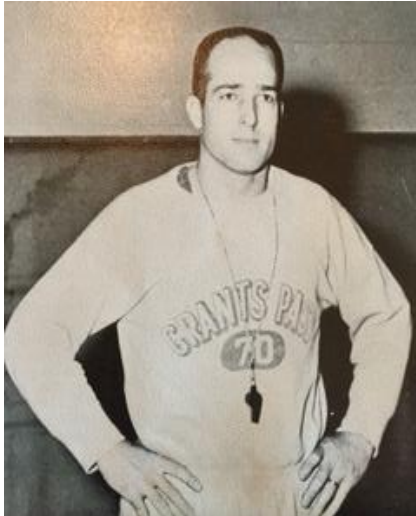


Bill Ryder
GPHS Wrestling Coach 1961-1975
Inducted in 2018



As a young man growing up in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, William B. Ryder, known to family, friends and teammates as Bill, was always participating in some athletic endeavor. He came from a family of educators, his mother a teacher and father a professor. Even as a young man of 16, as his parents had taught him, Bill wanted to do things for others. His best friend died in a submarine during WWII so he tried to enlist in the Navy to honor his friend's sacrifice but was deemed too young.

As a high school athlete Bill participated in Football, Wrestling and Baseball, earning nine letters as a 3-sport athlete. After high school Bill did enlist in the Navy, as a Firemen 1st Class he spent one year working in the engine room of an escort aircraft carrier, the USS Bairoko and a second year as grounds keeper and player on the Navy Recruiting District baseball team in San Diego, CA., an assignment he often spoke of fondly. Upon leaving the Navy, Bill graduated from the University of Colorado, participating and lettering in Football, Wrestling and Baseball for the Golden

Buffalo's.

After graduation Coach Ryder taught and coached in Colorado, Oklahoma and Montana before coming to Grants Pass in the summer of 1961. He spent the next 14 years, through 1975 teaching World History and as the head wrestling coach. Coach Ryder's innovative wrestling coaching techniques, teaching moves in 4 key steps and his emphasis on great fundamentals and conditioning were secrets to the success of Caveman grapplers. His wrestlers saw nearly as much time in the Heater Newman Gymnasium running stairs, as the GPHS basketball teams spent on the court.

From the 1962 to 1975 wrestling seasons, Coach Ryder's teams won 3 state championships in a row from 1962-1964, placed second in 1965 and 1966 and finished in the top 20 in the state 11 of 14 seasons. At the Southern Oregon District level, he coached his wrestlers to 12 of 14 district titles. Coach Ryder's teams were dominant when it came to dual wrestling meets during his tenure, winning as a team over 90% of their dual matches.

Coach Ryder dedicated much time and effort to wrestling as a whole in the state of Oregon, directing and managing numerous Oregon State University Wrestling Camps in the summers and through leadership in the Oregon Wrestling Cultural Exchange program. The Cultural Exchange hosted high school wrestlers from around the world in competitions in Oregon and the program sent Oregon teams overseas to compete, promoting good will and understanding through friendly wrestling competition. In 1965 he was selected to lead the team of Oregon wrestlers to Europe. Years later Coach Ryder wrote and published the book, A Complete History and Handbook of the Oregon Wrestling Cultural Exchange, documenting the program's management and success in promoting program goals. In 1995, for Coach Ryder's service to wrestling in Oregon, he was selected to the inaugural class of the Oregon Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, in Stillwater, OK.