Steve Sakis started off his athletic career as a wrestler at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach (Virginia) and was talked into going out for the football team in high school due to what he described as his aggressive nature.

After playing high school football, Steve had offers from Bear Bryant at Alabama to Hank Norton at Ferrum College to Coach Charlie Simmons at Kilgore College. Steve decided to play football at Kilgore and was the only player on the team from out-of-state.

He said that being the only non-Texan on the team was quite the experience and he had always heard that “no one from Virginia makes it in Texas," but there he was. Luckily, he said, he had the presence of mind to appreciate every day “out west” as a gift.

Steve knew that nobody from his hometown had made it that far and he heard the term “soft Virginia boy” as a common phrase. However, he took it as a challenge, which made him work even harder to prove the doubters wrong.

He played defensive lineman for Kilgore College for two years during the 1969 and 1970 football seasons under head coach Charles Simmons. Jim Miller and Brodie Campbell were assistant coaches.

Due to hard work, discipline and dedication, Coach Simmons molded the 4-6 team in 1969 to becoming conference champs Steve’s sophomore season in 1970, finishing 7-2-1. In 1970, Steve was named Lineman of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and was selected as an All-American.

Steve said Kilgore College taught him to never give up, hard work always pays off and to keep his goals in sight. After college, he opened up a nightclub in Norfolk (Virginia) in 1974, the 4400 Campus Club, across from Old Dominion University.

In two years the club became the number one Busch Beer account in the USA. Disco was hot and Auggie Busch loved him some Steve Sakis. After many successful years, Steve opened another restaurant, Colley Bay Café and two Athletic Clubs: Ghent Athletic Center and Greenbrier Athletic Club.

The greatest icon Steve said he had the pleasure to train at Ghent Athletic Center was The Great Lou Thesz, six-time World Professional Wrestling Champion.

Steve and Lou Thesz became partners in the Virginia Professional Wrestling Club Inc. in Norfolk, Virginia.

At that time, Lou Thesz was the number one “grappler” in the world and Steve considered Lou as part of his family.

Steve said he still misses Lou’s stories of his world experiences of the great era of professional wrestling before it became choreographed: Man against Man, Period, Rick Flair, Hulk Hogan, the Wood Brothers from West Texas, Arn Anderson and crew were all part of the club when they were in town to professionally wrestle in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF).

Steve and Lou were also training the number one-ranked sumo wrestler in the world at that time.

Later in life, Steve become a successful salesman for the number one car dealership in Virginia, Hall Automotive. The owner, Ken Hall, took Steve under his guidance as a father figure (since Steve never had a father in his life) to perfect the positive winning skills Steve had learned starting at Kilgore College. Steve continued to practice what he started at Kilgore College including hard work, discipline and a true focus of his goals.

Steve was eventually awarded Salesman of the Year at Hall Honda.

Steve is married to his best friend Debbie and they live in a golf community in Chesapeake (Virginia). He coached many years for the wrestling program at Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake where he coached 18 high school state championship wrestling teams and three national high school championship teams.

Steve’s son, Steve Jr. was a Prep National Wrestling Champion at Blair Academy in New Jersey. Even today, when football is brought up, Steve says he is from Texas.
Unfortunately, Steve cannot be here today due to an unexpected surgery from which he is expected to fully recover from within the year.

Steve said he loved Kilgore College and that it will always be number one in his heart.

Steve also said he definitely plans to be at Kilgore College for the Homecoming game in 2015 and that being inducted into the KC Athletics Hall of Fame is the greatest accomplishment of his life.