

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

This second wave period of the Newport wrestling program was dominated by coaches who were former Newport wrestlers (Mike Smith, Earl Heisey and Paul Britcher) - and one from East Juniata (Jay Hockenbroch). It started where the formative years left off with league titles and strong postseasons, had some ups and downs, and came back big in the mid 1980s with another league title during the 1983-84 season and five wrestlers at the state tournament, including Juan Seiber, our second state champ, in 1985.

The records used for the annual and other statistics for this time period were the annual team records maintained in the Newport High School library, contemporaneous team statistics for the 1972-73 and 1973-74 seasons, tournament programs, the school yearbook (the Blunita), Newport holiday tournament records, newspaper research and a wrestler's scrapbook. The library records from the 1973-74 season through the 1986-87 season are in a standard format with quite a bit of information on dual meets and tournaments. The library record for the 1987-88 season follows a similar format, but does not include dual meet records as the prior annual records do. None of these annual records include the number of falls by wrestlers. There is, however, a pin list from circa 1986 that reflects those wrestlers with the most pins up to that time. Detailed dual meet records and statistics have also been garnered from boxscores included in a wrestler's scrapbook for the 1987-88 season.

### 1972-73 and 1973-74

Mike Smith took over the coaching reigns from Coach Kline for the 1972-73 season. Mike was a two-time section runner-up for Newport in 1964 and 1965, being part of the undefeated Newport team of 1963-64 and himself having a 14-0 undefeated dual meet season in 1964-65 as well as an overall varsity record of 24-6-2. He was a spot starter at Bloomsburg State College behind a two-time NCAA place-winner and became an accomplished promoter and ambassador of Pennsylvania wrestling. Coach Smith founded and for fifty years served as president of the Middle Athletic Wrestling Association (MAWA), which holds a series of tournaments leading to the Eastern National Championships; and for many years organized all-star teams from the Middle Atlantic area to compete at national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) tournaments. Mike was also a former high school, college, AAU and international wrestling official, having refereed at the 1975 Pan American Games in Mexico City, and was very active in AAU wrestling administration and events throughout his life. The AAU junior Olympic championships he directed in 1978 attracted over 1,100 entrants and was the largest tournament ever run in the United States up to that time. Coach Smith also helped edit the History of the PIAA State Championships.

The 1972-73 season saw significant overall changes, and the 1973-74 season even more. The weights were changed before 1972-73 to bump the lowest class to 98 lbs., with others moving up or down a pound or two except 112, 138 and 145, which stayed the same, and 180,

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

which went to 185. The postseason set up changed too. The state tournament expanded to an eight-wrestler bracket in each weight class, with runner-ups from the four regions qualifying along with the regional champions. Third place winners were also recognized for the first time at states, with those making the semi-finals but not the finals wrestling for third. Runner-ups from Districts 3 and 1 also advanced to the main brackets of the southeastern regional tournament, with the winners wrestling the other district's runner-ups in semi-final matches.

For the 1973-74 season the PIAA decided to move to two divisions for the postseason: Class A for large schools and Class B for small schools, with the option for small schools to move up to Class A if they so chose. The state tournament expanded again, to 16-wrestler brackets in each weight class in both Class A and B. District 3 was made its own region (south central) in each class. Each of the now five regions were awarded from two to four qualifiers, with most having three. District 3/south central region was awarded three state spots in each class. Newport elected to wrestle in the large-school Class A in 1973-74. The district/region also adopted a new postseason system with three rounds, eliminating section tournaments for two years. The teams were separated into east and west in 1974 and 1975, with 16 in each weight class advancing to the second weekend and four advancing to the final weekend. Reaching the district/regional quarter-finals on Saturday of the second weekend was, in my opinion, equivalent to being a section champion. Those wrestlers who did not prevail in their semi-final matches on the third weekend battled for third place and a spot in states.

Newport won Tri-Valley League titles again in 1972-73 and 1973-74 with perfect 6-0 records and had a presence in the District 3 tournament each year. Another Harrisburg area powerhouse, Lower Dauphin, was added to the schedule. Overall records of 11-3 were recorded both years, with losses only to Cedar Cliff, Lower Dauphin and Mechanicsburg (and these scores were 18-22 and 20-21). Andy Zook (14-0) and Boyd Britcher (8-0) had undefeated dual meet seasons in 1972-73, while Zook (14-0) and Steve Rudy (13-0-1) did so in 1973-74. Zook was selected to the Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team both years, with Britcher joining him in 1973-74.

There was an interesting addition to the 1972-73 team when Leo Chambers of Baltimore, Maryland, moved to town after attending Carson Long Institute. Chambers had placed third or fourth (the records available do not differentiate) at the 1971 National Prep Championships for Carson Long his junior year. He helped the Newport team by contributing an 8-4 dual meet season and an overall record of 11-7.

Andy Zook won District 3 and regional titles in both 1973 and 1974. He advanced to the state semi-finals each year before tasting defeat, taking third place medals both years. Steve Rudy joined Zook at the 1974 state tournament after taking a third place at the District 3/southcentral regional tournament. Boyd Britcher also medaled in the 1974 district/region tournament with a fourth place finish. All three won section titles in 1973, when the team was second to Cedar Cliff in the final independent section tournament. Dennis Ehrhart joined Zook,

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

Rudy and Britcher as the equivalent of section champs in 1974 under the round system by all making the quarter-finals of the district/region tournament.

Andy Zook's career stands among the best in Newport history. He is still the only Buffalo to win four section titles, take three district championships and gain two state medals. His overall record was 88-10-1 (going 75-4 his last three seasons and losing only in the state semi-finals his last two years with records of 27-1 and 25-1). Andy's dual meet record was 50-5-1 (going 41-1 his last three seasons). He finished his career with 36 straight dual meet wins, going undefeated at 14-0 his last two seasons. He had the most dual meet team points in 1972-73 and 1973-74; was a 3-time Christmas tournament champ and 1-time outstanding wrestler; and a 3-time member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team. He registered 43 overall falls and 30 dual meet falls. Andy also became Newport's most decorated college wrestler, winning a Division III national title in 1977, when he was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler. He also placed third three times in the Division III nationals and won three PA State Athletic Conference (PSAC) titles, compiling an overall record of 107-9-1 for Millersville College. Andy is Newport's only national champion to date.

Steve Rudy, a district place-winner and two-time section champ, also graduated in 1974. He ended his high school career with an overall record of 52-14-2 and a dual meet record of 35-6-2. Steve was undefeated in dual meets at 13-0-1 his senior season, won the Christmas tournament and earned a trip to the state tournament with a third place finish at districts/regions. He had 9 overall falls and 8 dual meet falls.

Dennis Ehrhart was a 1974 graduate too, with a section title and a runner-up finish to his credit. His overall record was 39-15-1 and his dual meet record 33-8-1. Dennis had 18 overall falls and 16 dual meet falls.

### 1974-75 and 1975-76

The team saw two leaner dual meet seasons in 1974-75 and 1975-76, with overall records of 7-7 and 9-5 but substantial league records of 7-2 both seasons. There was one very tight league loss each year (25-27 to Sugar Valley in 1974-75 and 26-29 to Juniata in 1975-76). Newport elected to move to the small school division for the postseason in 1974-75 and has remained there. The highlight of the 1975 postseason was Boyd Britcher's third place finish at districts/regions and two wins at the state tournament. He bowed out in the semi-finals 4-7, but did not get a chance to take third place because the PIAA decided not to have a consolation match that year. Both Boyd and sophomore Jay Wilson won section titles by advancing to the quarter-finals of the district/region tournament in the last year that the first round of the postseason was not called sections. With the return of sections in 1975-76 and a new designation for the small school division (AA), Newport took home a section first place trophy with a one-point revenge win over Juniata. In a return to season's past, six Buffaloes were in the finals, with two winning section titles (Ray Kuhn and Jay Wilson).

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

A junior high team with a coach and matches was formed for the 1974-75 season. Ron Beers was the inaugural coach and the team won the Hershey novice tournament with 13 junior high champions. Former Newport wrestlers and coaches have been involved at coaching this level for most years. Former head coaches Kline and Heisey led junior high teams in 1979-80 and 1980-81, respectively.

Boyd Britcher graduated in 1975 with third and fourth place finishes in districts/regions, four section titles, and advancement to the state semi-finals his senior year. His overall record was 62-12-2. Boyd's dual meet record was 39-5-2 (going 30-2-2 his last three seasons with an undefeated 8-0 sophomore year). He had the most dual meet team points in 1974-75; was a 2-time Christmas tournament champ; and a member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team his junior year. Boyd had at least 15 overall falls and 12 dual meet falls.

The available records starting in 1974-75 often do not include the number of falls, which is why Boyd's number of overall falls is stated as an at least - his number of dual meet falls is known for all his four years, but his overall falls only for three. Available records also do not include most dual meet team points after the 1974-75 season. The number of overall falls is known for some wrestlers based on a career pin list compiled in the mid-1980s by an unknown source.

Coach Smith had moved onto other endeavors after the 1974-75 season with a three-year dual meet record of 29-13 and two league titles. Another former Newport wrestler - Earl Heisey - had taken over for the 1975-76 season. Earl was a pioneer in the program, having been on the first two varsity teams from 1957-59, ending with a record of 27-7-1. He was a district runner-up and two-time section champ. After graduating from Lock Haven State College where he had a 6-0 record in limited action for a spectacular team, Coach Heisey started the wrestling program at Halifax High School in 1964 and coached there for eleven seasons until accepting the Newport head coaching position. His Halifax teams logged a record of 91-63.

The winter of 1976 had seen a new tradition started when the first annual Newport-Susquenita alumni match was held at Newport. The Buffaloes had four district champs and two runner-ups in their tentative lineup. A second annual match was held in the winter of 1977 at Susquenita. Newport had three district champs and a runner-up in their tentative line up. The results of neither meet could be found. At least one alumni match was later held with Halifax.

### 1976-77 through 1979-80

Newport joined a new league for the 1976-77 season - the six-team Mid-State League. The only other Tri-Valley League team to join the Buffaloes was Halifax. Line Mountain turned out to be the best team in the league that only lasted two seasons. Newport returned to the Tri-Valley League for the 1978-79 season and has been a member of that league ever since, although

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

the other teams in the league have changed many times. Records of team scoring at section tournaments, if maintained, have not been found for those held from 1977 through 1981.

The team was strong from 1976-77 through the 1979-80 season, culminating in two league titles and two wrestlers making states in 1980. Coach Heisey ended his tenure after the 1977-78 season with a three-year record of 30-12. Another former Newport wrestler - Paul Britcher - assumed charge for the 1978-79 season. Paul was a district runner-up in 1969 and wrestled varsity for Clarion University, where he pinned 13 opponents and finished with a career record of 26-13.

Mid-State records of 5-1 and 4-2 were recorded in 1976-77 and 1977-78, the former earning Newport a runner-up position in the standings. Total dual meet records of 11-3 and 10-4 were achieved those years, with one section champ in both 1977 (Brian Bixler) and 1978 (Todd Heisey). In 1978 both Heisey and sophomore Rick Weller advanced to the semi-finals of the district/region tournament, but did not place. The junior varsity team won the league and went undefeated at 14-0 in 1976-77, and was undefeated in the league again in 1977-78 at 5-0-1 with an overall record of 11-2-1.

Newport battled to Tri-Valley League championships in 1978-79 and 1979-80, going 10-0 in the former for an outright title and achieving an 8-1 record in the later for a co-championship with Juniata. The team had 14-4 and 11-4 overall dual meet records those two years, with Rick Weller going undefeated at 15-0 in 1979-80 and being selected to the Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team. In 1979 Newport had two section champs (Steve Barlup and Ron Harris) and in 1980 four (Rick Weller, Harry Dietz, Al Kline and Scott Maxwell). Rick Weller advanced to the district/region semi-finals again in 1979, but did not place; Al Kline wrestled back from a quarter-final loss to take fourth place. In 1980 Rick Weller reached his third district/region semi-final, earning a trip to the state tournament with a third place finish. Scott Maxwell joined Rick at states with three straight victories after a one-point quarter-final loss to also take third place.

The 1979-80 season was unique for a rather infamous reason - there were no home dual meets. The mats were being reconditioned when there was a flash explosion destroying the mats and causing damage to the gym. Although practice mats were obtained for the start of the season, a meet mat was not. My understanding is that some home matches were held at the Greenwood High School gymnasium later in the season after a mat for meets was purchased.

Jay Wilson ended his career in 1977 with two section titles and a runner-up finish. His overall record was 55-20 and his dual meet record 40-13. Jay won two Christmas tournaments and had 32 overall falls.

Todd Heisey graduated in 1979 with a section championship and two runner-up finishes. His overall record was 64-21-1 and his dual meet record 49-9-1 (with a 16-1 record his senior season). Todd won the Christmas tournament his senior year.

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

Jay and Todd were the first sons of former Newport wrestlers (Kermit Harry and Earl Heisey) to wrestle varsity.

Rick Weller graduated in 1980 with a third place region/district medal, three appearances in the region/district semi-finals, a section championship and a runner-up finish, and advancement to the state quarter-finals his senior year where he was knocked out of the tournament by the eventual state champ. His overall record was 64-11-1 and his dual meet record an outstanding 42-2-1 (with an undefeated 15-0 season his senior year to go along with 11-1 and 16-1-1 seasons in his sophomore and junior years). Rick was a two-time Christmas tournament champ; and a member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team his senior year. He had 37 overall falls.

Steve Barlup and Scott Maxwell also graduated in 1980. Steve ended his career with a section title and a runner-up finish. His overall record was 54-21 and his dual meet record 35-12. Steve won three Christmas tournaments and had 20 overall falls. Scott had a senior year run with a Christmas tournament title, a section championship, and a third-place finish at regions/districts to earn a trip to states. He ended with an overall record of 28-18 and a dual meet record of 17-14.

### 1980-81 through 1982-83

1981 through 1983 saw a three-year dip in team success, although several individual accomplishments were achieved. The team finished with a 5-5 league record and a 5-10 overall record in 1980-81. Al Kline completed a 15-0 undefeated dual meet season and three other wrestlers only lost two dual meets (Harry Dietz, Keith Mullen and Doug Seiber). Although Keith was the only section champ, the other three were runner-ups and two of those placed at districts/regions. Harry Deitz placed third, qualifying him for the state tournament. Al Kline took a second fourth-place medal. The junior high team ran the table with a 9-0 dual meet record.

The 1981-82 season ended with a 2-7 league record and a 3-12 overall mark. There were no section champs, but the team placed second at the Camp Hill tournament. The future looked bright with the junior varsity going 8-1 in league matches and the junior high team having another good finish at 7-1. The varsity improved to a 6-2 league record in 1982-83 and an overall record of 7-8. Mike Heisey won a section title and two underclassmen destined for successful careers placed second (freshman Bryon Wilson and sophomore Juan Seiber). Juan went undefeated in dual meets at 15-0.

Al Kline graduated in 1981 with two fourth place finishes in districts/regions to go with a section title and a runner-up finish. His overall record was 64-23-1 and his dual meet record 43-11-2 (with an undefeated 15-0 season his senior year).

Harry Dietz also graduated in 1981, having made the state tournament his senior year with a third place region/district medal to accompany a section championship and a runner-up

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

finish. His overall record was 55-19 and his dual meet record 35-12. Harry won a Christmas tournament as a sophomore and an early-season tournament his senior year.

Keith Mullen graduated in 1982 with a section title and a runner-up finish to his credit. His overall record was 51-16-2 and his dual meet record 33-7-2. Keith won two in season tournaments during his junior year (Carlisle and Camp Hill) in addition to his section championship that season.

Mike Heisey graduated in 1983, also with a section title and a runner-up finish. His overall four-year varsity record was 48-31-3 (with a combined 35-9-2 record his junior and senior years) and a dual meet record of 30-21-3 (with records of 11-3-1 both his final two seasons). Mike won a Christmas tournament his senior year.

In 1983 Newport held an alumni meet with West Perry. Although Newport's line-up was considerably "more mature" than West Perry's, the Buffaloes prevailed 52-21. State champ Sherm Hostler showed he still had it 17 years after graduating with a 10-2 win.

Coach Britcher had retired from coaching after the 1981-82 season with a four-year record of 33-30. Newport turned to a 1975 state champ from East Juniata - Jay Hockenbroch - the next season. At East Juniata Coach Hockenbroch had a record of 68-17-2 with 55 falls; was a two-time District 3/South Central Region champ; and was state runner-up his junior year before winning gold his senior season. He had an equally stellar college career at Clarion University, culminating in Eastern Wrestling League (EWL) and Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) titles in 1979. His overall record was 90-39-1 with 47 falls (fifth in Clarion history), leading the team with 10 dual meet falls in both his junior and senior seasons. Coach Hockenbroch is still listed as one of the top all-time performers for Clarion in several categories. He had previously coached at Avella High School for three season after college graduation and undoubtedly became quite a workout partner for sophomore (and future state champ) Juan Seiber at Newport.

### 1983-84 and 1984-85

Newport had strong teams in 1983-84 and 1984-85, culminating in a second place team finish at the 1985 District 3/Southeast Region tournament and five wrestlers advancing to the state tournament. The Tri-Valley League title was returned to Newport at the end of a 7-0 undefeated season in 1984. Five early-season losses lead to a 10-6 overall record, but five wrestlers posted 12 or more dual meet wins and the postseason was bright. The team won the sectional tournament by over 20 points, with two champions (Bryon Wilson and Juan Seiber), three runner-ups and three third placers. Two wrestlers placed in the district/region tournament - Juan took third and Randy Weller fourth. Juan then advanced to the semi-finals of the state tournament, where he fell to the returning champ who then defended his title. Juan came back to take third place for Newport's first state medalist in ten years, going 4-1 in the tournament with

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

three falls. And that two-time state champ who defeated Juan at states was also his only loss at the district/region tournament.

The team dropped two league matches in the 1984-85 season, but improved its overall record to 13-4. Bart Campbell finished with a 16-0-1 undefeated dual meet record and three Buffaloes were selected for the Patriot-News Big 12 AA all-star team - Bart, Dan Sneath and Juan Seiber. The squad really came into its own in the postseason, performing up to the level of some of the teams in the 1960s and early 1970s. There were three loaded teams in the section tournament - Susquenita had eight in the finals, Newport seven and Juniata six. Newport took four titles (Bart, Alan Sweger, Dan and Juan).

For the first time ever five members of the team placed in the top three at the district/region tournament and qualified for the state tournament in 1985. And two of those were in the finals, the first time Newport had multiple finalists since 1972. Juan Seiber took first place after being knocked out in the semi-finals by an illegal slam; Bryon Wilson was runner-up; and Bart Campbell, Alan Sweger and Dan Sneath took third place medals. Bryon won a match at states, but fell in the quarter-finals to the eventual third-place winner. The five top-three place winners at districts/regions secured a solid second place team finish by 14.5 points over Oley Valley (and 57.5 over tenth-place Juniata). Perry County dominated with Susquenita finishing well in first place. Newport's second-place accomplishment was the first top-five finish since official scoring at the tournament began in 1981 and the first overall top-five finish since Newport's 1972 team took second place in mythical team scoring.

Juan had an outstanding state tournament to claim Newport's second state title, and first in over 20 years. He won in the finals 10-0 and only had one point scored on him during his four state matches. According to "The History of the PIAA State Wrestling Championships" all three of the heavyweight semi-finalist other than Juan were undefeated. Juan needed overtime to down his semi-final opponent 4-0, but breezed to the title by scoring a takedown, reversal and two three-point near falls to dominate in the finals against the returning third-place winner at 185. The Patriot-News observed that Juan had saved his best match for last, thumping his 32-0-0 opponent with a strong 7-0 first period that included a takedown and a pair of near falls, the second of which nearly finished the match by fall. The rest was easy.

Juan Seiber graduated in 1985 with a state title and a third place finish to go with a region/district title and third place finish and two section championships and a runner-up medal. He completed his career with an overall record of 80-8 (with a 30-1 record his senior season) and an exceptional dual meet record of 48-3 (with an undefeated 15-0 season his sophomore year). Juan's only dual meet losses after one in a freshman year in which he had only three varsity matches was a 14-13 loss his junior year that he avenged at sections and a loss by illegal slam his senior year. He was also a two-time Christmas tournament champ; and a member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team his senior year. Juan had 57 overall falls (out of 88 matches), outdistancing all former Newport wrestlers up to 1985 by over 10 pins.

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

Alan Sweger and Dan Sneath also both graduated in 1985. Alan finished with a third place region/district medal and a section championship and runner-up finish. His overall record was 49-27 (40-17 his junior and senior seasons) and dual meet record 31-15 (25-8 his junior and senior seasons). Alan had 22 overall falls. Dan had an outstanding senior year with a Christmas tournament title, a section championship, and a third place finish at regions/districts to earn a trip to states. He ended with an overall record of 36-14-1 (26-4 his senior year) and a dual meet record of 23-9-1 (15-2 his senior year).

### 1985-86 through 1987-88

The 1985-86 through 1987-88 seasons did not have team dual meet success, but there were some good individual efforts. League records during this time were 4-4 in 1985-86, 4-4-2 in 1986-87, and 4-4 in 1987-88; and the overall dual meet records were 5-12, 7-9-2 and 7-9, respectively. Bart Campbell registered a 12-0-1 undefeated dual meet record in 1985-86 and was selected to the Patriot-News Big 12 AAA/AA all-star team. Bryon Wilson was given an honorable mention. The best postseason was had in 1986 when Bart won sections, Bryon and Mike Kline took seconds and the team placed third to very strong Susquenita and Juniata teams. Bart was a region/district runner-up, but fell at states to the eventual fourth place finisher. In 1987 Newport took fourth at sections with one champ (Jason Harvey) and a runner-up (Chris Noll). There were no section finalists in 1988. Dave Jones had a dual meet record of 13-3 during the 1987-88 season and led the squad in dual meet team points (52). Chris Davis was 12-3 in dual meets and tied Jones with team highs of five falls.

Bart Campbell graduated in 1986 with region/district runner-up and third-place medals to accompany two section titles and a runner-up finish. He joined a short list of Newport wrestlers who had qualified for at least two state tournaments. His overall record was 64-10-3 and his dual meet record an excellent 40-1-3 (with undefeated 16-0-1 and 12-0-1 seasons his junior and senior years to go along with a 12-1-1 record his sophomore year). Bart was a two-time member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team and a Christmas tournament champ his senior year. He had 42 overall falls.

Bryon Wilson also graduated in 1986 with a region/district runner-up trophy to his credit along with advancement to four section finals, including one title and three runner-up finishes. His overall record was 62-27-1 (32-9-1 his last two seasons) and his dual meet record 38-14-1 (22-2-1 his junior and senior years with seasons of 11-1 and 10-1-1 respectively). Bryon received an honorable mention for the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team his senior year and finished with 23 overall falls.

Mike Kline graduated in 1987 with three section runner-up finishes. His overall record was 59-32-5 (51-20-3 his final three seasons) and his dual meet record 42-17-5 (37-9-3 his sophomore through senior years with a final season of 13-2-3). Mike was a rare four-time Tri-Valley League all-star.

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

The 1987-88 season was Coach Hockenbrock's last. His six-year stint included the molding of Newport's second state champ and an even dual meet record of 49-49. This ended the middle era of Newport's wrestling history when the team was coached by men who had wrestled for Newport or at least a local Tri-Valley League school.

### *Junior varsity*

The vitality of the junior varsity program continued unabated from the formative years into the second wave years. Tri-Valley championships were won in 1972-3 and 1973-4 with league records of 6-0 both seasons and overall records of 11-3 and 8-5-1 respectively. Successful seasons were recorded in 1974-75 and 1975-76 with league records of 8-1 and 7-2 and overall records of 8-6 and 11-3 respectively.

Newport dominated the Mid-Penn League when it competed there for two years, going 6-0 in 1976-7 and 5-0-1 in 1977-8. If a championship was recorded, the first would surely have been one and the second season likely a co-championship. The 1977-8 team had an overall record of 11-2-1 and the 1976-7 team was undefeated at 14-0 under the direction of Assistant Coach Ron Beers.

The junior varsity captured another championship in 1978-9 upon its return to the Tri-Valley League. Assistant Coach Steve Kuhn led the team to a perfect 10-0 league record and 12-3 overall slate. Five more winning seasons are recorded through the 1996-7 season, when it appears Newport ceased participating in junior varsity matches: 1980-1 (8-7 overall and 6-3 in the league); 1981-2 (8-5 and 8-1 for league runner-up honors); 1983-4 (7-7 and 6-1 for a co-league championship); 1986-7 (9-4 and 5-2); and 1988-9 (4-2 in the league).

Jeff Bilger, who had first coached the 1969-70 season, continued as assistant coach through 1974-5. Ron Beers coached the team from 1975-6 through 1977-8 and again in 1987-8. Steve Kuhn picked up coaching duties for 1978-9; then Dale Harper was coach in 1979-80 and 1980-1. Earl Heisey took the reins in 1981-2 before Ken Schaeffer coached the 1982-3, 1983-4 and 1984-5 teams, returning again for the 1988-89 season. Tom Ashby led the 1985-6 and 1986-7 teams.

### *Christmas and other in-season tournaments*

Newport participated in a series of Christmas tournaments during these second wave years before establishing its own holiday tournament in the mid-1980s. The team stayed with the Boiling Springs tournament through the 1975-76 season. Andy Zook took championships in 1972-73 and 1973-74, being named outstanding wrestler at his final tournament. Steve Rudy and Boyd Britcher joined Andy as champions at the 1973-74 tournament, where the team placed fourth of the eight teams. Boyd won another title at the tournament during the 1974-75 season.

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

During the 1975-76 through 1978-79 seasons Newport went to the four-team Bermudian Springs Holiday Tournament. In 1975-76 the team was runner-up with three champs (Jay Wilson, Kevin Smith and Rick Schmoyer). Three more champs were crowned in the 1976-77 tournament (Steve Barlup, Dave Bitting and Jay Wilson), but the team standings are not known (although Newport must have scored well because it also had four runner-ups and four third place finishers). The team won the 1977-78 tournament with three champs (Steve Barlup, Pat Curry and Ron Harris) to go along with four runner-ups and two third-place finishers. Newport also won its final Bermudian Springs tournament with four first place wrestlers (Rick Weller, Harry Dietz, Pat Curry and Todd Heisey), four runner-ups and four third places.

For three seasons starting in 1979-80 Newport entered the eight-team Carlisle Christmas Tournament. A third-place finish was accomplished in 1979-80 when three champions were crowned (Rick Weller, Steve Barlup and Scott Maxwell) to go with a runner-up and two third places. One first place trophy (Keith Mullen) and three third-place awards were taken home from the 1980-81 tournament, but only a runner-up and one third-place finisher were achieved at the final 1981-82 tournament.

During the 1982-83 season Newport started attending the Juniata Jaycees Holiday Tournament, which had nine teams that first year. Newport was runner-up with a champ (Mike Heisey), three seconds and two third-place finishers. The team took third place during the 1983-84 season with one champ (Juan Seiber), three runner-ups and three thirds. Juan won the award for the most falls in the least time. Newport took another third place at its final Juniata tournament during the 1984-85 season in which 11 teams participated. Juan won another title along with Dan Sneath. The team also had two runner-ups and a third place wrestler. Juan also won the fall award again; this time with three pins in only 4:19.

The first annual Newport holiday tournament, which has been held every year since to the present, was held during the 1985-86 season. There were 10 tens. Newport took fourth place with one champ (Bart Campbell) and two runner-ups. The team fell deep into the standings at the 1986 and 1987 tournaments during the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons, with only one wrestler in the finals each year.

In the early 1980s the team also participated in two other tournaments during the season that were either not during the holidays or not designated holiday tournaments. One champ (Harry Dietz) was crowned at the Montgomery tournament in the Philadelphia area early in the 1980-81 season. The Buffaloes had another finalist, but the team scores are not known. Newport attended a four-team tournament at Camp Hill in both 1980-81 and 1981-82. A second place finish was secured the second year, but team scores are not known for the first year. Two titles were won the first year (Mike Myers and Keith Mullen) along with three runner-ups. Three first place medals were taken the second year (Mike Myers, Mike Heisey and Ken Hostler) to go with three silver finishes. Newport dominated the junior varsity portion of the 1981-82 tournament with 10 in the finals and seven champions.

## **The Second Wave 1972-73 through 1987-88**

### Uniforms

The second wave years started with wrestlers still wearing tights for matches. The uniform consisted of a white top and bottom with an N on the front and blue tights. There were warmups with two white strips down the sleeves and pant legs. New, but similar, uniforms and warmups were purchased for the 1976-77 season. Blue singlets with a white N on the front came for the 1978-79 season. Tights became a thing of the past. New blue singlets with Newport in white on the front and white outlining around the pant legs and shoulders were purchased for the 1982-83 season.

### Rules

The major rule changes during the second wave period were discussed above - new weight classes and an expanded region and state tournament in 1972-73 and the creation of large and small school divisions and a further expansion of qualifiers for the state tournament in 1973-74. The 1973-74 season also saw the elimination of riding time. In 1974-75 the 250 pound weight limit in the heavyweight class was ended and in 1976-77 the rule for determining the winner in tournaments when the score was still tied after overtime was changed - a specific set of criteria was established, thereby eliminating the referee's decision unless the multi-step criteria failed to clearly identify a winner. The following changes were also made to the state tournament: official team scoring was initiated in 1976; an outstanding wrestler was first named in 1977; fifth and sixth place winners were first named in 1981; and the consolation brackets were expanded progressively in 1981, 1982 and finally in 1987 to establish full wrestle-backs. Official team scoring was initiated at the District 3/south central region tournament in 1981.

### Future college wrestlers

Numerous wrestlers from the second wave era went on to wrestle in college in addition to Andy Zook ('74; Millersville) discussed at length above. They included: Steve Rudy ('74; Steven's Trade); Dennis Ehrhart ('74; Shippensburg); Boyd Britcher ('75; Steven's Trade); Jay Wilson ('77; Steven's Trade); Todd Heisey ('79; Elizabethtown); Steve Barlup ('80; Shippensburg); Rick Weller ('80; Shippensburg); Juan Seiber ('85; Shippensburg); and Bart Campbell ('86; Delaware Valley).

### Future coaches

I'm not aware of any Newport wrestlers who graduated during the second wave who moved on to become head coaches or referees, but several were or are assistant or junior high coaches. Andy Zook ('74) was an assistant coach in New Jersey for a couple of years and Al Kline ('81) was a junior high coach at Lewisburg. Steve Rudy ('74), Rick Weller ('80), Corey Bell ('82), Dave Clay ('84), Bart Campbell ('86) and Mike Kline ('87) have all brought their

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skills to bear at Newport. In fact, Bart has been the junior high coach from 2004-05 through the present, with the assistance of Dave Clay since the 2015-16 season.