

May 2018

A group of dedicated Urbana alumni has formed a new "Lester Baum Task Force" to generate support to name the interior of a new athletic facility on our campus after Coach Lester Baum. Tom Bemmes '83, Bob Harrison '78, Ben Mitchell '79, and Nick Mescher '73, have shown great intent in rallying fellow alumni to name the wrestling room in the new facility in honor of Coach Baum. ***They have identified you as someone who may share their passion towards reaching this goal.***

The addition of three new sports (acro-tumbling, men's volleyball and wrestling) have played a large role in supporting the University's strategic initiatives growth plan. With these additions, we are excited to share that ground has broken on a new multi-purpose sports facility. The approximate 10,000 square foot building will provide flexible space for weight lifting, practices, and game space for wrestling and acro-tumbling.



Coach Lester Baum was synonymous with Urbana University from the time it became a four-year institution (1968-69) until his retirement 25 years later. Baum coached and taught at five other colleges prior to arriving at Urbana, where he coached wrestling for 20 years and cross-country for six seasons. He was also intra-mural director for 21 years and spent two years as Director of Athletics. In all, his career in education and coaching spanned 41 years. Over the many years, he has been a beloved mentor and coach to many Urbana University alumni.

We are asking for your support to name the Wrestling Room in Coach Baum's honor. We ask that you please consider a gift towards our collective goal of \$75,000. Please feel free use the [Lester Baum gift form](#) or [online donation form](#) to give, or you may contact us in the Office of Alumni Relations & Development at 937-772-9246.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. ***Thank you for considering being a part of this collaboration to honor Coach Baum.***

Sincerely,



Tammy Leiker  
Director of Alumni Relations & Development