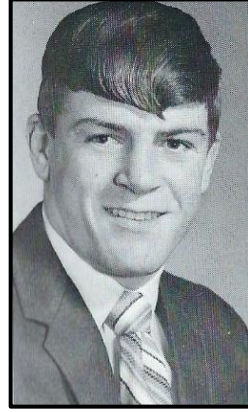


Lanny Davidson Class of 1971
Ephrata Alumni Association Noted Alumni



While attending Ephrata High School Lanny Davidson was a member of the Tiger's wrestling teams. His senior year the wrestlers defeated Moses Lake for the first time in years, won the school's sixth league championship and presented Coach Chuck Panerio with the 100th win of his career.

In two years of varsity wrestling Lanny was 31 wins, seven losses, one tie. Going into the 1971 State tournament his senior year he was 19-0. Because of injury he did not perform to expectations and finished the season 20-2.

Eastern Washington College wrestling coach Curt Byrnes approached Lanny with his belief that he could make Lanny a national champion. That is how a farm kid from Ephrata, Washington would come to win three individual titles and one national team title.

After graduating from Ephrata High School, Lanny:

- Enrolled at Eastern Washington College (now EWU); receiving a degree in 1977. During his career as an Eagle, wrestled to 158 wins (78 pins) and six losses.
- Participated in National Association Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championships; second in 1974 and championships in 1975, 1976, 1977. Member of team placing 2nd in 1976 and winning championship in 1977. Named "Outstanding Wrestler" at 1975 tournament.
- Wrestled internationally, defeating Olympic and World Champions. Was on track to compete in 1980 Olympics when President Carter boycotted the competition to protest Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
- Coached wrestling at Whitworth University, Iowa, Louisiana State University, and Oklahoma; producing 67 All-Americans and 14 National Champions.
- Earned Masters and Doctorate degrees during his coaching years. Later served as a public-school teacher, coach, principal, and school superintendent.
- Was recognized for wrestling accomplishments: NCW Sports Award (1975, 1976, 1977), NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame (1982), EWU Sports Hall of Fame (1996), and Inland Empire Sports Hall of Fame (2015).



Eastern Washington College
National Wrestling Champion
Lanny Davidson
Class of 1977

Google: Lanny Davidson interview



Inland Sports Hall of Fame Inductees – 2015. Lanny Davidson, who finished his collegiate career record of 159-6, including 78 pins as a 177-pound wrestler, said he hated losing so much that he never made it home with a second-place trophy. “It went into the closest trash can I could find,” he said. “I don’t feel like I’m worthy to be in this group, but I’ll take it.” (Lanny back row, 2nd left)



Eastern won the 1977 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) wrestling championship, representing the school's first national championship at any level and the only team championship at the NAIA level. Eastern was coached by Curt Byrnes and led by the event's "Outstanding Wrestler," Mike Reed (pictured), and three-time national champion Lanny Davidson. Reed won the 158-pound title and Davidson was the 177-pound champ as both earned All-America honors. Heavyweight Don Wilson and 118-pound Ken Foss were also All-Americans with runner-up finishes. Eastern hosted the event, and edged second-place Grand Valley by 1 3/4 points. The margin

probably would have been more if it wasn't for a tournament-ending injury by Jerry Lorton at 126 pounds. Lorton was selected as the Outstanding Wrestler in the Evergreen Conference Championships and was an All-American the year before. Other wrestlers competing at the NAIA Championships were Manual Brown (134 pounds), Al Spaulding (150), Kirk Greer (142), Jerry Allen (167).