

RIATA HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2005

Dick Cole

Dick Cole was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa on July 12, 1908. He was an avid and accomplished wrestler who worked his way through Iowa State University, graduating in 1931. That year he also won the NCAA Wrestling Championship in the 135 lb. weight class held at Brown University. Brown offered Dick a position as wrestling and lacrosse coach as well as assistant athletic trainer. He stayed at Brown for nine years and joined the faculty after he picked up an M.S. in Physiology in 1935 by attending Iowa State during summer sessions. Dick later added an M.S. in Education from U.R.I. in 1955.

In 1941, he became head athletic trainer at the University of Rhode Island. After leaving to serve his country in the Navy, Dick returned to U.R.I. in 1946 and stayed for 29 years. He was a tireless lecturer at sports medicine conferences and worked hard to upgrade the image of athletic trainers in Rhode Island and across the country.

Over the years, he received many accolades culminating in his selection for the NATA Hall of Fame and the National Helms Hall of Fame in 1970. In 1972 Dick was inducted into the University of Rhode Island Athletic Hall of Fame. Dick passed away in 1978.