



## ***Gene Lee Davis***

### ***Missoula County High School***

Gene Davis had a perfect attendance record during the four years he attended Missoula County High School, from 1959-63. But that isn't the perfect record that most people remember.

Despite the fact he had never wrestled prior to enrolling in high school, Davis not only went on to become one of only seven wrestlers in Montana to ever win four state championships, but he is the only one to ever do it without losing a match.

During his four seasons with the Spartans Davis compiled a 66-0 record, winning 48 of those matches by pins. He won state championships at 95, 103, 112 and 133. He was team captain his junior and senior seasons and was voted the outstanding wrestler at the divisional and state tournaments as a junior and at the divisional tournament again as a senior.

But Davis' wrestling career was just starting. He went on to a successful collegiate career at Oklahoma State University, a school rich in wrestling tradition. He placed fourth in the 137-pound class at the NCAA tournament as a sophomore. He won the NCAA 137-pound title as a junior and placed third in the national tournament as a senior. He was the Big Eight Conference champion in 1966 and 1967 and was the team captain as a junior and senior.

He graduated from OSU in 1967 and in 1968 he joined Athletes in Action, and is still with that organization. For 10 years he was not only the star performer for that team, but also served as the coach. He continued to coach the team for six more years after retiring as a competitor.

Davis was the national AAU champion in 1971, 1974 and 1975, and was named the national AAU outstanding wrestler in each of those seasons. He also competed in the 1972 and 1976 Olympics, winning the bronze medal in 1976 in Montreal.

During his 16 years as coach of the Athletes in Action, Davis' wrestling teams compiled a record of 188-35-1 with national team championships in 1971 and 1975. He also coached the gold medal winning U.S. team at the 1979 Pan Am Games. He was assistant coach of the U.S. team in the 1981 World Games and was an assistant coach for the 1988 U.S. freestyle team at the Olympics.

In 1985 Davis was inducted into the Helms Foundation Wrestling Hall of Fame. And in 1992 he was inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in Missoula, Davis now lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he is associate athletic director for Athletes in Action.