



REMEMBERING PAT

This issue, we have a special feature by Ken Raymond, a long time teacher, coach, and proud Celtic! Kenny Ray, as he's known around school, is a guru of Providence history and will be sharing more of his stories on our social media channels.

My name is Ken Raymond and I have been associated with PCHS in one capacity or another for 56 years. I have been asked to write periodically about people and events that relate to our history. With the wrestling program entering its 50th season this spring, I thought it fitting to look at its founder and first coach, Pat McInerney. I first met Pat when I greeted him at the front door to take him to his interview with Fr. Kaffer. He was hired as a Dean, history teacher and assistant football coach. We became colleagues

and friends.

With the school "saved" from closing it was Fr. Kaffer's goal to stabilize the school environment, improve academics, continue to promote a strong sense of spirituality, maintain a family atmosphere, and expand both in numbers and plant facilities. He also wanted to expand extra-curricular activities for both boys and girls. He established girls basketball and volleyball, and girls track soon followed. Pat was promoted to Assistant Principal and given the responsibility of reorganizing the school codes. In discussions regarding what more could the school offer the boys, Pat



**1972 1st Ever Varsity Wrestling Team
Providence Catholic High School**

lobbied for the creation of a wrestling program. While a student at Lewis College, Pat was approached to join the newly forming wrestling team. He agreed and fell in love with the sport. Fr. Kaffer allowed the program to begin with Pat as the first coach. They didn't have much, a few worn gym mats, sharing space with

basketball in the only small gym at the time, and borrowed track tops as part of their first uniforms. What they did have were good numbers and tough young men. With the likes of Francis and John Ruettinger and Chris Curtis they made their way to the state tourney.

Pat would leave a few years later to pursue his personal goal of becoming a school principal. He would become principal at St. Raymonds in Joliet and later St. Edmunds in Oak Park. The stress of the job, the long drive, and mounting health issues would bring him back to Providence in 1994 simply to teach and to watch with pride the successes of the program he started until his untimely passing in 1999. What are those successes? The various teams in 49 years have won 10 State Championships, runners up 6 other times with 6 third place trophies and one 4th place finish, not to mention scores of individual medals and other recognitions.

In Chinese philosophy it is the belief that you are eternal as long as you are remembered. I remember all, that he has done and meant to this school but most of all I remember my friend.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CELTIC WRESTLING

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2021

DETAILS COMING SOON!