

# Three Greece Wrestling Coaches Resign

By David Agness

The biggest shocker in the realm of Greece sports this week is the resignation of three Greece wrestling coaches from their posts. Herb Swingle, Olympia, and Joe Gugino, Athena, resigned as varsity wrestling coaches due to a lack of time for their families. "Wrestling is a

year-round commitment."

Arcadia grappling coach, Mike Lopa, who teaches at Athena, has also handed in his resignation in hopes of filling the varsity job at Athena.

Herb Swingle is hanging up his whistle after nine years of involvement as a coach at the junior varsity and varsity

level. Swingle began his wrestling career in high school at Charlotte. "I wrestled heavyweight because there was no one else who could. We never won. Every time we had a chance to win a meet, I'd lose, and when we were losing, I'd win," said Swingle.

"I think because I was never a star it helped me to be a better coach. I knew what it was like to lose and to get pinned." Swingle saw

limited action at Western Michigan University. "It took me until my senior year before I was actually affiliated with the team."

Returning to Rochester, Swingle moved into the junior varsity coaching slot at Hilton High School where he compiled a five-year, 31-7-2 record. He helped develop many stars including state champion Dave Jergens.

Three years ago he switched to Olympia and after one

season as an assistant moved into the head coaching role. "When I came to Olympia I felt we had no place to go but up," and up they went, finishing the season at 10 wins and four losses; the best ever at Olympia.

But the time involved in wrestling began to take from time at home. "My son (five years old) is at an age where he needs a lot of attention from his father," said Swingle. "He began to resent

wrestling because he felt the wrestlers were taking me away from him. My wife wanted to come to all the matches, but couldn't because my son resented them.

"The season is much too long. Wrestling is a sport that demands total commitment from both the wrestlers and the coaches," said Swingle.

Although the fruits of success are rich, Herb Swingle puts his family above all those rewards.

Swingle said, "If I stayed in wrestling my son would eventually feel pressured to become a wrestler. I want him to enjoy life and to do anything he wants."

He said he has left the grappling arena for good. He wants to further his education. "I have all my teaching certificates, but I would like to take some more courses for the fun of it."

Despite his departure, Swingle leaves an important wrestling philosophy behind for future wrestling coaches. "My most important philosophy is to make a kid believe in himself, the team, and his coach." He cited another important factor. "I'm always truthful with the boys. If a boy looks terrible, I tell him he looked terrible. I see a lot of coaches show a kid some move he should have used as he walks off the mat after a loss. I don't believe in doing that. The kid is dejected and he isn't going to listen to you. I go over that stuff at the next practice."

Swingle believes a wrestler should have a set of moves in his mind to help him through any situation. "When Chuck Giordano beat Wood we worked a whole week on how to defeat him. When Chuck walked onto the mat, I didn't have to give him any instructions. I told him, 'Do your best, you know what we worked on.'"

Joe Gugino is ending a 10-

year wrestling career at Athena. He started out in high school at McQuaid when the wrestling program was in its infant stages. "I was an average wrestler, I think my best year was a seven-to-six record."

Upon graduating from high school, Gugino attended St. Joseph's in Indiana where he did not wrestle. "I didn't wrestle in college, I could read the writing on the wall." After college Gugino acquired a teaching and coaching job at Arcadia under former coach Mike Lopa.

"My years at Arcadia were building years, just like this year at Athena." Gugino's teams managed nine-to-four and ten-to-three records after a 0-15 first season. In 1969 Gugino transferred to Athena and has been at the helm of the varsity wrestling program since. "We spent a few years building. Our best season was last year, we were seven and eight."

Unlike Swingle, Gugino is not leaving the sport completely. "I'm still going to run the Greece wrestling camp and work with the younger kids," (seventh and eighth graders). When asked what it will be like sitting in the stands, he said, "It will be hard as hell. When you're involved with these kids all year round, they become part of your family. I have kids who have graduated stop by

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## Eagles Are Top Team In Soccer Tournament

An indoor soccer tournament was held at the Greece YMCA, with over thirty boys and girls involved in the program. It was a double elimination tournament which saw the Eagles take home first place, without a loss. The Eagles started out on their winning ways by beating the Lancers by a six-to-five score. Tony Pettine put in an impressive game for the Eagles, as he scored all six goals. The Lancers scorers were Dan Brone with four goals and Chris Hunt with one.

The second game saw the Stars power past the Raiders by a nine-to-four score. Both teams were well balanced and displayed good team play, as they constantly looked for the open man. Mark Sharp was the high scorer for the Stars with four goals, Andy Hackshaw netted three and Jeff Smith added one.

played by Eric Grimm of the Raiders and Jay Masters of the Lancers.

The Eagles won their second game easily by beating the Stars by a nine-to-four score. Tony Pettine again was the high scorer with eight goals and Bill Hunt put in one for the Eagles. The Stars high scorer was Andy Hackshaw with two goals.

After evening their record at one and one, the Raiders were eliminated from the tournament by a ten-to-eight loss to the Stars. Mark Sharp and Andy Hackshaw were the big offensive threats for the Stars and with five and three goals, respectively. Goals scored for the Raiders were Jeff Hammond with four goals and Dave Fredlund and Rick Drexler with two apiece.

The championship game was now set, with the Stars looking forward to turning the

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