

Former wrestler Dunlap cuts Colgate team

Associated Press ★

Thirty-three years ago, wrestling was dropped as a varsity sport at Colgate University.

Back then, a promising sophomore named Fred Dunlap was captain of the team and was disappointed his wrestling career was over.

Dunlap survived that disappointment and grew up to be Colgate University's football coach and athletic director. But once again, wrestling, which was resumed in the 1950s, is being dropped at Colgate. This time it is Dunlap's decision.

"It was a very difficult decision to make. I spent a lot of time pondering it. I just did not see any other alternative," Dunlap said.

Colgate will continue wrestling

Tight budget, Title IX cause Raiders to drop sport

through next season, then the sport will be reduced to club status.

Colgate's varsity wrestling program lost out to inflation and pressures to keep women's varsity athletic opportunities equal with men's sports program.

Dunlap has been overseeing an athletic program that's new to women's athletics. The university did not admit women until 11 years ago.

By dropping wrestling, Colgate will field 12 men's varsity teams, and with the elevation of a new woman's sport, the

school will soon have eight varsity women's sports. Among the women's sports that are being considered for elevation to varsity status are soccer, track and ice hockey.

Wrestling accounted for \$11,000 of Colgate's \$1.4 million athletic budget.

But the Red Raiders are not alone in the action.

The move makes it easier for Colgate to comply with the mandate from Title IX, the federal regulation requiring proportionate athletic opportunities for women and men.

It won't save much on the laundry bill for dirty towels since Colgate's varsity wrestlers presumably will continue competing on the club level. But Dunlap said he believes the costs of putting a team on the road and feeding the traveling athletes had risen higher than the regular inflation rate.

Wrestling Coach Curt Blake said he understands the reason his sport is being dropped. He has been doubling as an assistant athletic director so he knows the pressures of inflation and Title IX.

Some of his wrestlers, however, did not understand. They quit.

But Blake's team, with 15 athletes still wrestling, is attempting to finish the season with a winning record.

"There is no talk about next season. They're thinking about the next match and getting ready for the Eastern championships," said Blake.

He called it "a shame" wrestling is being dropped.

"You're not talking about programs. You're talking about people."

One of the losses is the Colgate Open, a tournament that attracted up to 400 wrestlers to Hamilton every year.

One of the questionable winners is Don Reese, who has been the assistant wrestling coach for four years. He'll be head coach next year.



Fred Dunlap

... former team captain, now AD