



# BILL DIES MEMORIAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

643 East Tallmadge Ave | Akron, OH 44310 | 330-253-9959 | Fax: 330-253-9972

[www.billdies.com](http://www.billdies.com)

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For Immediate Release:

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill Dies Memorial Wrestling Tournament**

***Akron, OH. January 4, 2017*** - The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill Dies Memorial Wrestling Tournament will be held on January 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Firestone High School Community Learning Center. The tournament started in 1984 as a 16-team Summit County Invitational, and has grown exponentially ever since. This year, Firestone will host 48 teams from across the State in its newly built gymnasium. This is a predominately public school tournament, with 47 of the teams hailing from public schools and one private school, Hoban High School, which has participated since the tournament's inception.

In 1988, the Summit County Invitational was renamed the Bill Dies Memorial Wrestling Tournament in honor of, and in memory of, William Dies, co-founder of the Ohio Youth Wrestling Association and a long-time booster of wrestling in Summit County, Ohio. Although he had ten children of his own, Bill Dies always made time for anything that involved kids. He was heavily involved with local youth sports for nearly 40 years, and would no doubt still be, but for his untimely death in 1987.

Bill has been honored many times for his contribution in helping to mold and strengthen the character of the young people of our community. Most notably, in 1981, he received the George Boss Youth Award from the Touchdown Club of Akron. In 1987, the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame honored him with the Andy Palich Memorial Award. And, in 1989, the Ohio Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame recognized the entire Dies Family for their commitment and dedication to the sport of wrestling.

The tournament is run solely by volunteers, consisting mostly of Bill Dies' relatives and friends. The Akron Public Schools considers this a premier sporting event and helps in various aspects with the event.

### **Schedule of events:**

Preliminaries start Friday, January 13th at 4:30 pm. The tournament continues on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am, with semi-finals starting approximately at noon and finals at roughly 6:00 pm. Parade of Champions and Presentation will start prior to finals and fans are asked to be seated by 5:45 pm.

Tickets are \$8.

Website [www.BillDies.com](http://www.BillDies.com)

Media Contact: Steve Dies, 330-472-5370 or [steve@dieselectric.com](mailto:steve@dieselectric.com)

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Mike Dies (330) 807-3495 or [mikedies@wabl.org](mailto:mikedies@wabl.org)