



Gary Taylor '67 began his athletic career at Greenville High School competing in football, wrestling and track. On the football field the Trojans went 8-1 during each of Taylor's junior and senior seasons, winning the outright Mercer County Championship his senior year.

On the mats Coach Dave Clelland's squad posted records of 12-2 in 1966 and 14-0 in 1967. Both losses in 1966 (Cannon McMillen and Reynolds) were avenged in 1967, and the Trojans halted a Meadville Bulldog 26 match winning streak that year. Gary's senior campaign produced a championship in Greenville's Invitational Wrestling Tournament, and he went on to claim Section 3 and District 10 championships. He finished runner-up at the Regional tournament losing to an eventual two-time state champ in the finals.

Following high school Gary wrestled at Clarion University once placing 4th in the Eastern Wrestling League Championships. He transferred to East Stroudsburg to finish his degree, and post-graduation moved into the coaching ranks. In 1978 he took the reins of the NCAA Division I Rider University wrestling program, nine years into its existence.

The Broncs won 14 conference championships during his 39-year tenure as head coach, and Taylor was named Conference Coach of the Year nine times. He coached 15 wrestlers to All American status 17 times, and his wrestlers won 110 individual conference titles and qualified 173 times for the NCAAs. In 1997 Rider spent the final five weeks of the season ranked #7 in the nation. Nine Broncs qualified for the NCAA National's that year, second only to Iowa with 10.

In 2010 Rider presented Gary with the Frank N. Elliott Award for Distinguished Service. In 2014 he was honored with the University's most prestigious award, the Sesquicentennial Medal of Excellence for "recognition of his outstanding achievements, leadership, success, and most importantly, the honor he had brought to Rider Athletic and the University community".

Gary was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2018, the Rider University Hall of Fame in 2019, and the Mercer County Hall of Fame in 2020. In 2018 he was honored by the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum with a Lifetime Service Award.

Gary retired in 2017 but remains the third winningest coach in NCAA Wrestling history with 442 victories, behind only Iowa State's Harold Nichols (492) and Dale Thomas of Oregon State University (616).

Gary resides in Newtown, PA and remains active at Rider University.