



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr. William Roetzheim, B.S. in Physical Education (1952)



In 1951, William Roetzheim, then an FSU sophomore, did something unprecedented which can never again be matched anywhere in the United States. He single-handedly outscored all gymnastics teams in the National Collegiate Gymnastic Championships. His individual score was higher than the team score of every team in the competition and won FSU the first national athletic team championship in any sport and in any college or university in Florida history. This “one man team” accomplishment prompted the NCAA to change the entire scoring system to prevent anyone from repeating his overwhelming performance. Roetzheim’s contribution to the sport of Gymnastics is weaved throughout his career. He was a member of two USA Olympic Gymnastics Teams (1948, 1952). He was the first American to bring home gold in the Pan American Games in 1951.

Roetzheim served as a superior judge at the Olympic Games in 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996. He was the first American elected to the Federation International of Gymnastics Men’s Technical Committee, serving from 1984 to 1996. Roetzheim was inducted into the Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1975, followed by his induction into the FSU Hall of Fame in 1977. He worked as a successful high school coach and physical education teacher for 14 years (1955-1969). Roetzheim was employed as the Athletic Director and Gymnastics coach at the University of Illinois – Chicago from 1969 until his retirement in 1985.