



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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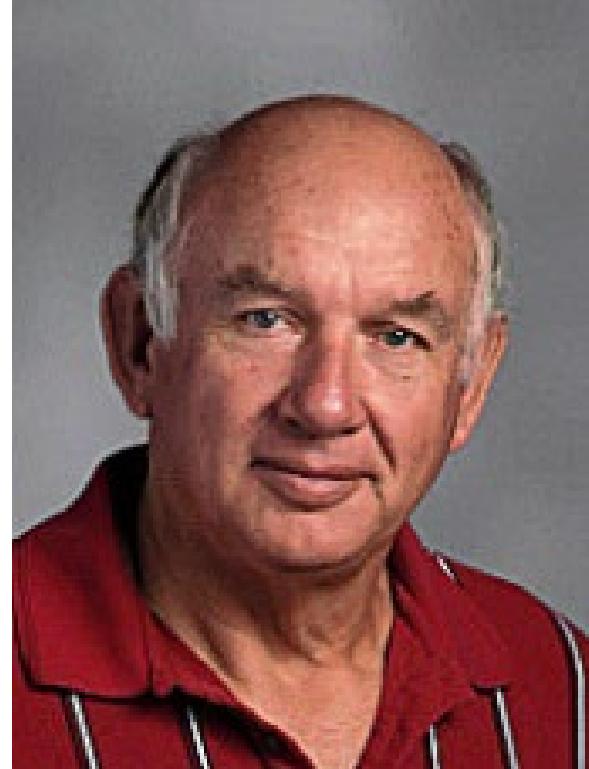
LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association is proud to recognize Mr. Dennis “Rudy” Riemersma of Red Cloud Community Schools as this week’s Above and Beyond Award nominee.

For 55 years, Mr. Riemersma has been a pillar in education—an exceptional teacher, coach, mentor, and community leader who has shaped the lives of thousands.

For the past 45 years in Red Cloud, and nine years prior in Hamburg, Iowa, Rudy has taught mathematics and coached football, wrestling, and track at both junior high and high school levels. In Red Cloud, he has taught every student to walk the halls for nearly five decades, and he is now teaching third-generation students—an incredible testament to his legacy.

But Rudy’s impact stretches far beyond the classroom. As a wrestling coach spanning six decades, he has witnessed the evolution of the sport, from 25-match seasons to today’s 50+ match schedules. His coaching resume includes more than 825 meets, not to mention countless hours in practice rooms, bus rides, and tournament bleachers.

Coach Riemersma has always coached for the right reasons. He believes in the discipline of the sport, in the resilience it builds, and in the lifelong lessons it teaches. Long before girls’ wrestling reached its current level of recognition, Rudy was an advocate—pushing for equity and growth in the sport because it was the right thing to do.



His dedication and sportsmanship have been recognized across the state and beyond:

- 2009 NSWCA Huskerland Hall of Fame Coach
- 2014–2015 Western Nebraska Wrestling Officials Sportsmanship Coach of the Year
- 2004 NSAA 25-Year Coaching Service Award
- 2007 National Coaches Association 25-Year Service Award

In 2025, Red Cloud Schools proudly renamed their home wrestling tournament The Dennis Riemersma Invitational—an honor befitting a coach who has given his all to the program and his athletes.

But Rudy's reach doesn't end with wrestling or academics. He's an active 4-H small animal judge, raising and showing rabbits, and guiding youth through years of project-based learning. He's often the first to donate sick days to a colleague in need, and he continues to serve as a steady, humble presence in his school and town.

Ask anyone in Red Cloud, and they'll tell you: Dennis Riemersma is a constant—dependable, kind, deeply invested in his students and athletes. He's a great educator, a legendary coach, and an even better person.

The NSAA proudly honors Mr. Dennis "Rudy" Riemersma for a career spent going above and beyond—on the mat, in the classroom, and in the hearts of generations.

The NSAA's Above and Beyond Program is designed to recognize the hidden gems of communities across Nebraska. [Click here to nominate someone today!](#)

