

## LEE KEMP BIO AND INTRODUCTION:



**LEE KEMP** known as one of the greatest wrestlers in United States history, was a three-time Gold Medalist in the World Championships, a four-time Gold Medalist in the World Cup of Wrestling, a two-time Gold Medalist in the Pan American Games, a seven-time national champion, and was named the United States Wrestling Federation “Man of the Year” in 1978. He was inducted to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1989.

Lee coached the US Olympic team to victory in Beijing in 2008 and was inducted to the International Wrestling Hall of Fame – one of only five Americans inducted to date - in a ceremony during the Beijing Games. He has been featured three times in Sports Illustrated Magazine (February 1977, April 1982, May 1982). Life Magazine featured Kemp in their “1984 Olympic

Preview” issue along with Michael Jordan, Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Greg Louganis.

Lee Kemp was born and spent his early youth in Cleveland, Ohio and later moved to Chardon, a farming community 30 miles northeast of Cleveland, where he started wrestling in the ninth grade. By his junior year, in only his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of wrestling experience he defeated the returning state runner-up and defending state champion on his way to his first Ohio state title and an undefeated season. He repeated in his senior year by winning his second Ohio state title and finished his Jr. and Sr. years undefeated with a record of 55-0-0, with 24 pins.

Kemp attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a full athletic scholarship and continued his winning ways reaching the national collegiate finals as a freshman, the only freshman to do so, but was turned back by a split referee’s decision in overtime -- a bout in which Kemp scored the only takedown. Lee Kemp didn’t lose another collegiate bout. In his next three years, Kemp posted 108 victories and one draw against collegiate competition, and won three NCAA titles at 158 pounds. Kemp earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing from Wisconsin in 1979, and an M.B.A. in 1983. Kemp was inducted into University of Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

Lee Kemp has held marketing management positions for several New York fortune 500 companies including working for a major Chicago based Advertising Agency. Lee has owned and successfully operated a Ford automobile dealership for 14 years and is an accomplished keynote motivational speaker including currently working as a “color commentator” for the Big Ten Network. Lee Kemp continues to follow his passion for wrestling by coaching and mentoring wrestlers of all ages and skill levels at his “Lee Kemp Academy of Wrestling” training facility in Lake Barrington, IL.

Lee’s most recent honor was on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, along with past inductee greats; Vince Lombardi, Hank Aaron & Bart Starr. To date Lee Kemp has been inducted into six athletic and achievement Halls of Fame. For all he has done as a role model and to elevate the sport of wrestling, both in our state and around the world, please welcome Mr. Lee Kemp.