

Bankowski admitted into National Wrestling Hall of Fame

Earlier this year former Bedford Jr. High School Coach Edd Bankowski, was admitted into the Michigan Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

As an athlete, coach, official, clinician, wrestling historian and being involved with media (at U of M), Coach Bankowski has seen and done most everything.

As a junior high, high school and college coach, Coach Bankowski coached at Otsego High School, South Haven High School, Oregon Cardinal Stritch High School, Bedford and the University of Michigan. Everywhere he's coached, they had championship teams.

As an assistant at Otsego and South Haven High Schools, they were district champions. At Bedford, Coach Bankowski's junior high teams won 59 consecutive tournaments going 59-0 over 18 years and his teams went 200-4 in dual meet competition (98 percent).

"Bankowski coached" junior high teams fed 10 of the 11 state championships as well as five of the seven state runner-up teams at Bedford High

School, which were coached by Bill Regnier and Denny Brighton.

Coach Bankowski never coached a junior high team in the 18 years of coaching that didn't have a class in the room that was going to be on a state championship team, including his first year in 1972. The eighth graders were on the first state championship team in 1976. His last year at Bedford, 2000, the eighth graders were on the last state championship team at Bedford in 2001.

Coach Bankowski was the head coach at Cardinal Stritch in Oregon, Ohio for just one year, 1984, but the following year the 1985 Stritch team won their only state title ever, having been coached by Tom Talbot, Coach Bankowski and Paul Elzev in three consecutive years.

U of M Coach Dale Bahr hired Coach Bankowski as an assistant at Michigan in 1987, and he served in that capacity for close to 10 years. During that time, U of M won the big Ten Dual Meet Championship in 1989, knocking off Iowa 23-17, and stopped their Big Ten match win streak at 98.

In addition, Coach Bankowski served as an MHSAA



wrestling official from 1971-1985 and continues to this day working as a clinician at various camps and clinics. He's actually worked the U of M Clinic a record 30

consecutive years.

Coach Bankowski has compiled and possesses one of the nation's most complex wrestling video, book and magazine libraries.