

Mike Gunther Inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletic Hall of Fame

The CSU Pueblo Foundation recently celebrated the induction of wrestling legend **Mike Gunther** into the 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame. Recognized as one of the greatest wrestlers in school history, Gunther's storied career highlights a legacy of grit, dedication, and championship success.

A Championship Legacy

Mike Gunther cemented his place in history by becoming just the second CSU Pueblo wrestler to capture a national championship. He claimed the 177-pound title at the 1985 NAIA National Championships following an impressive 35–9 season. Prior to his national title, Gunther finished third at the 1984 NAIA Championships and was a two-time RMAC champion at 177 lbs.

His collegiate success extended beyond the university level; Gunther also secured a junior college national championship at Colby Community College in Kansas, wrapping up that season with a stellar 48–6 record. Reflecting on his journey, Gunther noted that he earned titles at every level.

Gratitude and Family Roots

Taking the podium for his acceptance speech, Gunther expressed deep humility and gratitude toward the Hall of Fame Committee, his fellow inductees, and his family. He shared heartfelt thanks with:

- **His Mother:** Whom he jokingly credited as his first and toughest referee, noting how she and his two brothers turned their childhood home into a constant wrestling match.
- **His Late Father:** His first coach who guided him through junior high and instilled the values that brought him to the stage.
- **His Brother Paul:** His lifelong workout partner who spent thousands of hours training alongside him on the mats.

- **His Wife Tracy and Daughter Brittany:** Celebrating 44 years with his soulmate Tracy and expressing immense pride in his daughter Brittany.

Honoring Teammates and Coaches

Gunther emphasized that while wrestling is often viewed as an individual sport, winning a national championship requires an elite supporting cast. He praised his tough practice partners—such as heavyweight world Greco-Roman champion Ed Reinard, All-American Joe Brown, and all-conference wrestler Richard—sharing that battling them daily felt like "wrestling a grizzly bear" and ultimately prepared him for national competition.

He also paid special tribute to Coach Doug Moses, recalling the chance encounter at a convenience store that changed his life, as well as Coach Dax Charles for his exceptional 18-year tenure in resurrecting the wrestling program into a national powerhouse. Together, the legacy built by Coach Moses and Coach Charles over the past 45 years stands as one of the greatest achievements in college wrestling history.

Watch the full induction video here: [26 Hall of Fame Guenther](#)

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