

JEROME (JERRY) BRAUN (PHS FACULTY)

Jerry Braun came to Portage in 1962 after obtaining his degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he lettered three years in wrestling. Upon accepting a teaching position, Mr. Braun also began the Portage Junior High School wrestling program and became its inaugural coach. After ten years as the junior high wrestling coach, Mr. Braun was named head coach of the Portage High School varsity wrestling program. During Mr. Braun's six seasons as head coach from 1972 to 1978, the wrestling program achieved state prominence. Under Coach Braun, Portage compiled a 75-11-1 record in dual meets, won five conference championships, four regional championships and one sectional championship. The 1977 and 1978 teams both finished in the top ten of ranked state schools at a time when wrestling had only one division in the entire state. Mr. Braun coached Peter Zamzow to Portage High School's first ever individual state championship, and also coached Ryan Foley to a second place finish at the state tournament (both Zamzow and Foley are PHS HOF members). In addition to his commitment to the high school wrestling team, Mr. Braun also started the Portage Youth Wrestling program. Mr. Braun was a registered wrestling official with the WIAA for over 38 years and has officiated at every level of competition from junior high to Big 10. In 2001, Mr. Braun was inducted into the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He retired from teaching and coaching in 1998 and currently resides in Portage.