



Don Gleason

MTATA Hall of Fame

Inducted 2008



Don Gleason was born and raised in Ronan MT, and attended Ronan HS where he graduated in 1978 (class valedictorian). In high school Don was part of three state wrestling championships. After high school, he went on to the University of Montana and graduated with high honors with a degree in Health Enhancement with an emphasis in Athletic Training. During college Don wrestled for UM in 1980. He was a recipient of the Naseby Rhinehart Award for excellence in Health and Physical Education in 1982-83.

After graduating from the University of Montana, he started teaching at Billings West HS where he has been for 25 years. During his first 6 years, Don was the head wrestling coach for West, as well as working in the training room. After the 6 years of being the head wrestling coach he has remained in the training room as the Head Certified Athletic Trainer. He covers all of the West High Sports- practices and events.

Don has been the medical director for the "State All-Class Wrestling Tournament" for the past 19 years, and the Grand National AAU Wrestling Tournament in 1988 and 1998. When Don is not in the training room, he is teaching Health Enhancement & Sports Medicine classes at West and is the department chair for Health Enhancement.

Don has been married to his wife Linda for 26 years and they have 3 children. Britany is a graduate of cosmetology school; Becka is a freshman at MSU-Bozeman, and Ben in 9th grade at West High School.

Don enjoys helping student athletes and will probably be buried at West HS. He was the team leader for the Cultural Exchange Wrestling Program to Russia in 1987, and is a 7-time Big Sky State Games Champion in wrestling. He was the Athletic Trainer of the year in 1987, 1988, & 1994. Don was nominated for the National "Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer" in 2004.