## **Gray Simons**

As a wrestler, Gray Simons was known as a superb technician, gifted with quickness and the ability to execute to perfection an infinite variety of moves. Gray's ability to execute moves helped spread the "Granby Series" of moves that were developed by his high school coach, Billy Martin in Virginia. Gray wrestled collegiately at Lock Haven University where he was a four-time Il5 pound NAIA National Champion, a three-time NCAA Champion, and a two-time recipient of the Outstanding Wrestler Award at the NCAA Tournament. During his four years of collegiate competition, he entered seven national tournaments, won all seven, and was voted the outstanding wrestler at six of them. Gray won 84 consecutive matches after losing twice during his freshman season for a career record of 91-2. He continued to wrestle after graduation while stationed at the U.S. Military Academy and continued winning championships in military, YMCA and AAU competitions. He won the gold medal in the 1963 World Military Games and competed for the United States in the Olympics in 1960 and 1964.

Gray began coaching in 1964 at Lock Haven where his teams won two NAIA Championships and compiled a record of 59-10-1. He was named Coach-of-the-Year in 1966 and 1967. He coached at Indiana State from 1970 to 1975 and at Tennessee from 1975 until 1986 when Tennessee dropped its wrestling program. While at Tennessee Gray coached ten wrestlers that became All-Americans. He then moved to Old Dominion where he coached until his retirement at the end of the 2004 season. Gray coached for 36 years with his teams compiling an over-all career record of 324-144-5.

Gray has received many honors for his wrestling accomplishments. He was named to the Helms Foundation in 1971, the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1975, a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1978, the Lock Haven State Hall of Fame in 1981, the United States Achievement Hall of Fame in 1982, the Pennsylvania State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1983, the All-Time Collegiate Wrestling Team by Amateur Wrestling News in 1988, and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.

Gray and his wife, Mary, currently reside in Virginia Beach. Today we are proud to welcome Gray Simons as a 2009 inductee into our AAU National Wrestling Committee Hall of Fame.