

## *Dennis Brighton Invitational*



Dennis Brighton represented Bedford throughout his career as a wrestler and a coach. He was Bedford's first two time state champion, earning titles in 1973 and 1974, and amassing a high school record over three seasons of 125-4-0. Brighton was an All-American, a FILA national champion, and placed third for the United States at the Junior World Championships. Brighton went on to wrestle at Michigan State University. He was Bedford's first NCAA Div. 1 Finalist and an All-American.

After college Brighton became the wrestling coach at Bedford's cross town rival, Whitmer High School. He coached the Panthers for 14 years and, in 1993 led Whitmer to a league championship over his alma mater, breaking Bedford's streak of 25 consecutive league championships.

In 1995, Brighton came home as the handpicked successor to his own coach, Bill Regnier. While at Bedford, Coach Brighton won team state championships in 1999 and 2001, and coached three teams to runners-up finishes. He coached 6 individual state champions and 68 state placers. In 2011 Coach Brighton achieved his 400th dual meet win. He retired with a career dual meet record in Michigan alone of 417-55.

During his 16 years coaching the Mules, Brighton laid the groundwork for the new weight room and wrestling room. Brighton's vision brought superior training facilities to the Kicking Mules with the state of the art weight room and the school's first ever wrestling room.

To honor Dennis Brighton, and the Brighton family, for what they have done in service to the Mules and our beloved sport, the Bedford Invitational is now the Dennis Brighton Invitational. Like the man himself, the Brighton Trophy stands for excellence, athleticism, commitment and, of course, championships. We thank you Denny, Jeanette, and the entire Brighton Family for your tireless commitment to Bedford Wrestling.