

**Clieve Young**  
**Class of 1974 – Male Athlete Inductee**  
**Athletic Hall of Fame – Class of 2015**

Clieve Young, a 1974 graduate of Holton High School, lettered in varsity wrestling and was a standout athlete of his time. Young 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. Young would go on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Grand Valley State University, and while doing so, would spend several years returning to Holton High School to help coach and mentor the wrestlers of the heavier weight classes in the wrestling program. Young also went on to spend 20 years in service to his community as a member of the Holton Township Fire Department.

In 1974, Young, and teammate Brian Johnson, would become the first wrestlers in the history of Holton Public Schools to become state champions, as well as the first athletes from any team to earn the distinction of being a state champion. On his way to winning state championship honors, Young, who wrestled in the 155 pound weight class, won a hard fought battle against Paul Buckner from Vestaburg by decision, 8-7. Young would then face off against Keith Taylor from Adrian Madison, who Young pinned in 1:52, to earn the Class D Individual State Championship in the 155 pound weight class that was held at Lansing Waverly High School.

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 5<sup>th</sup> in the State of Michigan in Class D for much of the year, the team managed to have two wrestlers, including Young, finish as state champions, and another wrestler finish as state runner-up and third place finisher, respectively.

As a senior, in 1974, Young was the captain of the wrestling team and would become one of the leaders on his team. Young would share many of his fondest memories of wrestling at Holton High School, namely that of being a part of the first wrestling teams in school history, and having to work hard for everything that the program has become today. Young has shared stories of wrestlers having to tie individual 5 X 7 mats together and covering them with canvas for the team to practice and compete on before the school would go on to purchase regulation wrestling mats during the second year of the wrestling program, Young's junior year. Young would also share fond memories of wrestling in the old gymnasium, which is now the bus garage, with almost no one attending events. "There were only 3 rows of bleachers on each side of the gym," said Young. Young would share that as the program became established, and the new high school was built so that the athletes had a new gym to compete in, wrestling meets became much more popular. It was the success of Young and his fellow wrestling team members that helped establish the winning tradition of Holton wrestling as we know it today. Holton wrestling would become a successful program with currently more than 42 athletes having earned all-state honors in the history of the program.