

## **Donald “Spud” Walley**

### **LIFETIME SERVICE TO WRESTLING**

**Cascade Junior High School 1956-68**

**Sedro Woolley High School 1968-1984**

Donald “Spud” Walley attended college at the University of Washington and Western Washington College before beginning his teaching and coaching career. Spud began coaching wrestling at Cascade Junior High School in 1956 where he coached for 13 years before becoming the head wrestling coach at Sedro Woolley High School in 1958. For the next 16 years under Coach Walley the Sedro Woolley Wrestling team became one of the dominate teams in the state. In his early coaching years Spud also served as a wrestling official for the local wrestling officials association.

The Sedro Woolley High School wrestling team won 12 Washington Interscholastic Regional Wrestling Championships which included 10 tournament wins in a row. During this same time Sedro Woolley won the WIAA State Wrestling Championships in 1976, 1981 and 1983. He also coached 7 individual state champions. Sedro Woolley High School hosted the 1976 WIAA State Wrestling Tournament under Coach Walley’s leadership. Spud had a career dual meet record of 347 wins and only 9 losses. To continue the growth of the sport of wrestling in the Skagit Valley, Spud started the youth wrestling program at Sedro Woolley in the early 1970’s and this program still continues today.

Coach Walley was honored by his coaching peers when he was inducted into the Washington State Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 1985. Family and community were very important to coach Walley and he served five terms as mayor of the city of Sedro Woolley. He received the Rotary Paul Harris Award and was presented the Sedro Woolley Lifetime Achievement Award.

Donald “Spud” Walley passed away in March of 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty (1998) and daughter Cindy Geiger (deceased) and left three adult children, Randy (71), Shane (61) and Don (58). He had 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

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