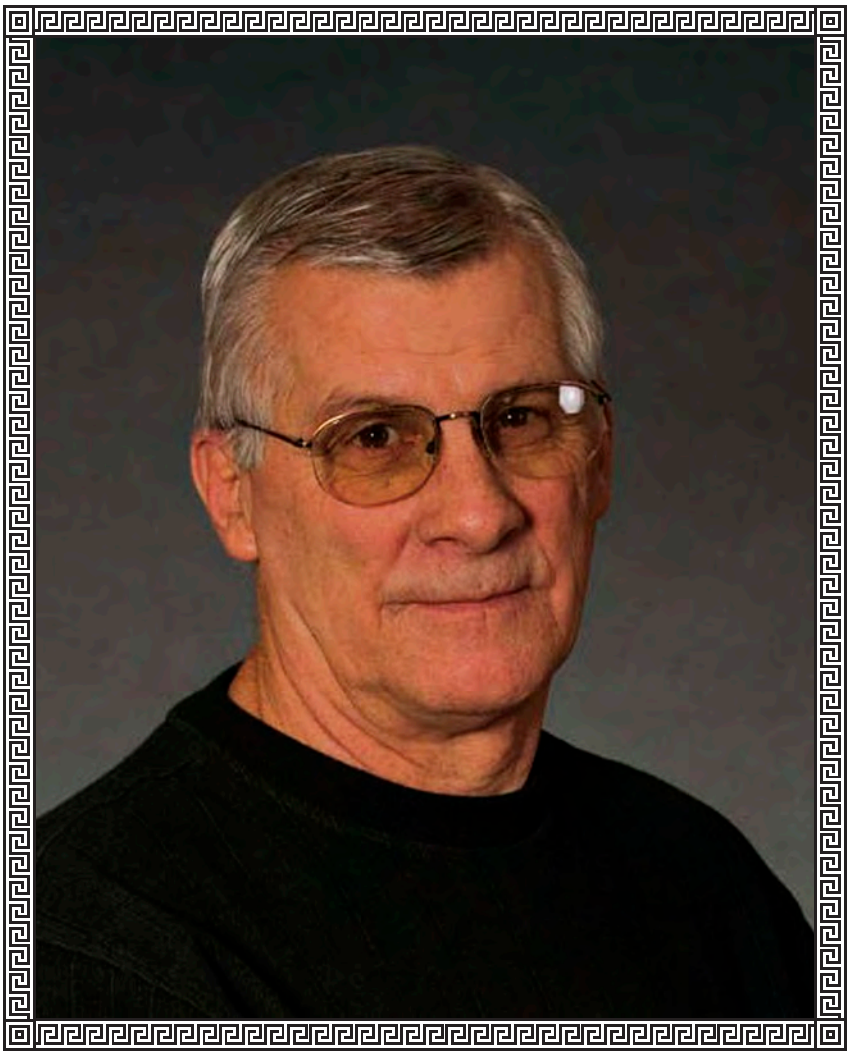

Pete Wolf

then taught them to focus on the fundamentals of life. He provided a vision of giving to the team and a vision of a purposeful life. I watched him over the years make decisions that made individuals better, but possibly sacrifice a match or two. When given the choice, he would wrestle tougher teams to make his team better rather than choose easy teams to give him victories. These types of motives defined his leadership.

How do you define success in his sport? As a coach, it could be defined by the number of team victories, the number of League Championships, or the number of individual Sectional, District, Regional or State Champions. My father as head coach at Hughesville High School had a record of 203-74-7, coached 28 District Champions, 21 Regional Champions, 15 P.I.A.A. State place winners and 8 P.I.A.A. State Champions. He was named the PIAA Coach of the Year in 1974 and the PIAA Assistant Coach of the Year in 1999. While he was also named to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, PA chapter, the PA Wrestling Hall of Fame and others, his most prized accomplishments are represented by personal letters from parents and former wrestlers who appreciate the huge impact he had on their lives.

Why is this? Because his motive was mostly about the impact on the individual lives of the wrestlers, influencing his style of leadership which I would define as transformational. This style of leadership is focused on transforming both the followers and the organization. My father accomplished both. His impact on the school, our community and most importantly the individual wrestlers on and off the mat will live on. He taught all to live lives of discipline, passion, integrity, and faith. The sport of wrestling would benefit greatly from a strong focus on these critical aspects of life.

Wrestling was not my only experience with my father outside of our home. He was also my high school PE teacher. In this role, he exemplified a bureaucratic leadership style because class was all about rules and doing things correctly. What motivated this style? I believe he has always respected leadership and wanted to model the kind of leader who can be respected. He saw teaching as an extension of his coaching and an opportunity to show the wrestlers the importance of following the rules. Additionally, my father had a summer painting business. During my teen years, I joined other wrestlers painting houses with my father. In this work setting, he was more of a task oriented leader. He was motivated to get the job done efficiently and focused primarily on the task at hand. Consequently, my father used different motives corresponding to varied settings and these motives impacted the style of leadership that he exhibited at those times.

During those early years, before my own wrestling days, I thought it strange for parents to stop my father on the street to say thank you. Now, twenty five years after my own graduation, I also say thank you to my father for teach-