



Butch Starin

Butch Starin was multi-sport state champion in the Mining City. Starin won the state wrestling championship in the 154-pound weight class as a senior at Butte High School in 1969.

The four-year letter winner also played football for the Bulldogs and was a member of state championship teams in 1967 and 1968. After high school, Starin wrestled at Montana Western College.

It was in the handball court where Starin really shined. He won state open handball titles in 1980 and 1998. He beat Billings city champ Dan Scilley, 21-10, 21-5, in the state championship match at the Butte Elks to capture the 1980 crown.

When he won his second title, Starin was nearly old enough to play in the Golden Masters Division, but he competed in the open division in the Kalispell tournament. He beat Butte Sports Hall of Famer Bill Peoples in a 21-15, 8-21, 11-7 semifinal thriller. He then beat Dan Bersanti, 21-9, 21-17 in the title match.

Butch also won the state doubles title with Tom Pomroy Jr. in 1989. He won the Masters Division in 1994 in both the open and doubles competition. He captured five city handball titles as well. In 1974, Starin won the Northwest Region NCAA open handball championship.

In addition to his great play in the handball court, Starin gave back to the sport he loves. Through his efforts, a three-wall outdoor handball court was constructed at East Middle School.



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