



Tom Seiple (Penn High Class of 1953) was Greenville's first state wrestling champion, but he meant much more to the program. He began wrestling in grade school on the stage at the Greenville Recreation Center, a place he frequented and supported for many years.

Tom's high school wrestling career began a little slowly as he shared the 95-pound weight class with four-time District Champion Rich Guerrini his freshman year. His sophomore year began with a loss in his first match of the season, but Tom then ran off 13 straight victories, including Section and District titles, before losing in the regional finals. That year he helped his team to a 9-0 record under the leadership of head coach Mel Berry.

In 1952 Tom went 20-0 with the season culminating in Section, District, Regional and State Championship titles at 95-pounds, the first State title in Greenville's storied wrestling history. That year he posted a 10-0 dual meet record along with a 7-0 tournament record. He also went 3-0 to win a Great Lakes Title, all while helping Greenville to a 9-1 dual meet record.

Tom's senior season was cut short due to a lingering illness; however, following graduation, he continued to come back to the Greenville wrestling room where he helped train other Greenville state champions and wrestling greats Bob Robbins, Rod Wentling, Rick Stuyvesant, and Gary Taylor, who came within seconds of beating two-time state champion, Larry Rippey, at Regions.

Former State Champion Bob Robbins was quoted in an article about Tom, "He was what every wrestler aspired to be, on and off the mat. When I wrestled and won my title, I wore a piece of Tom's gear in the state finals. That is how much he meant to me."

Following high school Tom's work life included stints with Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad, Deco, Westinghouse, and Greenville Steel Car, first in the shop and then in the office as a draftsman, but he always found time to stay involved with local wrestling – Reynolds and Jamestown included. In 1959 Tom entered a Carlisle, PA open tournament using a borrowed Jamestown uniform and won the 115-pound title. He went on to work at GATX Tank Car as a draftsman and engineer for 17 years before retiring in 2000 from Trinity as a Railcar Project Engineer.

In retirement Tom returned to his Rec Center roots, working for GALSA as a custodian and mentor to area youth. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Greenville and raised two daughters and a son.