



## 2000 STATE EDITOR OF THE YEAR

# BOB MAULDIN

### NORTH CAROLINA

In 1958, during his sophomore year at Appalachian State Teachers College, now Appalachian State University, Bob Mauldin became interested in amateur wrestling. The only exposure Bob had prior to college was during his eighth grade physical education class. Preparing to teach physical education, history and coach, he asked Coach "Red" Watkins about becoming a manager for the college wrestling team.

Cleaning mats, washing practice gear and uniforms allowed him to be in the wrestling practice room learning from Coach Watkins and the following year from Coach Joe Edminston. It was during his second season that wrestling took hold. The opportunity to attend the NAIA Nationals at Lock Haven and observe Lock Haven's Grey Simons wrestle somehow ignited the fire that wrestling was really a great sport. Practice teaching came during the following season where he was able to teach wrestling in physical education classes at the junior high level utilizing skills picked up in the wrestling room.

Upon graduation, Bob took a job as head wrestling coach, assistant football and track coach at A. L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, NC. Thanks to wrestling, Bob was in the right place at the right time. During his first season, twelve would-be wrestlers showed up for practice. Coaching and working with jr. high classes helped the high school team to grow to over 40 participants each year during the next seven years.



The wrestling teams in the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association were all pretty good. However, none of the coaches knew much about each other until they met prior to a match. Bob suggested to the 16 coaches in his association to send him information and chip in a dollar and he would mail out a newsletter. The first *NC MAT NEWS* was mailed in 1968 and was the "blue ditto" type. To make future newsletters more informative, Bob spent many hours in the Kannapolis *DAILY INDEPENDENT* sports department and the local library gathering information from out-of-town newspapers. Coaches were beginning to send more team results and the number of mailouts increased. During the 1974 season the newsletter was sent to coaching friends in other areas of the state to see if they would be interested in receiving *NC MAT NEWS*. Many responded with donations and information and the publication began to grow.

*NC MAT NEWS* became a family affair. Bob, his wife Donna, and two children, Jill and Alex would collate, staple, stamp, and label each issue for mailing. Since those early days, Bob is quick to say that without the support of his family he would never have been able to keep *NC MAT NEWS* going.

After seven years of coaching, Bob was awarded an Experienced Teacher Fellowship to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee where he gained his school administration degree. He served as a principal in the Kannapolis City Schools for 24 years and retired in 1998.