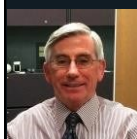




# Army West Point Wrestling

## ALUMNI QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



### From the Editor in Chief

By LTC (R) Larry Baltezare '72

**Greetings, fellow alumni, and welcome to the next edition of the Army West Point Wrestling Alumni Newsletter!** We have more exciting news and great articles to share with you. The first thing to note is wrestling alumni **Mike Nardotti '69** and **Trevor Erney '89** have been selected for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**Army wrestling is on the move!** See what Coach Nickerson has to say about his team after their first competition and meet our new assistant Coach Alan Clothier. Find out what the West Point Wrestling Club and RTC have accomplished and hear what it was like for Coach Green to guide USA's U20 Team to a World Freestyle Championship. Meet the members of the Women's Wrestling Club.

Finally learn about what some of our Wrestling Alumni Will Webb '72 and Jon Anderson '06 have been up to along with some news items about other alumni.

We hope you enjoy reading this publication as we continue to strengthen the Army Wrestling brotherhood and keep our wrestling community informed and connected.

*LTC (R) Larry Baltezare '72 Editor-in-Chief*

*Army West Point Alumni Newsletter*

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### Do you have Alumni Related News To Share?

Please send contributions to:

[Alumni.newsletter@westpointwrestlingclub.org](mailto:Alumni.newsletter@westpointwrestlingclub.org)



## Coaches Corner

By Class Of 1972 Head Men's Wrestling Coach Troy Nickerson

Hello to All You Army Wrestling Fans!

It is November and we are officially in Wrestling Season! This past weekend, we opened at the Princeton Open and found great success! We brought an Army, 44 Cadet-Athletes, with us and I feel like they represented America's Team well. Heading into the event, I felt like we were in a good spot, however, until you compete against someone else, you never really know. Overall, I feel like we wrestled hard and competed aggressively. We have a laundry list of things to improve on which is good as we are just starting this journey together. Below are some highlights of the opening weekend.

### Princeton Open

117lbs- Clare Booe (Army's first Women's Wrestling Team member) dominated the women's competition at her weight class in her first competition as a Cadet, surrendering zero points and winning all her matches via technical fall. This Plebe has a very bright future ahead of her.

157lbs- Speaking of freshmen, Joe Antonio and Kellen Smith dominated the competition leading to an All-Army final at 157lbs. The future is bright for these youngsters.

165lbs- Gunner Filipowicz won his third consecutive Princeton Open Championship by defeating #15 Ty Whalen of Princeton in the finals.

285lbs- Brady Colbert finished on the top of the podium, however, we were able to have 3 out of the 4 semi-finalists be Cadets. This is another deep weight for us that I am excited about.

In total, we ended the event with 4 Champions and 16 other place winners.

### Two Home events In November!

On Sunday, November 16th we will host the Black Knight Open in Christl Arena followed by the following Sunday, November 23rd, when we host the Black Knight Invitational. This will be your first opportunity to see us at home this season and I encourage you to attend! Season Tickets are still available! GO Army!

Troy Nickerson  
Class of 1972, Head Wrestling Coach  
Army West Point

BHAW!

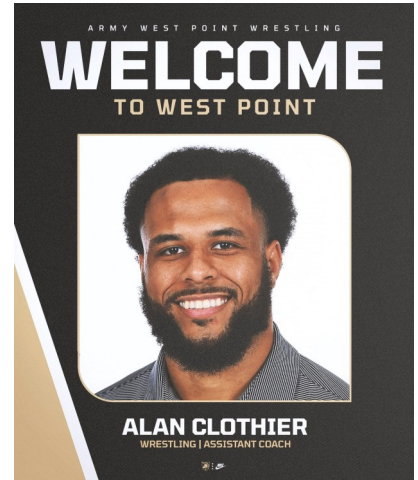
## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ARMY'S NEW ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH ALAN CLOTHIER

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

Head Army Wrestling Coach Troy Nickerson announced in July the hiring of Alan Clothier as Army's new Assistant Wrestling Coach. We were fortunate recently to be able to catch up with and interview Coach Clothier.

*EB:* Coach Clothier, I know I represent the entire Army Wrestling Family in welcoming you to West Point and wishing you the best of luck as you contribute to the success of America's team! Thank you for taking the time to talk with us today and let our readers know a little bit more about you.

*AC:* It is a blessing to come coach at Army West Point and I am extremely excited to be here. I look forward to helping contribute to the further development and success of our Army wrestlers and team.



*EB:* Awesome! I am sure the environment at West Point is somewhat different for you compared with your prior experiences at other colleges. Are you getting "settled in" OK?

*AC:* Absolutely. Everybody has been so kind and helpful to me. Our coaching staff is great. The cadets are extraordinary! I love working with them. I admit I do not have a handle yet on all the military lingo and abbreviations. However, I am getting better with it! I am living in Highland Falls right outside the front gate and that is very convenient and helpful.

*EB:* Coach, you have an impressive resume. As a wrestler, you have had a very successful career. In high school you were a multi time state champion and an All American. In college at Appalachian State and then the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), you were a four time National Qualifier. You were also a three time Division 1 Scholar All American. You have both B.A. and M.A. college degrees. So, let's go to the beginning. Where are you from and how old were you when you started to wrestle?

*AC:* I am from Lawrence, Kansas which is near Kansas City, Kansas. I have a brother 6 years older than me who went out for our middle school basketball team. He got cut so he switched to trying out for wrestling. I went to his first wrestling competition and I just loved it (more than my brother did!) I was 8 years old.

*EB:* Thank God for older brothers who wrestled! Did you have much success early in your career?

*AC:* Not too much at the beginning. I was still playing a lot of football (QB) and baseball (Outfield). My first year in the Junior Open Division, I made it to States. However, I went 0-2 at States and that really bothered me. It prompted me to really start taking the sport seriously and I started to work harder and I then did a lot better.

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## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ARMY'S NEW ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH ALAN CLOTHIER (cont'd)

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

*EB:* When did you decide you wanted to coach wrestling?

*AC:* Early in my college career while I was still at Appalachian State. So many coaches in my career helped me tremendously and I really appreciated it. I wanted to give back to other wrestlers and to the sport. Again, I love wrestling.

*EB:* Please tell us about your prior coaching experience.



Coach Clothier victorious in college competition.

*AC:* While still in college and wrestling at Northern Colorado (Coach Nickerson was my Head coach there), I volunteered one year as an assistant wrestling coach at a high school in Greeley, Colorado. After graduation, I spent 2 years helping coach at the University of Buffalo in the Mid Atlantic Conference (MAC). While there, one of the upper weight wrestlers I was helping coach went from not doing well prior to my arrival to becoming a national qualifier the first year I coached him. That is extremely satisfying to a coach, let alone to the wrestler himself. I then spent last year being an Assistant Coach at Davidson College (in the Southern Conference) in North Carolina working under Coach Nate Carr, Jr. At both schools, I worked primarily with the heavier weights (174 lbs. – HWT.)

*EB:* Can you comment on some of the differences between wrestling and coaching?

*AC:* The major thing is that my experience as a wrestler definitely helps make me a better coach. Not just about teaching technique (which of course is so important). I remember things like being nervous before a match and other experiences that enable me to relate to and help the wrestlers I coach.

*EB:* Please tell us how you wound up coming to West Point.

*AC:* Again, I had met Coach Nickerson while I was an undergraduate. I told him I would love to coach and he recommended I initially get experience at other schools. That led to me working first at Buffalo and then Davidson. I enjoyed my experiences at both schools as a Full Time Assistant Coach. However, when I heard that there was an opening at West Point and Coach Troy was the Head Coach, I jumped at the opportunity.

## **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ARMY'S NEW ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH ALAN CLOTHIER (cont'd)**

**By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72**

*EB:* Was there anything in particular that attracted you to West Point?

*AC:* In addition to the wrestling situation, there was a lot that attracted me to coming to the Academy. I just love the entire "accountability" culture of the institution. I want to be part of this system that helps develop wrestlers not only into champion athletes but also into future outstanding officers, citizens, fathers, and husbands. At Army, I know we will have athletes that buy into "the program" to include studying and doing what is "Right." They look me in the eye when we shake hands. I love it.

*EB:* Nice! Coach, the Army Wrestling Team mantra is BHAW for BROTHERHOOD, HEART, ATTITUDE, WARRIOR. Would you please comment on it?

*AC:* BHAW is another thing I love about being here. BHAW helps "ground" the team. It is something special. If one guy is having a hard time, he can lean on his brother. It is like a closeknit family. Because of their bond, they will fight for each other until the end. It really helps.

*EB:* At this time, what are your primary responsibilities with the wrestling team?

*AC:* I primarily work with the student athletes to help them achieve their goals and have success as individuals and as a team. I follow the leadership and direction of Coach Nickerson and Coach Green to do whatever I can to help the team. Whether that means wrestling with the guys, reviewing their technique, getting them whatever they need, spending time with them, or whatever else I can do for them. Our coaching staff is very organized and I am presently again working primarily with the upper weights (174-HWT). However, I am eager to help any members of the team at any time in any way that I can.

*EB:* What are your personal goals for yourself as well as for the team?

*AC:* On a personal level, I want to become better as a coach. I believe I grew from each of my prior coaching experiences. I now truly appreciate all the members of our Army Coaching Staff and I learn from each of them. Obviously the better I can be as a coach, the more it will help our wrestlers achieve their individual goals as well as the goals of the team. To help foster this, I want to develop my personal relationship with each of the wrestlers. I want them to know I "have their back" when I am sitting in the corner for them. That helps wrestlers. I want every Army wrestler to get better every day. Success as individual wrestlers will result in the success of the Army team.

*EB:* What is your impression of the team so far?



## **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ARMY'S NEW ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH ALAN CLOTHIER (cont'd)**

**By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72**

*AC:* It is a very good team. They are good wrestlers. They love to wrestle. They care about wrestling. They are also very good guys. They also care about academics and the military side of things. Off the mat, they are so very respectful. Believe me, it is not always like that at other schools. It is very refreshing and I enjoy being around them. I anticipate a very good year.

*EB:* Coach Nickerson and the entire Army Coaching Staff frequently mention the importance of recruiting. Are you involved with this aspect of coaching yet?

*AC:* A little but not too much yet. This will probably increase as I get to know better "the lay of the land." Recruiting is definitely so very important to any college team these days. I love to build relationships.

*EB:* Is there anybody you would like to mention who has helped your wrestling career in the past?

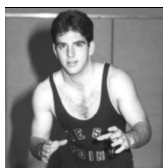
*AC:* As I mentioned before, I have truly been blessed by all of my coaches. I am so thankful to them as well as all others who have helped me along my journey. However, if I had to mention the one person who had the most effect on my career, it would have to be my mother.

When I was a youth, my town did not have a wrestling club. As a result, my mother would always (at my request) be driving me all over the place (including on occasion to different states!) so that I was able to follow my dream and get better at our sport. She really took care of me.

*EB:* Thank you Lord for our mothers!

*EB:* Coach Clothier, thank you again for spending some time with us today and letting our readers know more about you. Good luck to you here at West Point and God Bless you.

*AC:* It was a pleasure. Thank you.



## West Point Wrestling Club and Regional Training Center News

By LTC (R ) Todd Messitt '87

The fall semester kickoff event was the 15th Annual Golf Scramble Presented by Spartan Combat and Decisive Point where 150 alumni, family and friends gathered at the West Point Golf Course to Engage, Connect and Support West Point Wrestling (Full Recap). The event included on-course games, raffles and an online auction. The 2025 Scramble was one of our most successful ever, earning over \$45,000 to support our athletes. To put that in perspective, \$45,000 will send contingents to compete at the U20 Nationals, and our week-long training camp to Ithaca. Thank you to our supporters who made this possible.

Members of the club were busy competing in international and national level competition with some impressive results.

### 2025 Junior Pan Am Games:

Lucas Stoddard continued piling on the GOLD medals with his third international championship. Charlie Farmer had a tremendous tournament losing a close 6-4 match in the finals for the SILVER medal.

### 2025 Bill Farrell Memorial International (competition) :

The 2025 Bill Farrell Memorial International, **scheduled for November 7-8, 2025** is a prestigious wrestling competition hosted by the New York Athletic Club. This annual event is sanctioned by the United World Wrestling (UWW). Competitors from around the world are expected to participate. The top 4 USA athletes at each weight qualify for the 2026 World Team Trials. Lucas Stoddard ('27), Arvin Khosravy ('29) and Clare Booe ('29) will represent the club at this prestigious international competition. Joe Couch ('26) was the lone American Champion last year and we plan to grow our Champions list.

### WPWC Camp and RTC Clinics:

The RTC conducted a Women's wrestling clinic with the RTC Staff and guest clinicians that included World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) National Coach Nate Engel and our very own WCAP Athlete Vayle Baker. Attendees included local girls' clubs and the newly minted Cadet Women's Wrestling Club. On October 26th, the Club conducted the Fall Kickoff Clinic for 74 youth and high school level wrestlers. The clinic provided technique lessons for the wrestlers and coaches and a separate coach developmental session.

### 2026 NCAA Social

Black Ops Destruction will sponsor a social for Army Wrestling Alumni, Coaches, and Army Fans attending the NCAA 2026 Wrestling Championships in Cleveland Ohio. The social will be held on Friday, March 20th at The Cleveland. Stay tuned for details and signup after the holidays. Thank you to Matt Marzulo ('03)/ Black Ops Destruction.

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## West Point Wrestling Club News (cont'd)

By LTC (R ) Todd Messitt '87

In our quest for excellence, the WPWC and Regional Training Center recently added the following accomplished coaches and support staff to provide exceptional training and competition experiences for our wrestlers.

- Coach Khalid Dassan/KD Training Center
- Coach Joe Uccellini
- Coach Tommy Askey
- Strength and Conditioning Coach Jordan Robison Sports Recovery Specialist Daniel Greenfield/Nordic Recovery

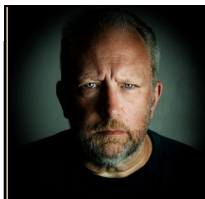
You can find their bios here. <https://www.westpointwrestlingclub.org/staff/>

Thank you to the supporters who donated over 100 Army Wrestling season tickets so we can Pack the



House! The WPWC will distribute the tickets to local teams and clubs and build a rabid cheering section for





## Coach Green Leads U20 USA Team To 2025 World Championship Victory

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

Army Associate Head Wrestling Coach Scott Green was honored this year by being selected to coach our National U20 Men's Freestyle Wrestling team. Coach Green led our team to victory in the UWW U20 World Championships August 17-24 in Samokov, Bulgaria. With 45 nations participating, Team USA set a new record by winning 5 gold medals, the most of any single U20/Junior World Championships team in history. The team also won a silver and 2 bronze medals to garner a total of 8 medals in the 10 weight classes, a truly outstanding performance. We were recently able to catch up with Coach Green and discuss his experience with Freestyle and USA Wrestling and the U20 World Championships.

**EB:** Coach, thank you so very much for making the time to be interviewed about your involvement with Freestyle and USA Wrestling and the recent U20 World Championships where our USA Team that you coached truly put on a tremendous performance.



**SG:** Yes, the guys really did great. I am glad to be here.

**EB:** Coach Green, how long have you been coaching Freestyle Wrestling?

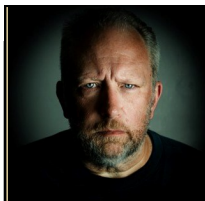
**SG:** I started coaching Freestyle (FS) and Greco (GR) in 1990. I actually coached our current Head Coach Troy Nickerson when he was a youth, primarily in Freestyle and Greco.

**EB:** Would you comment on how different it is to coach Freestyle compared to Folkstyle (College) wrestling?

**SG:** Freestyle focuses primarily on back exposure and action. Folkstyle rewards control of your opponent. I like coaching both.

**EB:** How difficult do you believe it is for our Folkstyle wrestlers to adapt well to Freestyle?

**SG:** These days the rules for the two are pretty similar, so the transition is pretty easy. Most Americans have a pretty similar background in FS and GR so our athletes can compete. When we get to international competition against wrestlers who have only done FS and GR their entire lives, the learning curve is steeper.



## Coach Green Leads U20 USA Team To 2025 World Championship Victory (cont'd)

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

**EB:** How long have you been involved with USA Wrestling and how did the involvement come about?

**SG:** As I said before, I started coaching international style wrestling in about 1990. Most of the offseason opportunities during that time were in international styles through USAW (USA Wrestling) and I wanted the athletes I was coaching at the time to have the most opportunities.

**EB:** You were selected this year to be the Freestyle Coach of our country's Under 20 Team to compete in the World Championships in Bulgaria. How did this selection come about?

**SG:** I am in the coaching pool for USAW and they choose the coaches for international events. I have had several assignments over the years which have taken me to a lot of different places. This year I was picked by the national team staff to coach the U20 team to compete in Bulgaria.

**EB:** Recognizing that members of our USA Team come from different parts of the country, how did you communicate with the wrestlers and prepare them from a training perspective?

**SG:** The wrestling community is very connected. Two of the athletes on the team have spent time at our RTC and I have been in their club and HS rooms. There also are developmental camps in Colorado at the Olympic Training Center (OTC). Our own West Point RTC athletes have taken advantage of these opportunities.

**EB:** What were the logistics in actually getting the team together and traveling to Samakov, Bulgaria? How long were you in Bulgaria prior to the tournament beginning?

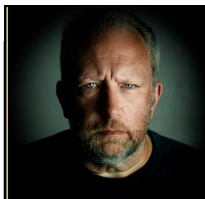
**SG:** Everyone flew from their home airports to Sofia which is the capital of Bulgaria. We then went to Samakov which is a little over an hour by car from Sofia. We then had a four day acclimation camp in Samakov prior to the start of the tourney which enabled us to prepare for competition.

**EB:** Is "time change" an issue for the wrestlers?

**SG:** After the first 24 hours you are usually shifted back to a normal sleep schedule. It can be an issue sometimes for inexperienced travelers, but usually the wrestlers straighten themselves out prior to competing.



Coach Green (left) with the USA U20 Freestyle World Championship Team



## **Coach Green Leads U20 USA Team To 2025 World Championship Victory (cont'd)**

**By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72**

*EB:* Your USA U20 Freestyle Team decisively won the World Freestyle Championship. Congratulations again! Who were some of your toughest opponents?

*SG:* Iran is always a challenge. They have a great system that produces results (editor note: Iran did win the 2025 UWW Senior World Wrestling Championships Sept 13-21 in Croatia with the USA finishing second.). Russia is very tough but currently is not allowed to compete as a nation (due to the Ukraine War) but they compete under the UWW banner. Also, many of their wrestlers have transferred to other countries and compete for their “new” countries. I have also been impressed with the development of Kazakhstan.

*EB:* What do you believe were some of the key factors that enabled our team to perform so well?

*SG:* Good old fashioned American “grit.” Superior conditioning and hard wrestling won a lot of close matches for us.

*EB:* I would add great coaching also played a role! Were there any interesting “back stories” associated with the World Championships that you might be able to share with our readers?

*SG:* PJ Duke is a local kid from Minisink Valley who has been in our room on a regular basis. As a recent HS graduate, he surprised many people by winning a Gold Medal at 70 KG. I coached his sister Abby at Wyoming Seminary and I know the family very well. After all these years, it was cool to be in his corner during his title match.

*EB:* Is there perhaps one thing that you will remember most from this year’s World Championships experience?

*SG:* Bulgaria was very nice. We stayed at a ski resort. It had a very Lake Placid “feel.” It is always a special moment when they play the National Anthem when one of our guys wins the tournament. That has always stuck with me from these trips, but perhaps more so now that I coach at West Point.

*EB:* Have you had other opportunities to Coach with USA Wrestling and, if so, did that help you prepare for this year’s challenge?

*SG:* I have coached US teams in Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Hungary, The Netherlands, Cuba, Canada and a few other countries that I am sure I am forgetting. All these experiences add up and hopefully I was able to use them to contribute to the effort in some small way.

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## **Coach Green Leads U20 USA Team To 2025 World Championship Victory (cont'd)**

**By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72**

*EB:* Army wrestlers Lucas Stoddard and Chuck Farmer have both excelled in Freestyle wrestling winning the Pan Am Championships last year and doing well at the U23 National Tournament. Sophia Macaluso (Women FS) and Joe Couch (GR) have also excelled. They all attribute much of their success to you. Do you encourage Army West Point wrestlers to wrestle FS or GR during the “off season?”

*SG:* Yes. We want our athletes to strive to represent our country in FR and GR and eventually move into the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). I hope many more earn the chance to carry the American flag around the mat at a Pan Am or World event.

*EB:* Awesome. Thank you again Coach Green. This has been great and I know our readers truly appreciate your comments and leadership.

*SG:* It has been a pleasure. Call me anytime. Thank you.

## **Locker Naming Opportunities**

### **Sponsor a locker in the Army Wrestling room**

- Show your support to the next generation of Army Wrestlers
- Celebrate your connection to the team and its storied tradition
- Mark your locker with a personalized locker dedication

### **Reserve your locker now**

- 30 lockers available
- Naming rights secured with a \$10,000 donation
- Individual and group options are available

Interested parties should contact either Andrew Sahawneh for additional information  
[Andrew.sahawneh@wpaog.org](mailto:Andrew.sahawneh@wpaog.org) | 845-240-5644 or Jalen Sharp [Jalen.Sharp@wpaog.org](mailto:Jalen.Sharp@wpaog.org)  
| 214-673-8445





# West Point Women’s Wrestling Club News

By LTC Vijay Navarro

The new Women’s Wrestling Club under the Directorate of Cadet Activities structure is pleased to introduce the following wrestlers. Each contributes to a varied athletic, scholastic, and military foundation of the club overall. Aside from the time on the mat, the women are establishing their seasonal training routine and collaborating with other DCA clubs and other collegiate programs in the region. The club has an exciting plan for the rest of the season and academic year, including multiple competitions to include the Princeton Open, joint training sessions with Columbia University and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and outreach to alumni and community supporters.



## Lorelai Megery, ‘28

Major: Environmental Engineering  
Regional Studies-Arabic Minor  
Intended Branch: Engineers

Lorelai has always loved playing sports; even in her free time she would go outside with her siblings



to explore and learn new games. From 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she ran cross country, and by the time she started high school she wanted to

try something new. She joined the Women’s Rugby Team her rugby teammates convinced her to try out for the Women’s Wrestling Team. At first she was hesitant, but after her first practice she was hooked. She has now been wrestling for four years. She was selected as an Academic All-American and Academic All-Ohio both years of wrestling. She is a 2x State Qualifier at 100 lbs with a 43-13 record by senior year. While she is very proud of her high school accomplishments, her favorite wrestling accomplishment is co-founding the Army Women’s Wrestling Club.



## Katelyn Guth, ‘28

Major: Operations Research  
Intended Branch: Field Artillery

Kat wrestled four years in high school in the state of Missouri. She was a 2x qualifier 1x State placer at 125 lbs. Named as an All-American scholar, received academic all-state recognition, and was selected for the first teams for all-district and all-

conference. She was part of the championship team for the 2024 Missouri High School Team State Championships.







## West Point Women's Wrestling Club News (cont'd)

By LTC Vijay Navarro



### Huijing Quan, '27

Major: Chinese

Intended Branch: Military Intelligence or Medical Corps

Huijing is new to the club and while she does not have prior experience in wrestling, she has combative sports experience in kickboxing, taekwondo, and Judo. She also had prior Army service before arriving to USMA.



### Sumaiya Aamoud, '29

Intended Major: International Affairs or International History

Intended Branch: Military Intelligence

This will be Sumaiya's 5th year wrestling. She is a prior North Carolina State Champion, Super32 All-American, National dual team member.



### Emma Blackwell, '29

Intended Major: Aerospace Engineering

Intended Branch: Aviation

From a young age, Emma dreamed of competing in a combat sport, where she could test her skills and become stronger. She joined her high school wrestling team her freshman year and was the only girl on the team. Getting through that first year without much support proved difficult and she did not finish that season. A year later, a good friend of hers, a triple crown wrestler in freestyle, folkstyle, and Greco-



Roman, reached out and encouraged her to give wrestling another chance. She did, and through hard work and supportive coaching, she won the regional championship and earned a chance to compete at the first ever Women's Wrestling State Championships in North Carolina. It was a pivotal moment in her life, leading to earning the 2024 Coach's Award for her high school and the honor of serving as team captain her senior year. She is ecstatic to be a part of the new and growing West Point Women's Wrestling Club.

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## West Point Women's Wrestling Club News (cont'd)

By LTC Vijay Navarro

### Leilani Ramos, '29

Intended Major: International Affairs

Intended Branch: Logistics and later on transfer to Civil Affairs.

Leilani has six years of wrestling experience in Pennsylvania. She placed at Powerade three times, Iron-woman once, and PIAA State Championships once.



### Lauren Osborn, '28

Major: International History  
with a Regional Studies-Europe (German) minor

Lauren recalls being a spiteful 12-year-old after being told the team was boys only. She would go on to wrestling in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and all four years in high school. In her sophomore year, she made the decision to expand her dedication to the sport and train seriously in the off season. Some of her wrestling highlights include: wrestling at Fargo, making it to the State



tournament her senior year, and running a girls wrestling camp for youth in her hometown. She has won several high school tournaments and received one wrestling-related scholarship. She is currently on the Dean's list and recently earned her Air Assault tab.



### Irene Megill, '28

Intended Branch: Infantry

Major: War Studies

Irene has enjoyed Army Combatives ever since she was introduced to it in Beast. This is what sparked her interest in starting wrestling this semester.





# West Point Women’s Wrestling Club News (cont’d)

By LTC Vijay Navarro



## Bridgett Walters, ‘28

Intended Branch: Aviation

Major: Environmental Science (hopes to double major with German)

Bridgett is on the West Point Combatives team and was interested in the wrestling aspects of that sport. She wanted to learn more and subsequently started

wrestling this year. She is therefore new to the sport, but is excited to learn and improve.



## - TUNE IN TO BHAW ARMY WRESTLING RADIO SHOW -

All Things Army Wrestling—Interviews, Match Recaps, Catchups with Old Grads

Available on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcast, and Facebook

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In accordance with IRS regulations this will serve as notice that West Point® Wrestling Club is an approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Tax ID# 45-0824988.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### LTC JON ANDERSON '06: STILL SERVING, STILL WRESTLING, STILL BHAW!

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

LTC Jon Anderson USMA '06 is a former Army Wrestler with an outstanding military and wrestling career. He is presently serving as the Tactical Battalion Commander of the 1-26 ("Blue Spaders"), 101st Airborne Division. He and his Unit have been deployed in Europe since March of this year with responsibilities in Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, and now Germany. We were recently very fortunate to be able to obtain a phone interview with the Battalion CO.

*EB:* Sir, I know you and your battalion are extremely busy. Thank you so much for taking the time to let our readers know a little bit about you and your great career.

*JA:* It is my pleasure.

*EB:* Colonel, please tell us about when you started to wrestle and how you entered West Point.

*JA:* I was a very "late starter" in wrestling as I was an "Army brat" and we moved a lot and my school never really had a wrestling team until I moved to Virginia in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There I went out for the football team. I weighed less than 110 lbs. The football coach was insightful and told me that he liked my desire and attitude but that I should go out for wrestling instead. I thankfully took his advice. I got "beat up" that year but I made varsity as a junior. As a senior I finished runner up at our state meet at 112 lbs. I wanted to go to West Point so I wrote a letter to Army Head Coach Chuck Barbee and told him of my aspiration to be an Olympic wrestling champion. Coach Barbee helped me get admitted.

*EB:* How did you do in wrestling at West Point?

*JA:* As a Plebe, I started at 125 lbs but hurt my knee before the Easterns. I suffered another knee injury the end of my yearling year. I also grew 5 inches while at the Academy. During my Firstie year I started at 165 lbs. and took 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Easterns. I loved West Point as I grew not only physically but emotionally, intellectually and spiritually as well.

*EB:* Please tell us about your military career during your first few years after graduation.

*JA:* I branched out (and still am) Infantry! I first went to IOBC and then was a graduate assistant at West Point and coached the Prep School Wrestling Team for about 6 months. I then went to Ranger School and then served as a Platoon Leader. I went to Iraq in 2009 as a Company Executive Officer. I then served as a Company Commander from 2010 to 2012.



Jon in action against Navy

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### LTC JON ANDERSON '06: STILL SERVING, STILL WRESTLING, STILL BHAW! (cont'd)

By Staff Writer Eric Bantz '72

**EB:** Were you able to continue wrestling after graduation?

**JA:** Definitely. Throughout my entire military career, I have been participating in wrestling, Combatives, MMA, and/or Jiu Jitsu (primarily Brazilian). My wrestling has been primarily Greco and I have been coaching and instructing it on an almost continual basis. No matter where I have been, I have always managed to find or procure mats and "Get after it!" This included when I was in Iraq as well as when I was in Afghanistan in 2018. I was involved with Combatives in my first assignment. In Iraq, I learned a lot of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. These experiences and training led to my Greco involvement and again, to me wanting to be an "Olympic Champion."



Jon Anderson (1st row left side) with Combative Teammates



Pan Am Champion

I had some success with Greco. I was on the WCAP (The U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) for most of 2012-2017. I won the Pan Am Championships in 2014 and the Pan Am Games in 2015. I was a USA World Team member and won a silver medal in the World Military Greco Championships in 2014. While a major at West Point, I won the U.S. Open in 2019. I took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Olympic Trials so unfortunately, I did not become an Olympic Champ (not yet anyway!)

**EB:** Wow! That is an incredible career. Did your extensive involvement with wrestling after graduation hurt your career path in the military?

**JA:** No! I know that will surprise a lot of people. It actually may have enhanced my career path in the military.

**EB:** As a result, do you think that being an Army Wrestler has helped you in your Army career?

**JA:** Absolutely! The Army Wrestling mantra of BHAW (Brotherhood, Heart, Attitude, Warrior) is not just for wrestling but represents what a good officer should embody as well. I am proud that two of the outstanding platoon leaders in my battalion are former Army wrestlers (Sahm Abdulrazzaq '23 and Ben Sullivan '22).

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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*EB:* Would you like to recognize any people who have helped you in your career?

*JA:* Yes. I must start with my wonderful family. My beautiful wife Molly (a dyslexia therapist at Vanderbilt) and our 2 great sons (Theodore age 11 and MacArthur age 14) are such a blessing. Both Molly's and my parents were always so loving and supportive. My Battalion CO, COL Townley Hedrick (a former James Madison wrestler!) was great! Many others helped as well. I thank the Army for giving me so many opportunities to continue wrestling after graduation.

*EB:* Awesome! Would you like to say anything else to our readers?

*JA:* Yes. When I eventually retire from the Army, I would like to continue to try and live by my ideals I have had while in the service. Those are Faith, Family, and Professionalism.

*EB:* That is great sir. Thank you so very much for making time to allow our readers to know a little more about you. God bless you.



### COLONEL (R) WILLIAM WEBB '72: A SERVANT LEADER WITH A LIFE TIME OF SERVICE

By LTC (R) Larry Baltezare '72



Will Webb comes from a military family that is steeped in tradition of serving our country. His father Major General William L. Webb Jr '47 served with distinction which also included a two tours of duty at West Point first as a Professor of English Literature and later as Deputy Commandant of Cadets. His brother Colonel (R ) George Webb graduated with him in 1972 and both his sons and his son-in-law are USMA graduates ('03, '03, '13). He and his lovely wife currently reside in Seven Lakes North Carolina



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### COLONEL (R) WILLIAM WEBB '72: A SERVANT LEADER WITH A LIFE TIME OF SERVICE

By LTC (R) Larry Baltezore '72

Will Webb was an Army Wrestler 1968-1972, and OR/OIC of the Army Wrestling team 1983-1986 (both record setting teams). This former Army wrestler has spent 8 years in command of air and ground cavalry units. He served as a West Point professor and as the Legislative Director for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). His most fun and rewarding extra duty EVER was being OIC of the Army Wrestling Team.

COL(R) Webb was a White House Fellow in the Executive Office of President Ronald Reagan, has twice served as president of the WHFFA, and served as a WHF Presidential Commissioner for President George W. Bush. The President's Commission on White House Fellowships, founded in 1964, is the nation's premiere program for leadership and public



service. The White House Fellowship offers exceptional Americans first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. After a competitive application process, selected individuals spend a year in Washington, D.C. working as full-time, paid, non-partisan Fellows aiding Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellows make notable contributions during their year of service and continue to impact our communities, our country, and the world.

COL(R) William Webb just completed a term as President of the White House Fellowship Foundation and Association (WHFFA). In October, Will presided over a White House Fellows Annual Leadership Conference and 60th Anniversary Celebration. Highlights of the three day Washington, D.C. leadership conference were keynote addresses from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine (a former White House Fellow) and Senator Dave McCormick '87 (a former Army wrestler) and his wife Dina Powell McCormick. Senator McCormick '87 was captain of the outstanding Army team that won the EIAW Championship in 1987.

# Alumni News

## Advancements and Career News

Brian Harvey '16 recently graduated from SEAR.

## Friends and Family News

**Larry Baltezore '72** - Daughter-in-Law Cyndi Baltezore was promoted to Command Sargeant Major in the California National Guard on October 24, 2025 officially become the first female Infantry Command Sergeant Major in any component of the U.S. Army. Her journey to get to this point has

been remarkable and required both an uncommon level of resolve and professionalism under the most challenging circumstances while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and during numerous counter drug operations within California as part of the Counter Drug Task Force. I'm looking forward to hearing about her exploits as she assumes the mantle of "Stalker 7" and adds to the proud history of the 1-184 Infantry Regiment.



Larry Baltezore '72, daughter Julia Baltezore, CSM Cyndi Baltezore, and grandkids Nova and Apollo Baltezore

Subscribe to Army West Point Wrestling Facebook Page



Army West Point Wrestling

10K likes • 14K followers





# Alumni News (cont'd)

## Wrestling Involvement and Recognitions

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**NEWS FLASH:** The National Wrestling Hall of Fame announced the Class of 2026, including Outstanding American honoree MG (R) Michael J. Nardotti, Jr. '69. More to come in the February 2026 Newsletter.  
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### Treavor Erney '89

Congratulations to Treavor for his selection to the NY Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as the Chapter's Outstanding American for 2025.

Treavor Erney launched his wrestling career at Maine-Endwell High School where he was multi-year team captain. A four-time Section IV finalist and three-time champion, who placed third at the NYPHSAA twice and became Maine-Endwell's first-ever State Champion in 1984. Treavor graduated with a record



of 137–12. He wrestled for Army earning two varsity letters and was a member of Army's 1987 team that captured the program's first—and only—EIWA Championship.



Passionate about giving back to the sport that shaped him, Treavor helps lead the growth of wrestling in Washington, D.C. as a year-round volunteer with Wrestling to Beat the Streets DC. He serves as volunteer head coach at HD Woodson High School, one of eight public schools where wrestling was reintroduced in 2021



after a 30-year absence. He is a volunteer with the Honor Flight Network, an active supporter of the Army wrestling program and is the current President of USA Wrestling DC.

Trevor front row, second in from the right with Jeff Butler (150lber) on his right

Treavor and his wife, Shari, lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

## Alumni News (cont'd)

### Wrestling Involvement and Recognitions (cont'd)

**Eric Hughes '78** traveled from Georgia to meet up with teammate **Al Gomez '79** in Boise, Idaho back in July. Wrestling is still in their blood. After graduating, Eric officiated wrestling for over 20 years in the U.S. and Germany at all levels and Al coached wrestling for over 20 years at all levels including winning Championships at Fort Sill, OK and helping 2 wrestlers qualify for the All-Army Wrestling Team.



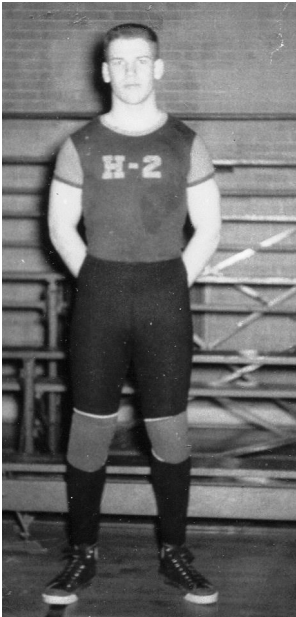
Eric Hughes '78 (L) squares off with Al Gomez '79 (R )

**Frank Cloutier '60** never wrestled before West Point, but plebe wrestling came naturally to him. As a yearling, he won the brigade championship at 175 pounds by pinning Rocky Versace '59 (a Medal of Honor recipient). He "walked on" in his cow year at 157 to wrestling for Coach Leroy

Alitz and Coach Doug Blubaugh where he learned a lot but couldn't break into the line up. Firstie year, he returned to intramural wrestling as a coach, and did well.

Commissioned Air Force, Frank served for twenty years retiring as a Lt.Col. During his military career Frank remained affiliated with wrestling. While an instructor in EE at USAFA, he was the OR of the wrestling team for three years during the time Wrestling Hall of Famer Karl Kitt was head coach. Frank also served as the meet director of the Mountain Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Tournament. While his children were in high school in the '70's he was immersed in all things wrestling to include being the New Hampshire State Wrestling Tournament Director. His son Mark Cloutier went on to wrestle at USAFA graduating in 1985.

Frank remains an avid fan of Army wrestling and was in attendance at the "Thow Down on the Yorktown". He is particularly interested in seeing how the women cadets do in their newly formed wrestling club.





## Alumni News (cont'd)

### NETWORKING AND MENTORING SUPPORT

#### - ATTENTION ACTIVE DUTY ARMY WRESTLING ALUMNI -

Have a need to network during your Army Career?

Seeking advice on Branch/Post Experiences, Future Assignment Networking, Post Command Mentoring, General Army Career Mentoring, Transitioning from Service.

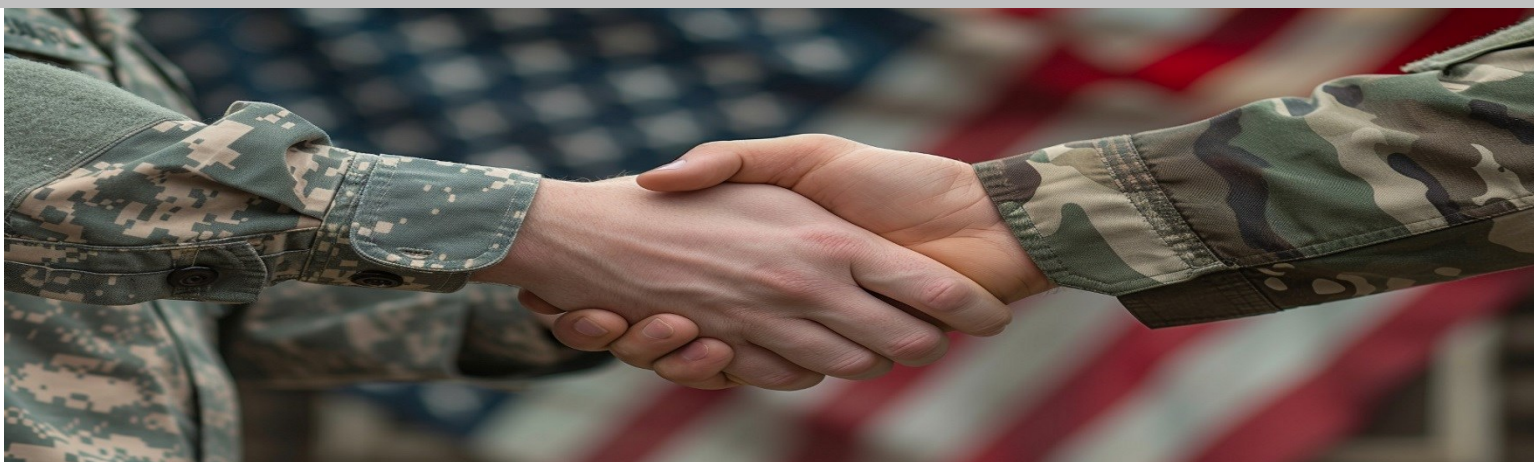
Then leverage the **Brotherhood of Army Wrestling!!**

***Fifty of our current active-duty** Army Wrestling Alumni have volunteered to serve in an informal networking capacity, available to all current and former Army Wrestlers.*

Take advantage of their collective experiences, knowledge and willingness to connect.

Check your personal email inbox for a Career Networking & Mentoring Program Announcement that provides additional details, list of advisors/mentors and their respective contact information.

If you didn't receive or cannot locate that program announcement, then contact [doug.williams@westpointwrestlingclub.org](mailto:doug.williams@westpointwrestlingclub.org) to get plugged-in.



- Next Issue of the Army Wrestling Alumni Newsletter—February 2026
- Suggestions/Ideas for Content?? Please Let Us Know What You Think!!
  - Alumni News should be sent to Larry Baltezore at:  
[Alumni.newsletter@westpointwrestlingclub.org](mailto:Alumni.newsletter@westpointwrestlingclub.org)