



Pennsylvania State Senator **Bob Robbins** had an illustrious career in wrestling, both as a competitor and as a coach. At Greenville High School Robbins was a two-time Section and District 10 champ and a Pennsylvania State Wrestling Champion in 1962. Bob also played football for GHS.

Bob attended the United States Military Academy at West Point where he had a brilliant mat career. He was a two-time NCAA All American, finishing sixth in 1965 and fifth in 1966 at the National Championships. As a freshman he won the Eastern Wrestling Championship title in 1962. He also became a United States Army Champion and Inner Service Champion in 1967. Bob also won the 101st airborne Division Cross Country and 2-mile Championships in 1967.

He returned to Greenville to coach his alma mater from 1973-77. His teams posted a 41-11 record, and he coached three state champs, four PIAA state finalists, four regional champs, 10 district titlists, and 20 section winners. His Trojans won the section 2-AA crown twice, and he was named Section Coach of the Year. Robbins coached Norman Walker, who became Pennsylvania's first high school wrestler to reach 100 career victories, and Steve Riley, Greenville's first two-time State Champion. Bob served as president of the District 10 Coaches Association from 1976-80.

Bob was involved in the Pennsylvania Wrestling Federation, now affiliated with USA Wrestling. He served the PA group as President from 1978-84 and was head coach of the state team from 1977-84. He coached 13 Junior National Champions. His cadet team (ages 15 to 16) won the National Cadet title in 1978, posting five champions. His Greco-Roman team won the 1983 National crown, and his freestyle took second place in the nation.

While serving the public as Representative and Senator, Bob announced matches and was a fixture during the post season tournaments for many years with WGRP-WEXC. He was a coach and coordinator of wrestling for the 1984 and 1985 Keystone State Games and helped organize the Thiel College Invitational Tournament in 1987 and 1988. As a legislator Bob worked hard and was successful in removing control of amateur wrestling from the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission. He was enshrined in the Mercer County Hall of Fame and the PA State Coaches Hall of Fame. In 2001 Bob was named "Outstanding Pennsylvanian" in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Favorite memories are wrestling for Coach Dave Clelland at Greenville and Coach Leroy Alitz at West Point. "Opportunities were presented to me because of their constant push toward getting an education and striving to achieve my goals. They helped me not only in wrestling but in life. I was honored to have been given the opportunity to take over the reins of head coach from Dave, and, as a result, I coached some of the best young men to come out of Greenville High School."

Bob and his wife, Cindy, live in Greenville and remain active in local politics.

Duty—Honor—Country remain Bob Robbins' marching orders in life.