



**Melvin H. Berry** started his outstanding sports career at Altoona High School where he lettered in baseball and football before continuing his education at Slippery Rock State College. At “The Rock”, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education, Mel lettered in football, soccer, and gymnastics. He earned his Masters from the University of Pittsburgh in 1946 and performed additional graduate work at Penn State University.

During World War II Mel served as a Navy Gunnery and Ordnance Officer and was a squadron leader with the famed PT Boats. He was a Lieutenant with the Navy in the South Pacific during 1942-46. Berry received four combat stars and a Purple Heart for wounds received in Borneo.

He taught at Springdale High School, 1937-38, Penn High School, Greenville, 1938-61, and at Thiel College, 1961-77. At Penn High he was assistant football coach, 1938-1954, wrestling coach, 1938-1956, and football coach, 1954-55. His Trojan wrestlers compiled a 102-30-2 record over Mel’s 18 years as coach.

While at Thiel College Mel was assistant football coach (1956-76), baseball coach (1961-75), trainer (1961-77), and head wrestling coach (1957-77). During his tenure as wrestling coach 14 grapplers captured 22 individual conference titles, including four-time champion John Tomlinson. The 1963 and 1964 teams won consecutive conference titles, and his overall 20 year record was 102-30-2.

Mel was affiliated with the NCAA, National Health, Physical Education and Recreation Association, College Division Wrestling, NCAA; Wrestling Coaches Association; US Wrestling Federation; and Presidents Athletic Conference. He was active in community affairs, serving as Recreational Director of Summer Playgrounds from 1947-55, as a member of American Legion Post 140, and Zions Reformed Church.

For his accomplishments Berry received the Barney Perifano Award from Thiel College (1958), a 25-year coaching award from the NCAA Division III Wrestling Coaches Association (1976), and the Thiel College Hall of Fame (1982).

Melvin H. Berry passed away on November 7, 1984, leaving a lasting imprint on the Greenville community.