

JAKE HOHLSTEIN - (PHS 2009)

Jake Hohlstein wasn't expecting the call to the Portage High School Hall of Fame. He may be the only one who was surprised given the level of success he earned while wrestling and playing football as a Warrior.

Jake began stacking success early on. Taking 5th place in wrestling nationals as a 5th grader and winning the national competition in 8th grade would foretell Jake's accomplishments in his high school years. As a three-sport athlete Jake found success throughout high school. In football he was a three-time, first team Badger North All-Conference honoree as a defensive lineman plus a second-team selection as an offensive lineman. In track, Jake placed 13th at the Wisconsin state track & field event in Division 1 shot put.

But it was wrestling where Jake truly excelled. Jake won the WIAA state heavyweight wrestling title as a junior and followed that up with another state title in his undefeated senior season, finishing the year a perfect 43-0. He completed his Portage wrestling career as Portage's winningest wrestler and compiled an astonishing career record of 145-19. He was named an honorable mention All-American by USA Wrestling Magazine.

After high school, success continued to follow Jake. But first he had to decide on whether to pursue football or wrestling. "It was a difficult decision," Jake said. "Both sports were equal in their own way. I like the individual nature of wrestling. It's one on one, win or lose. But I ended up choosing football and was happy I did."

It was a good choice. Jake played four years as defensive tackle on the UW-Whitewater football team that ended up winning three Division 3 National Championships. As a senior, Jake was named team captain and garnered First Team All-WIAC honors.

Ten years after high school and Jake now lives in Dubuque, Iowa with his wife Kara and their two children, Kenleigh and Katelyn. He is excited to be returning to Portage for the Hall of Fame weekend in which he and five others will be inducted. "I'm looking forward to coming home. It's been a while since I've been there but it's exciting."