

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



“Education is an essential element to a better quality of life, individually as well as globally.” That is the belief of the 1993 Distinguished Alumnus Pete Rademacher of Medina, Ohio. This is the second honor bestowed on Rademacher by YVCC. In 1985 he was inducted into the YVCC Hall of Fame.

A sportsman, Olympic Gold Medalist, professional athlete, inventor, marketer, youth booster, pro referee and a company president... he’s truly “one of a kind.”

Born in Tieton the same year (1928) that Yakima Junior College was established, Rademacher majored in journalism and graduated from YJC in 1950. He completed his formal education at Washington State University, graduating in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal husbandry. His boxing career started in college, extended into his Army service and in 1956, Melbourne, Australia, he won the ultimate—the Olympic Gold Medal.

In 1987, he retired as president of Kiefer McNeil, a manufacturer of pool chemicals and swim equipment. He now devotes his time in several efforts: sports promoter/fund-raising golf tournaments for the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, and motivational lectures.

Pete is a devoted family man to his wife and three daughters and extends his “family” to include youth organizations, church and civic groups and athletic associations.

Previous Alumnus of the Year Award recipients are Catherine May Bedell, J. Alex (Lex) Maxwell, Sid Morrison, James Roger Sorenson, Ph.D., Washington State Supreme Court Justice Robert F. Brachtenbach, E. Frederick Velikanje, Bill E. Barnett, Ph.D., Bill Lee, Gene Shields, Mel Lewis, and Dr. Penny Hitchcock.