I realized that coaching involves much more than demonstrating and teaching wrestling, but more importantly involves being aware of the emotions and feelings of your wrestlers—to do everything in your power to reinforce ethics and sportsmanship. That is surely something that Coach Lineman instilled in all of his teams and all of his wrestlers. This was a wonderful lesson I learned from Coach Lineman and is a characteristic and trait that I have strived for more than 30 years to reinforce in the teams I have coached.

I remember that evening some "upset" prominent Greenville citizens, who attempted to enter the locker room. A few actually made it in and were quickly escorted out. I can also remember when my dad came into the locker room to see if I was "okay". My dad, of course knew that having to pin my cousin was a very emotional event for me, and as any father would be, he was there to comfort me if need be.

Yes, the Reynolds-Greenville wrestling match of 1968 was a learning experience for me. It helped me realize even more so, that sports—particularly an individual and demanding sport such as wrestling—is about more than simply winning, but it is also the character and values of the participant. It is the values that we learn in sports that we carry with us throughout life. It is the values we learn in sports that help us to be productive, responsible citizens. I believe the key ingredient in the success of the Reynolds Wrestling program throughout the years is the continuation of these standards that Coach Lineman built into the foundation of the program.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts. As you can clearly see, this event had a significant impact on me — much beyond the sport of wrestling.

## In His Own Words

Commentary By  
Bob "Bear" Loveless

**"I can remember vividly after pinning Denny having tears in my eyes ..."**



**The Reynolds Raiders of 1967-68 include (front, 1-r) Jan Ornato, Frank Lane, Ross DiSalvo, Jim Charles, Bill Mowery, Brad Callahan and Larry Unangst and (back, 1-r) head coach Neal Lineman, Lon Dawes, Denny Loutzenhiser, Rich Moore, Glen Reed, Bob Shaffer, Bear Loveless and assistant coach John Stevens.**

Like Lane at 95 pounds, Greenville's Donato dominated in his match at 103, scoring a 7-0 win over Raider Ross DiSalvo while chalking up more than four minutes of riding time.

Raub, meanwhile, needed some last second heroics to knock off Raider standout Bill Mowery who had controlled the tempo for much of the match. A takedown, with just 12 seconds remaining in the third, gave the win to Raub.

In a match that some saw as an upset, Henry, with just one loss on his ledger, scored his win over previously unbeaten Larry Unangst. The final score was not close as Henry claimed a 14-6 win. A takedown and back-points with just 17 seconds left in the first period helped carry Henry to victory.

Stockner got the Trojans five team points and their first lead of the night with a second period fall over Dennis Loutzenhiser and Stevenson followed with a 6-2 win over Rich Moore at 154 that gave Greenville a 17-12 advantage heading into Reed's match. Moore scored the first two points of the bout, but Stevenson took over from there, scoring six unanswered points.

The Reynolds-Greenville match

## Meanwhile, Over on 12th Street ...

Just a few blocks away from Reynolds High School that February evening sat a young, 10-year old boy. He didn't have a ticket for the "Big Match," so there he sat at his grandparent's house on 12th Street, ears glued to the radio as WGRP's Bill Shaffer broadcasted the match live.

"I can remember jumping up and down and dancing around the room when Bear got the pin," he recalled. "That was probably one

of the biggest events that really helped me decide that I wanted to wrestle," he said. "After that night, I knew I wanted to be a Reynolds wrestler."

Whether he realizes it or not, and it's quite likely that he does not, The Bear's pin that night helped inspire the next generation of Reynolds wrestlers.

And, oh yeah, the 10-year old, listening to the radio that night, his name ... Brian Hills.

that night was an instant classic and not only because of the 21-20 final score. To this day, the true greatness of the Reynolds-Greenville rivalry can be traced back to one solitary moment — and one gentle bear hug.

**MAT NOTES:** The referee for the match was Tony Paulekas, he told Lineman after the match that he had never witnessed anything like that in his entire career. ... Greenville won the

junior varsity match 17-9, snapping the li'l Raiders' junior varsity win streak at 48 straight. ... The win moved Reynolds to 11-0. ... The loss was the second of the year for the Trojans and head coach Dave Clelland. ... Despite the loss, Greenville still leads the all-time series, 5-3. ... Greenville's Williams later became a gym teacher and track and field coach at Reynolds.

## A Look Back . . .

# Reynolds vs. Greenville Match

February 1, 1968

The Reynolds Raiders are primed to begin their 45th wrestling season, but before we jump into another exciting campaign, I thought it might be fun to go back and relive some memories of the past. I figure what better way to get ready for the upcoming season than to look back at some of the great times of the past. With this "Classic Edition" of Reynolds Wrestling Mag, I will try to do just that.

Through the five decades of Reynolds Wrestling there have been an awful lot of exciting moments. Those who know me, know that I grew up in the Reynolds gymnasium. I was the youngest of four boys and we all wrestled for the Raiders. My oldest brother, Bob, graduated in 1970 and was a three-year starter. That means I've been hanging out in the RHS gym since at least the winter of 1967—when I was five years old. That's a lot of years of watching, participating in and writing about Rey-

nolds Wrestling.

Few would argue that one of the truly great moments in the history of the program came on Feb. 1, 1968. It was a dual match between the Raiders and back-yard rival Greenville. To this day, it is still talked about with a certain awe, and in this issue I have attempted to recreate that night as best as I could.

The match was stunner—a 21-20 see-saw affair that featured several lead changes and the most emotional ending in school history.

I hope to do more of these classic editions as time allows. Why? Well, because they are fun. If you have a story to share or an idea or if

you simply have old Reynolds Wrestling photographs you are willing to share please forward them to me at [dwsgrvl@hotmail.com](mailto:dwsgrvl@hotmail.com). I'll give you photo credit if they are published. I would love to see them and I bet a lot of other Raider fans would, as well.

**MUCH THANKS:** Of course none of this would be possible without the generosity of Hall of Fame Coach Neal Lineman, who is more than willing to share his time and his extensive wrestling collection with me and in turn, all of you.

Coach Lineman, with a lot of assistance from his wife, Mary, kept great records through the years. There are detailed scrapbooks from each of the years Lineman coached. I feel like a kid in a candy store looking through his books. It's an honor and I appreciate his welcoming me into his home and sharing his time and memories with me.

### A View From Matside

By  
Don Shaffer



## Two of a Kind? Well Almost, But Not Exactly

Perhaps some would think it an odd collection, but hanging on the wall of a special room in Neal Lineman's Mercer Road home are five pairs of wrestling shoes. They are the shoes worn in the state finals by the five state champions that Coach Lineman mentored.

Each are marked with essential information. Jim Gollner's shoes (see photo above) are all white. Chuck Coryea's are completely worn out with a big blow-out hole in the side. If not for differing sizes, Dave Anthony's, Jeff Shipton's and Matt Smargiasso's shoes would be extremely hard to tell apart — they are the standard black with white stripes issue that were popular for so long.

For Coach Lineman the shoes are significant. They are mementos that kick-start some great memories. To him, the shoes tell a story. Especially Gollner's.

"Gollner's shoes are two different sizes," Lineman

pointed out. "One's an 8 and one's an 8-1/2." Not surprisingly, it turns out there's a story there.

As Lineman recalls, the year was 1967 and three Raiders earned the right to advance to the Central Northwest Regional tournament that year—Gollner, Doug Groover and Bill Loveless. Somehow, Gollner and Groover got their shoes mixed up and when Gollner was getting ready to wrestle in the finals he kept complaining that one shoe felt funny—extraordinarily tight. Lineman thought Gollner was imagining things and told him to forget about it and get ready for his match. After the bout was over and Gollner had won the Regional title, the team manager noticed that Gollner's shoes were a different size. "Of course,

Groover wanted his shoe back, but Gollner being somewhat superstitious refused," Lineman said. Gollner must have figured if wearing two different shoes was good enough for a regional crown then they just might carry him to a state championship, as well. Turns out Jim Gollner was a complete genius, either that or he was a pretty good wrestler because the next weekend he won his state title wearing — you guessed it, two different shoes.



- By Don Shaffer

# Loveless Lifts Lineman's Raiders

By DON SHAFFER  
Reynolds Wrestling Mag Editor

PYMATUNING TWP.— His team trailing 20-15 Reynolds junior heavyweight Bob "Bear" Loveless knew what he had to do.

A first-period fall (worth six points) and his team wins. A fall in the second or third period (worth five team points) and the match ends in a tie. Anything less and the hundreds of Raider wrestling fans packed into the gymnasium that cold February night would go home disappointed.

To his credit, Loveless did not hesitate. It took him just 35 seconds to pin the shoulder blades of his opponent to the mat. And so for Raider fans, the night ended with jubilation. But for Loveless, the man who created the bedlam, it was a somber moment.

No fists pumping. No trash talking, and no chest pounding. When the match ended, Loveless simply helped Denny

Berry back to his feet and hugged him. That's right, hugged him. And not some weak good-job, good-sportsmanship kind of hug, this was heart-felt and meaningful.

You see, Bear's opponent that night wasn't really an adversary at all. It was his cousin, and someone he would tell you that was, and remains to this day, as close to him as a brother (*see Bear's column later in this issue*).

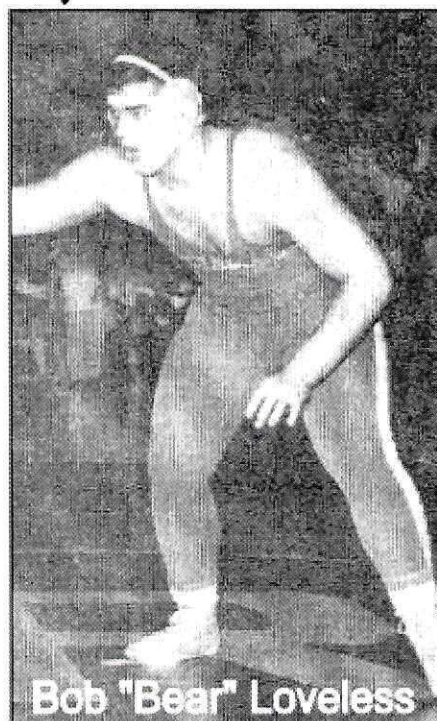
On a night when the Raiders failed to as much as win consecutive individual bouts, Loveless came through when his team needed him the most.

It was Glenn Reed, wrestling at 165 pounds, that kept the Raiders in

## First-Period Fall Rallies Reynolds to 21-20 Win

the match and gave the Bear a chance to win it with an exciting 4-1 win over Bill Madura. Madura had led 1-0 going into the third period but Reed rallied hard before having to hold Madura off at the buzzer.

Greenville's Doug Klenovich came within inches of putting the match away at 180 pounds but could not get the shoulders of Raider sophomore Bob Shaffer to stick to the canvas. Klenovich twice had Shaffer on his back during the third period of the



Bob "Bear" Loveless

### Reynolds 21, Greenville 20

(Feb. 1, 1968)

- 95-Frank Lane (R) dec. Bruce Johnson, 8-0 (3-0).
- 103-Paul Donato (G) dec. Ross DiSalvo, 7-0 (3-3)
- 112-Dave Fedorczyk (R) dec. Wally Melvin, 4-3 (6-3).
- 120-Jeff Raub (G) dec. Bill Mowery, 8-6, (6-6).
- 127-Brad Callahan (R) dec. Kim Williams, 9-1, (9-6).
- 133-Jim Henry (G) dec. Larry Unangst, 14-6 (9-9).
- 138-Lon Dawes (R) dec. Duane Dixon, 12-4 (12-9).
- 145-Dean Stockner (G) pinned Denny Loutzenhiser, 3:07 (12-14).
- 154-John Stevenson (G) dec. Rich Moore, 6-2 (12-17).
- 165-Glenn Reed (R) dec. Bill Madura, 4-1 (15-17).
- 180-Doug Klenovich (G) dec. Bob Shaffer, 9-0 (15-20).
- Hwt-Bob Loveless (R) pinned Denny Berry, 0:35 (21-20).

match, but had to settle for a 9-0 win.

Earlier in the night it was a true see-saw affair as the two teams traded wins right up through 145 pounds.

Raider winners were Frankie Lane (95), Dave Fedorczyk (112), Brad Callahan (127) and Lonnie Dawes (138).

Lane won big, racking up five minutes of riding time in a 8-0 decision over Bruce Johnson.

Fedorczyk had a much tougher time in his match against Wally Melvin. Each wrestler scored on a reversal and escape, but the difference came down to riding time where Fedorczyk held a 1:12 advantage, good enough to give him the winning

point.

Brad Callahan enjoyed an advantage in quickness in the 127-pound match, according to an article written by Record-Argus Sports Editor John Ganley. Callahan posted a 9-1 decision over Trojan Kim Williams.

Reynolds' other victor was the undefeated Dawes, who was wrestling with seven stitches in his head, the result of a practice room injury he had sustained earlier in the week. If he was hurting, however, Dawes never showed it as he dominated over Duane Dixon to the tune of 12-4. All of Dixon's points came on escapes as Dawes rolled to a big win.

Along with Klenovich, Greenville also got wins from Paul Donato (103), Jeff Raub (120), Jim Henry (133), Dean Stockner (145) — who scored Greenville's only pin — and John Stevenson (154).

*Continued on next page*