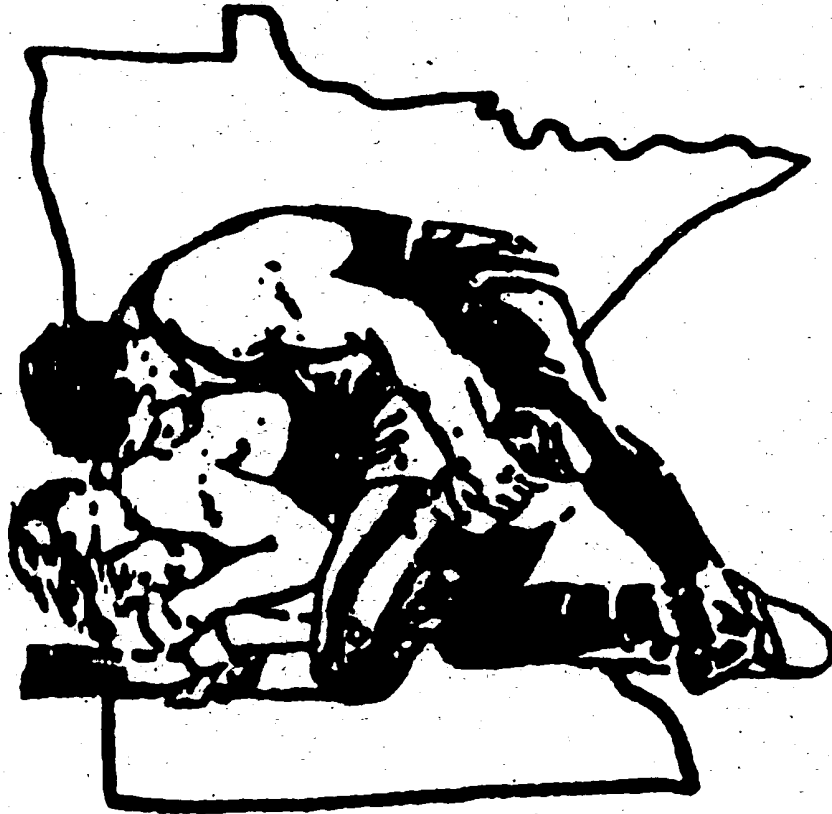


**Minnesota Wrestling Coaches  
Association  
Dave Bartelma Hall of Fame Banquet**



**May 1, 2021  
Benson Inn  
Benson, MN**

Welcome/Invocation.....Steve Ricard  
Dinner

Introduction of present Hall of Fame Members.....Spencer Yohe

Coach of the Year Presentation.....Bill Schmidt

2020 Coaches of the Year Awards

Class A Randy Wirtjes, Blue Earth Area

Class AA Joe McPherson, Orono

Class AAA Bob Boeck, St. Cloud Tech.

MWCA/NCWA Coach of the Year Will Short, Simley

2020 Assistant Coach of the Year:

Jesse Jennissen, Cambridge-Isanti

2020 Lifetime Achievement Recipients

Roger Betters, Hibbing

Bob Boeck, St. Cloud Tech.

Michael Holmes, Roseville

Bruce Loosbrock, Adrian

2020 Mr. Minnesota Wrestler Of the Year:

Craig Orlando, Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale-Parkers Prairie

2021 Coaches of the Year Awards

Class A Bill Wagner, BHVPP

Class AA Brian Hellman, Princeton

Class AAA Todd Springer, Anoka

2021 MWCA/NCWA Coach of the Year:

David Joseph, Kimball

2021 Assistant Coach of the Year:

Paul Vaith, Hastings

2021 Mr. Minnesota Wrestler of the Year:

Derrick Cardinal, Forest Lake

MWCA Hall of Fame  
Inductions.....Steve Ricard

<b>Inductee</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Jeff Becker.....	Mark Krier, Scot Davis
Troy Haglund.....	Mike Haglund
Bob Mueller.....	Joe Mueller
Chris Steele.....	Dave Erickson

**Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association  
Dave Bartelma Hall of Fame  
Inductee Biographies**

**Jeff Becker, Contributor**

Jeff Becker attended St. Michael-Albertville High School, graduating from there in 1985. Jeff placed third in state as a junior at 132 lbs., and in 1985 he was the undefeated 132 lbs. Class A State Champion. His high school record was 120-19-4. Jeff continued his wrestling at Augustana College. The North Central Conference was the toughest conference in Division II wrestling during those years, and Jeff was a 2-time NCC Runner-up and a 3-time NCAA Div. II National Qualifier. His college record was 102-59-4. Upon graduation from college in 1990 with a degree in Mathematics/Secondary Education, Jeff served as an assistant coach for 24 years under Head Coach Scot Davis, at Owatonna where they won two AAA State Titles, and later at Eden Prairie. Scot Davis wrote "Jeff is truly an outstanding clinician in the area of takedowns. I give him the credit for making our teams one of the best in that all important aspect of wrestling in the state of Minnesota and in the U.S.A. over the years. Coach Becker has been very influential to our wrestlers. Despite living an hour away, he would stay after practice many days to work with

individuals that needed or requested help. He was a tremendous compliment to my coaching in our years together.”

Jeff's teammate Dan Lefebvre wrote “Jeff had a great work ethic his entire life. He grew up on a dairy farm just outside St. Michael and he parlayed that work ethic along with a positive attitude to achieve great things at STMA. Jeff's high school coach Gregg Greeno wrote “Personally, I am grateful for Jeff, his support of STMA wrestling, his alma mater, in whatever ways he can. He has been a camp clinician for STMA wrestling camps, always eager to help out when asked. I always appreciate his positive attitude, his gratefulness for how wrestling has benefited him, and his willingness to “give back” in any way he can to the great sport of wrestling.” Today Jeff resides in Apple Valley, MN. He has been married to Sylvia Kilian for 26 years. His son Derek and wife Rafia reside in Pasadena, CA, daughter Cienna is a freshman at St. Thomas University and daughter Elle is a Junior at Eastview High School. Jeff also participated in football (STMA) and recreational softball. Today, you will find him in the center of the wrestling mat, whistle in hand and officiating the sport he loves.

### **Troy Donavon Haglund (deceased), Contributor**

Troy Haglund attended Willmar High School, graduating in 1990. His high school wrestling record was 143-20-4. Troy was a 4-time Region 2AA place winner, winning region titles during his freshman, junior and senior seasons. He was a three-time state entrant. As a junior, Troy placed third at 125 pounds and as a senior was the 135-pound AA State Champion doing so with an undefeated record. After High School Troy attended Willmar Community College. He earned his associate degree towards Education, was a 2-time National Qualifier and earned All-American honors in 1992 placing third at 158 pounds. Troy continued his collegiate wrestling at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and was the 158-pound NSIC Conference Champion and placed 6<sup>th</sup> at the NCAA Division II National Tournament, earning his 2<sup>nd</sup> All-American status. His college wrestling record was 134-23-2. Troy transferred from UMD to St. Cloud State University to finish his BS Degree and assumed

the student assistant coaching job. Troy then coached while teaching at Mound-Webster from 1996-1998. He then attended Minnesota State University Mankato in 1998-1999 working as the Grad Assistant coach while earning his Masters in Administration. Troy was the Head Coach at Ridgewater College from 1999-2002. His 2002 team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NJCAA Division 2 class with an all-Freshman line up. Troy was named 2002 NJCAA Region XIII Coach of the Year. Tom Beyer, Troy's high school wrestling coach said; "Troy had this quiet yet confident way about him that caused other athletes to hold him in high regard. It was this characteristic that made him a great leader in college and in coaching. Troy was the type of young man that made him stand out as an athlete, coach, educator, teammate and friend. His memory and influence are still alive in people he touched along his way." One of the wrestlers Troy worked with at Mankato, Travis Shives wrote; "Largely due to Troy's influence on both my technical skills and mental approach, I was able to finish my college career as an All-American. And more importantly, he reinforced a love of the sport and a passion for competition that left an indelible impact on me." Gene Hanemann, former wrestler and National Champion for St. Cloud State wrote; "Troy had every bit to do with my accomplishment. Troy also had the opportunity to coach on the high school level, junior college level, club level, and finally the college level. Where Troy coached, he was able to positively affect most people's lives. Most people wanted to emulate Troy in so many ways. He was the guy that everyone liked, and it was contagious." Former Buffalo wrestler Jason Birr wrote; "He was a class act, but the rest of the story lies in the impact he had on those whom he inspired-fellow wrestlers, competitors, coaches and students. Troy's impact on the sport and the individuals he came in contact with, no doubt, lives on today." Troy's parents are Larry and Lynette.

### **Bob Mueller, Coach**

Bob Mueller attended Mahanomen High School, graduating from there in 1959. He had a high school record of 38-6. Bob attended Moorhead State College, and earned a B.S. in Math Education. A

shoulder injury prevented him from competing. Upon graduation Bob began teaching and coaching at Underwood High School from 1963-1966. He then taught and coached at Monticello High School from 1966-1977. His coaching record was 142-40-4. Bob served as a Region 5 representative to the MSHSL, was named District 19 Coach of the Year twice, and his teams were crowned Wright County Conference Champions 6 times. Bob has volunteered at the State Tournament for over 20 years. He founded and continues to help with the Monticello wrestling Tournament. He started the junior high program in Monticello. Bob served as an official in college and high school for 40 years. Friends Jack Holker and Brad Fleahman wrote "Bob created a powerhouse wrestling team through the 70s winning numerous Conference and District titles. It is important to point out at that time Monticello was a small community competing with the large metropolitan schools where there was only one class of wrestling. Anyone who knows Bob knows that he lives, breathes and bleeds the sport of wrestling. His coaching and contributions to the sport have touched countless lives-wrestling in Minnesota is better because of his involvement." Justin Amidan, former Monticello wrestler wrote Throughout my years in the Monticello wrestling program I've seen Bob Mueller give of his time and energy to the sport long after he was done coaching, and I feel he has earned this induction." Bob's wife is named Sharon, and they have four kids; three daughters Christina, Marci, Shelly, and one son, Joe.

### **Chris Steele, Athlete**

Chris Steele attended Hayfield High School, graduating from there in 1994. Chris was very active in all aspects of high school. He participated in football, wrestling, and baseball. He was a standout in both. He was All-Conference, All-Area, and All-State Honorable Mention in Football. He was very active in 4-H and FFA (Chapter President), active in Choir, a student aide, and a leadership representative. In wrestling Chris was two-time All-Conference selection, and he was a three-time Section 2A Champion at 160lbs. Chris was a three-time state place winner: 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1992, a state champ in 1993, and a state champ in 1994. Chris was selected to wrestle in

the MN/WI Classic and was voted the Outstanding Wrestler. He was also selected for the U.S.A. Dapper Dan Classic to wrestle on Team U.S.A., where he was voted Outstanding Wrestler. He was named to three different All-American High School Teams: U.S.A. Wrestling, Amateur Wrestling, and ASICS. His high school record was 144-16-2. Chris was active and successful in Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling as well. He was a four-time MN State Freestyle Champ, a five-time top three place winner at Northern Plains Regional Freestyle, a five-time MN State Greco-Roman Champ, and a three-time champion at Northern Plains Regional Greco-Roman. He was an All-American in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman Wrestling. He was a member of the 1994 Greco-Roman World Team, placing fourth in Turkey. It is interesting to note that Chris lost in overtime to eventual two-time NCAA Champion Joe Williams of Iowa in the 1993 Junior Nationals finals. Chris earned a scholarship to attend the University of Nebraska, where he wrestled for two years before a season and career-ending injury. Chris decided to return home to pursue farming, something he is still doing today. Chris stepped in to serve as the head coach at Hayfield for a few years, but opted to step aside due to the demand of his job. Chris still helps out as needed in the program, and is a very supportive fan and community member. Chris' wife is named Katie, and they have two sons, Karson and Kael.

**DAVID BARTELMA**  
**"FATHER OF MINNESOTA WRESTLING"**

David C. Bartelma, or "Bart" as he was affectionately called by his wrestlers and known by wrestling fans, was largely responsible for the planting of the wrestling seed in Minnesota. Bart was a transplanted Iowan. He had spent a decade coaching wrestling in Iowa; first at Iowa Falls and then at Cresco where he also served as principal. He directed six undefeated teams and his 1933 and 1935 teams won the Iowa state high school championships.

Bart joined the University of Minnesota Athletic Staff as the first full time wrestling coach in 1935. He nurtured the wrestling seed in Minnesota not only by profound wrestling knowledge, but also by his contagious enthusiasm and ability to convince others of the merits of this sport. In addition to these attributions, Bart worked indefatigably to popularize amateur wrestling. He staged the first high school wrestling tournament in 1937 (not sanctioned by the MSHSL). The first tournament was held at the University of Minnesota Field House with only eight weight classes (95#, 105#, 125#, 135#, 145#, 155#, 165#, & Unlimited), Minneapolis Marshall was the first team champion. From the first state tournament where only 13 schools participated to our present very successful state tournament where 260 schools support wrestling teams, wrestling has come a long ways. The success of Minnesota Wrestling is the direct result of the hard work and dedication fostered by David C. "Bart" Bartelma, "The Father of Minnesota Wrestling."

("Acorn To Mighty Oak", by John Matlon, 1969.)

**MWCA HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Steve Ricard (Chair), Mike Bredeck, James Campbell, Bob Dettmer, David Erickson, George Graff, Don Meyers, Mike Niemczyk, Bill Schmidt, Wes Tessman, Ken Vogt, and Spencer Yohe.