

Bernie Wrightson

USA Diving



Bernie Wrightson grew up in Denver attending Dora Moore Elementary, Morey Junior High and Denver East High School. His competitive diving career started at the Denver Downtown YMCA when coach Roger Seick saw

Bernie's talent on the diving board. As a junior in high school he started diving with the University of Denver coach, Tom DeLong. That is when his technique and confidence started to grow. As a senior in high school he won every meet he entered. He was recruited to dive for Arizona State University.

During his stay at ASU Bernie won eight National AAU title and two NCAA titles. In 1966 he won every major U.S. springboard titles and became the last diver to win the prestigious Lawrence J. Johnson "Swimming" Award. Then to cap off his amazing career Bernie won the 3M Springboard Gold Medal at the 1967 Pan Am Games and the 1968 Olympics. His score at the 1968 Olympics stood as the Olympic record for many years.

Bernie's trademark was the determination on his face prior to every dive he performed. The determination was obvious to everyone at every competition. For a short time, after retiring from diving Bernie coached the Swedish national diving program. Bernie went on to have a successful career as a stockbroker.

Bernie is now retired, living north of San Diego with his wife of 45 years, Cathy. They have a son, a daughter and four grandsons. All live just a short distance from Bernie's home.