

# **Fort Atkinson Wrestling Hall of Fame**

## 2016 Induction Ceremony

Before we begin with the varsity wrestling match, the Fort Atkinson Wrestling Club and Hall of Fame Committee would like to recognize the outstanding contributions and individual wrestling performance of one of the most important individuals to the sport of wrestling here in Fort Atkinson. This individual's accomplishments defined an era in Fort Atkinson Wrestling history and tonight will be honored with enshrinement into the Fort Atkinson Wrestling Hall of Fame. His name will join the likes of **Bob Downing, Ron Hachtel, John Saterlee and last year's inductees Dick and Jan Hamre**. Furthermore, he will be the first wrestler to be inducted into this exclusive club.

In the early to mid-eighties, **Mark Riggs** helped put Fort Atkinson wrestling on the map. Beginning his career as a 98 pounder, Mark showed an intensity and drive unmatched by many of his competitors. His tenacity broke his opponents and earned him a reputation as one of the toughest wrestlers to wear the Blackhawk singlet. A 4-time letterwinner, Mark embodied the principles of hard work, drive, and commitment to the sport of wrestling. As a 2-time conference champion and 3-time state qualifier he was voted MVP of the team in both 1985 and 1986. For most, this would amount to a great career in it's own right. But Mark's legacy was forged by even greater success. Between the 1984 State tournament and 1986 season, Mark lost only 1 match - an extremely impressive win streak of 77 straight matches - a record he still holds today. Mark captured the 1984 and 1985 state championships at 105 and 112 pounds respectively. His only loss in a nearly 3 year span came in the state finals, during an extremely tight match, to eventual 1996 Silver Medalist in the Atlanta Olympic games Dennis Hall. As a multiple time state champion and member of the Fort Atkinson Wrestling 100 wins club, as well as holding a career .883 winning percentage, Mark's place within the pantheon of Fort Atkinson Wrestling is undeniable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fort Atkinson Wrestling Club is pleased to honor this year's inductee and member of the 2016 Hall of Fame Class; **Mark Riggs**. Mark, please come forward to accept your award.