

## **2018 Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame**

**This year, the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame is proud to announce the induction of five amazing individuals.**

**\* The first inductee for this year's Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame is a former wrestler and current coach in Alaska. As a former student / athlete wrote; "Coach dedicated his life in building the sport of wrestling here in Alaska. Apart from his time in the sport himself, having been an Alaskan State Finalist, along with his time wrestling at Pacific University, he has been an excellent coach at Mt. Edgecumbe High School for 20 years.**

**He has also coached the Sitka Tsunamis, Team Alaska Women's Team, and has served the community in countless other ways. During his time, he's coached 23 Alaska individual State Champions not to mention a National Women's champion. Many of his athletes have gone on to wrestle in college.**

**In addition, his efforts in helping women's wrestling take hold in our State has been truly remarkable. I believe Alaska Wrestling has changed for the better during his tenure. Please welcome the Head Coach of Mt. Edgecumbe High School – Please welcome Mr. Mike Kimber to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame.**

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\* Our second inductee is a name familiar with Alaska Wrestling and throughout much of the country. Her accomplishments in Alaska are legendary and include accomplishments that may never be topped. As stated by Mr. Gary Abbott of USA Wrestling, "As a freshman, Michaela Hutchison not only made the Alaska State Championships at 103 pounds, she reached the state finals, where she placed second.

As a sophomore, Hutchison continued to improve, and once again made the Alaska state championship at Chugiak High School at 103 pounds. This time, when she reached the finals on February 5, 2006, the outcome was different.

Hutchison became the first girl to ever win a state high school wrestling championship competing against boys. She finished the year with a 45-4 record, including 33 pins. It was also the first time that a brother and sister had ever won state titles side-by-side, as Eli (2015 Inductee) also won the state title at 135 pounds.

Michaela placed four times at the Alaska State Wrestling Tournament. Since wrestling was such an important part of the Hutchison family's life, her victories were all about the sport and about family, not about the fact that she was a girl.

"For us it's not a gender issue. To us it's just wrestling," said her dad Mike Hutchison at the time. "She wrestles because she loves the sport. She's not making a statement. Her goal was to win the state championship because it was the state championship, not because she's a girl. She just wrestles for the sake of wrestling."

In addition to competing in high school, Michaela was also active and successful in USA Wrestling's women's wrestling program. She made Girls High School All-American First Team as a freshman. In 2005, Hutchison won a gold medal at USA Wrestling's Body Bar Women's FILA Cadet Nationals in El Cajon, Calif. at 108 pounds. She also captured a silver medal at the 2005 ASICS Women's Junior Nationals at 110 pounds. She also was second twice and a two time champion at the ASICS USA National Championships in Fargo. She has represented Team USA at the Junior Pan Am Championships placing first and 8th.

Michaela and Eli did not stop making history together after that famous day up in Alaska. On July 25, 2006 in Fargo, N.D., the brother and sister combination won ASICS/Vaughan Junior National titles on the same day, with Eli taking the Junior National Greco-Roman gold medal at 135 pounds and Michaela winning the Junior women's freestyle gold medal at 119 pounds.

Although Michaela wrestled the boys in high school, that wasn't the case in college. She was a star on Oklahoma City University's women's wrestling team, winning three WCWA women's college national titles and taking second the other year.

Michaela was on the USA Women's National Team ladder from 2013 to 2016 and was a US Open Champion and 4th at the 2016 Olympic Team Trials.

Hutchison went into coaching after college, and serves as assistant wrestling coach for McKendree University in Illinois, where she works with head coach / husband Sam Schmitz and others helping build the next generation of women's wrestling champions. Please welcome Ms. Michaela Hutchison to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame.

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\* **Our Third inductee began his wrestling career at the age of 13 in Fairbanks. While continuing his wrestling at Lathrop High School, he became a 2x State Champion, 1x State Runner up, and 3x Region Champion.**

**This inductee furthered his education and wrestling career while competing at North Idaho College and Alaska Pacific University where he achieved 2 x NAIA College All American Status 3rd in 1989 4th in 1990 and 2x College Conference Champion. He served as Assistant Coach at West Anchorage HS from 1988-1990, then returned to Lathrop HS coaching a total of 18 years while serving as a Fairbanks Police Officer.**

**Kirt Allen gave back to wrestling with expertise, huge contributions of quality TIME, and many sacrifices, for not only Lathrop community, but for everyone at every level of Alaska Wrestling. Please welcome Mr Kirk Allen to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame.**

\* **Our next inductee was a two time Alaska State Runner-up at Kodiak High School 1990 and 1991. He went on to be a 2x NAIA All American as well as an Academic All American and was a 1995 NAIA National Champion while at Pacific University in Forest Grove Oregon.**

**Once his college career was completed Dan Carstens came back to Alaska to raise his family as well as to coach and teach while at Sand Point, Tok and West Valley before moving to the Kenai Peninsula. In 2002-03 he coached West Valley to a team state championship and in doing so he was selected as the 2003 Coach of the Year. Dan is the current principal at Nikiski Middle/High School where he continues serve on state seeding meetings as well as serve as multiple tournament director positions. Please welcome Mr Dan Carstens to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame.**

**Today's final inductee to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of fame was born and raised in Alaska. His commitment to the sport of wrestling began when he was 6 years old with Popeye Wrestling Club. It continued through Homer Middle School, Homer High**

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School, into collegiate wrestling at Pacific University, and ultimately brought him back to Homer to share his love of the sport through coaching. Chris Perk is giving back to the sport of wrestling in our Alaskan community in the “wrestler way:” grinding hard work, focused problem solving, and steadfast heart, bringing new breath to Homer’s freestyle and folkstyle wrestling programs.

As a wrestler, Chris Perk is a seven time Alaska State Freestyle Champion, two time Alaska State Place winner and State Champion, and a two time NAIA Collegiate All-American Wrestler.

As a coach, Perk elevates our community with his work ethic and dedication, and brings all of us: athletes, coaches, and wrestling supporters along with him. He has coached Popeye Wrestling for many years as a volunteer, assistant, and head coach. He coached at Homer Middle School for 4 years and eventually became the head coach for Homer High Mariner wrestling in 2000. Since 2000, Perk has coached 80 individual state place winners including over 18 state champions (3 in 4A and 15 in 123A).

His teams has earn the “Highest GPA Award” twice, the “Sportsmanship Award”, and Coach Perk has been named “Coach of the Year” multiple times. In 2015, he led his team to win the State Championship; 30 years since the last time the Homer Mariners won a title in 1986.

Chris Perk continues to coach, advocate, encourage, and support all aspects of wrestling on the Kenai Peninsula and throughout the state. Perk is an advocate and supporter for athletes of all ages often refereeing other sports, volunteering as an announcer, and participating in local road races and triathlons. As he continues to teach and coach today, he consistently emulates the important qualities of hard work, dedication, and commitment to be successful in the sport of wrestling but more importantly in life.

**Let us welcome Chris Perk to the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame!**