

Hall of Fame - Class of 2015

1976 & 1977 Wrestling Teams

The 1976 & 1977 wrestling teams were two of the most successful teams in a highly regarded program. Known as the “Purple Pounders”, they amassed 50 wins and just 4 losses in those two years. They were a pinning machine and that was a factor against any team, regardless of classification. Both teams finished second in state and the 1977 bunch was only 1½ points from a state title. Each team had strength in numbers as well as a very talented nucleus of wrestlers of championship caliber. Both teams had a state champion but their team success was a result of having every wrestler that went to the state tournament winning matches. Over these two seasons, there were ten state tournament medalists.



1976 - Front (L to R): Dan Lucas, Mark Davis, Ray Bergerson, Tom Dyer, Earl Lahti, Mark Balensifer, and Coach Dennis Warren. Back (L to R): James Beatty, Harry Pike, Bill Antilla, Ken Wolfe, David Elliot, David Pike, and Mike Carruthers.



1977

Warrior Wrestlers: FRONT: L TO R: Coach Warren, Mike Carruthers, Harry Pike, Bill Antilla, Ray Bergerson, Mark Davis. BACK: L TO R: Joe Zimmerman, Gene Collier, David Pike, Jim Beatty, David Elliot, Tom Dyer, and Jack Mills.

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Dick Ledgerwood

Dick Ledgerwood graduated from Warrenton High School in 1966. He was a four-sport athlete in high school playing football, basketball and running track for the Warriors but was forced to find other avenues to play his favorite, baseball, as Warrenton had just cancelled the baseball program. He was the team Most Valuable Player in football and set the school scoring record in basketball, scoring 36 points against Seaside his senior year. His biggest contribution to his teams was his leadership.

After high school, he earned degrees from Linfield (B.A. '70) and the University of Washington (MS in Fisheries '73). He spent two years in the Peace Corp in El Salvador before dedicating the next 42 years of his life working with natural resources, mostly on the Columbia River. His research was aimed at the recovery of threatened and endangered species. Mr. Ledgerwood gave countless hours to the WHS Fisheries program and played an integral role in making it the exemplary program that it is today.



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Earl Lahti

A 1976 graduate of Warrenton High School, Earl was an outstanding wrestler. He was a member of some of the most successful teams that established the WHS wrestling program as a state-wide power. He placed third his junior year at the State Wrestling Tournament and capped his 26-4 senior season with a 123 lb. state championship in 1976. He won 65 matches and lost only 12 from his sophomore through senior years as a Warrior Wrestler.

Earl is a role model who has just done things right his whole life. He lives in Taft and has been involved with youth teams and Taft High School sports. He has raised a good family and Warrenton is proud to call him an alum.



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Nancy Kennell

Nancy taught 4th grade for eight years and Physical Education for 22 years at Warrenton Grade School starting in 1977. Her innovative approaches to education were evident on a daily basis in her classes. She was an incredible teacher according to many former students. During that time, she also coached volleyball, basketball, and track and even acted as the Athletic Director for five years. She was the Hershey Track Meet Director for 35 years and received the Hersey Track & Field Outstanding Local Program Award in 1999 for “outstanding commitment and dedication to the youth of the community”.

She has been active as an official for 20 years and has given of her time to the Astoria Regatta Association, Camp Kiwanalong and the Scandinavian Association for many years. Nancy is an asset to our community and Warrenton is proud to call her one of our own.



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Steven Barnard

Steven graduated from Warrenton High School in 1990. He earned a B.S. Degree and an M.S. Degree after attending college at the University of Maryland, the University of Oklahoma and Johns Hopkins University. Steven has served in the Oregon National Guard (1989-1991), the US Army (1991-2000), and the US Army Reserve (2000-2015) and is a commissioned officer. He is the Director of the Military Outreach Program for Kaplan University and has taught at-risk high school students in an alternative setting. He led a team that provided humanitarian assistance in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has served his country admirably.



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Cindy Johnson

Cindy is a 1979 graduate of Warrenton High School. In high school, she contributed as a member of many service organizations, including Student Council as a member of the volleyball team. This was a glimpse into her dedication to making wherever she was, a better place to be.

She has worked for US Bank for 31 years and serves as a Vice-President in charge of Commercial Relations. Cindy has coached and was an integral member of the team that organized to raise funds for Warrenton Schools when a need arose to fund coaches. She worked tirelessly behind the scene to contribute to this effort which eventually led to the creation of the Hall of Fame Foundation and many good things for the students in Warrenton.

