**Donald B. Briggs**

Dr. Donald B. Briggs graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree (1971) in Physical Education, thereafter receiving a Master of Arts Degree (1975) in Physical Education and a Doctor of Education degree (2013) in Leisure Services from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). He taught and coached in the College Community School District in Cedar Rapids before joining the Department of Physical Education for Men, University of Northern Iowa as an instructor and assistant wrestling coach and later became director of the UNI Summer Sports Camps. He taught at the University of Northern Iowa for 43 years, created the backpacking, rock climbing, and ice climbing classes, and was an excellent instructor who inspired many students. An excerpt from the paper submitted by one of the LYHS students (Mallory Wagner) summarizes the sentiment many students shared about Dr. Briggs:

*Don Briggs was the most amazing professor/man I had ever met in my life. He is extremely passionate about everything that he loves to do and he cared about his students' success to no end. I loved going to his class everyday because it inspired me to start living the life that I knew I would love and to also push others to take advantage of all opportunities. I could come out of his classes everyday with a new idea and that was the best feeling ever.*

Dr. Briggs led UNI class and Outdoor Recreation trips including 16 rock climbing expeditions to ascent Devils Tower in Wyoming, hiking trips in Gunnison National Forest in Colorado, 12 hiking trips to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and canoeing expeditions to the Boundary Waters of Canada/Minnesota and down the Rio Grande. He is an outstanding speaker on wrestling, outdoor pursuits and motivational topics, and is well known for his presentations, articles and a book on silo ice climbing. He served as head wrestling coach (1982-1997); has more NCAA Division I victories than any other coach in UNI history; won 12 consecutive NCAA West Regional titles; placed in the top 25 in NCAA Division I Nationals 13 times; had 50 NCAA All American/14 National Champions; coached the East-West All Star Meet (1983); and coached the USA teams in Yugoslavia/Romania, Sicily, and Newfoundland. Dr. Briggs has worked many wrestling clinics and camps across the nation, served as Midwest Representative to the Executive Board of the National Wrestling Coaches Association before becoming President. He was named West Regional Coach of the Year nine times, National Rookie Coach of the Yea (1982), recognized by the National Wrestling Coaches Association for meritorious service and outstanding leadership and inducted into the Jefferson High School Hall of Fame, the UNI Athletics Hall of Fame, and the UNI Hall of Excellence.