

Brian Johnson
Class of 1974 – Male Athlete Inductee
Athletic Hall of Fame – Class of 2016

Brian Johnson, a 1974 graduate of Holton High School, lettered in varsity wrestling and was a standout athlete of his time. Johnson was instrumental in the start and development of the wrestling program at Holton High School, having been a standout athlete on the first wrestling teams in the history of the school, while the program was being established.

In 1974, Johnson, and teammate Clieve Young, would become the first wrestlers in the history of Holton Public Schools to become state champions. Johnson also was the first athlete from any team in Holton history to earn the distinction of being a state champion. On his way to winning state championship honors, Johnson, who wrestled in the 98 pound weight class, pinned Kevin Erwin from Covert in the semifinal round, before earning a decision by the score of 17-0 over Jim Polling from Dansville to earn the Class D Individual State Championship in the 98 pound weight class. The state championship meet was held at Lansing Waverly High School that year.

Despite being upset by Pentwater in the team first round of the wrestling playoffs, the 1974 wrestling team held a spot in the top five (5) rankings all year, as ranked by the Michigan High School Wrestling Coaches Association and the United Press International (UPI). While the 1974 team was ranked 5th in the State of Michigan in Class D for much of the year, the team managed to have two wrestlers, including Johnson, finish as state champions, and another wrestler finish as state runner-up and third place finisher, respectively.

It was the success of Johnson and his fellow wrestling teammates that helped establish the winning tradition of Holton wrestling as we know it today. Holton wrestling has become a successful program with currently more than 42 athletes having earned all-state honors in the history of the program.

Johnson currently serves as an Instructor of Advanced Automotive Technologies at Blue Ridge Community College in Hendersonville, NC. Johnson recently received the prestigious ASE Industry Education Alliance Instructor Recognition Award, which is the highest national award an ASE/NATEF Instructor can receive. Johnson is proud to share that he has taught four Advanced Automotive Technology National Champions, and he continues to exemplify the qualities of excellence that we honor in those that we induct into the Holton Athletic Hall of Fame.

