

Wilford Darter recalls from the Douglass Tribune:

Amateur wrestling started in Douglass with an athletic club coached by Guy Elliot, a professional wrestler, assisted by Kent Gilmer and George Barnes.

The mat was a canvas wagon sheet stretched over a square made with 2'x4's and filled with sawdust. Mat burns came in 2nd and 3rd degrees.

In 1927, Floyd Greer, a World War 1 veteran and Superintendent of the school, started amateur wrestling in the high school with Elliot coaching on the side. That year, we had just two dual matches, ElDorado and Latham. ElDorado beat us. Latham agreed to wrestle us if we would box them. We sat on them , and they knocked us down, so it ended in a dead heat.

The first Douglass team was Owen Doyle, Ernest Martin, Clarence Gibson, Wilbur Barnes, Keith Rozell, John Condor, Clarence Houser, Garland Bare, Claude Winchell and Wilford Darter.

That spring we went to Kansas State to an invitational tournament. We took 4th and Wichita East took 1st.

In the school year 1928-29 we had a lot of duals including Newkirk, Ponca City, and Blackwell Oklahoma.

In the spring of 1929, we again went to Kansas State Tournament, taking 2nd place. Wichita East beat us by 1 ½ points.

During the school year 1929-30, we didn't lose a dual match. That year, the State of Kansas made the tournament at Kansas State the official State meet. Douglass won, with Wichita 2nd and Oberlin 3rd.

This made Douglass the first team to win the official title of State Wrestling Tournament Champions.