



Scott Knowlen

Class of 1980



Scott Knowlen was born and raised in Bismarck having graduated from Bismarck High School in 1980, where he competed in wrestling and won two individual state wrestling championships with an undefeated varsity record. He then attended Bismarck State College, earning All-American status in wrestling and winning a gold medal at the Jr. Pan American games in Cali, Columbia in 1982. Scott graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1984, winning two additional All-American certificates in wrestling. It was during his high school and collegiate wrestling experiences that he credits much of his coaching philosophies and practices to many of his own wrestling coaches and teammates.

Scott's first head wrestling coaching assignment was at Bismarck High School in 1989, where he was hired as teacher/coach. Scott continued as head wrestling coach at BHS for 26 years, serving as co-head coach with best friend, Jeff Schumacher, for the last 18 years. Knowlen's overall dual meet coaching record at Bismarck High was 368-16-2, which included 15 undefeated seasons. Knowlen's 26 state tournament appearances have yielded 15 State Individual Championships and 12 State Dual Meet Championships. Scott has coached 79 state champions, 7 North Dakota Senior Athletes of the Year, and 24 High School All-American wrestlers. In 2004, he was named NHSACA National Coach-of-the-Year and has also been inducted into 3 coaching/wrestling Halls-of-Fame.

Three years ago, Scott has come out of retirement and has started the BHS girls wrestling program, where they have won 2 Individual State Championships and 2 State Dual Meet Championships with a total of 6 individual state champions. He is also currently serving at BHS as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle leader.

Scott has two married sons, Zac (Ashley) and Kael (Lexi). Scott also has a granddaughter, Amelia (Zac/Ashley); and a grandson, Liam, and granddaughters, Ella and Eden (Kael/Lexi).