



THE JACK LA BONDE/CLASS OF 1969 WRESTLING ENDOWMENT FUND

for
Wrestling Student Athletes
at the
University of Northern Colorado

Jack LaBonde was the Bears' wrestling coach from 1966 through 1980, during which time he compiled a 154-68-2 dual record. He coached two national champions and 19 All-American wrestlers. In 1969, he led the Bears to a second-place finish at the NCAA College Division Championship. A former UNC wrestler, LaBonde won a conference title in 1951, and after graduation, built a 71-4 coaching record at Montrose High School before returning to coach his alma mater.

The 1968-69 wrestling team finished second in the nation at the College Division level and 13th at the University Division level. The team posted a dual record of 13-1-1. Len Groom led the squad with a College Division national title at 130 pounds and a second place finish in the University Division. Other All-American selections on the team included Mike Rogers (137 pounds), Mel Crider (152 pounds), Jim Alexander (167 pounds), Mike Patterson (177 pounds) and Bob Smith (145 pounds). The team was inducted in 2000 to the UNC Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Jack LaBonde/Class of 1969 Wrestling Scholarship is awarded to student athletes who are participating in the Wrestling Program.

The University of Northern Colorado Foundation is pleased to recognize the generosity of Jack LaBonde, who provided the gifts to create this permanent fund to perpetuate excellence in Athletics.

