



When the name Jack Yaple is mentioned, one can't help but think Bobcat wrestling. Jack was not only a great athlete for Wattsburg, he was also the winningest wrestling coach ever for the Bobcats. After graduating in 1969, Jack enlisted in the Army and fought in the jungles of Vietnam. Upon his return to Greene Twp. Jack went right to work as an operating engineer for local 66 and dreamed of being a wrestling coach at his alma mater. In 1981 Jack formed the Wattsburg Wrestling Club to help those athletes who wanted more coaching to get the specialty training they would need to take them to the next level. Since its inception Jack's club has helped several wrestlers find their true ability in the sport and many have gone on to colleges because of their skills. In 1989 the dream came true, as Jack was hired to be the head coach for Seneca, which had already become a powerhouse under Coach Ron Bennett. During his years as coach, Jack was twice awarded District Coach of the year. Some of his coaching stats include 37 section champs. 4 regional champs, 14 state medalists, 1 state champion and much more. Jack expected the best from his wrestlers, not only in competition but in their academic world. It wasn't uncommon to see him wandering around the highschool, checking up on his team members. Jack also understood that his mentoring included the life skills of a young man, skills they would use forever. Quoting from the Erie Newspaper on April 29, 2013, "Jack E. Yaple 62 lost his last match in final overtime following a brief illness." Jack married Judy Bender in 2010, also a Wattsburg graduate and had two daughters, two stepdaughters and one son, Tammi, Misty, Nikki, Kim, and Rusty. The Legacy of Jack Yaple will live on for many years as he was such a huge influence to so many Seneca athletes, as well as old friends.