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### Long Island Wrestling 2016

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The Friends of Long Island Wrestling would like to thank the many people and organizations that have graciously contributed stories and photographs for this issue of *Long Island Wrestling*. We are thankful to all of our sponsors and to the individuals and businesses who have taken ads in support of the Hall of Fame inductees. Without this support, we would be unable to publish this magazine each year.

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### Long Island Wrestling 2016

### Letters to the Editor:

"Hi, just wanted to let you know I just received the magazine...it is AWESOME...wait until Frank sees it.

Carol Carrozza Fiorvanti

"Received the magazine, it looks great! Thanks Jerry, see you soon."

Steve Buscemi

"Hi Pascal. I left Long Island with many new friends and wonderful memories This was the most fun outing I have had in the last 20 years or more. You guys treated me so well and I was impressed by all of those in attendance. You have a great group in Friends of Long Island Wrestling. Take care and keep in touch. I'm sure we'll be friends forever. Tell all those there in New York thanks for taking care of me and making me feel special.

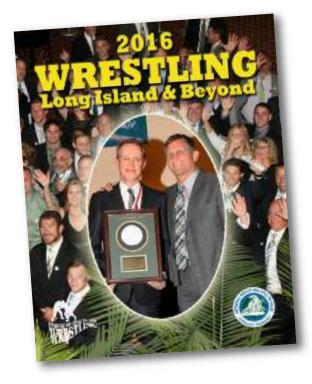
Larry Owings

Hello Jerry & Pascal ...

Wow ... congratulations to all of your staff for another wonderful publication on Long Island Wrestling. I just got my copy and read it from front to back and loved it. The publication certainly exemplifies the main goals of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame - you have recognized excellence, captured and preserved the history of Long Island wrestling and inspired many to continue their participation in the sport of wrestling inso many different aspects. The history stories are informative, creative, educational and captures the rich and colorful history of Long Island wrestling. Please accept my sincere appreciation for a job well done. The sport of wrestling needs things like this to showcase the sport and sustain it. Wonderful job and keep up the great work.

Carl Koenig
Special Program Finances
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### President's Message



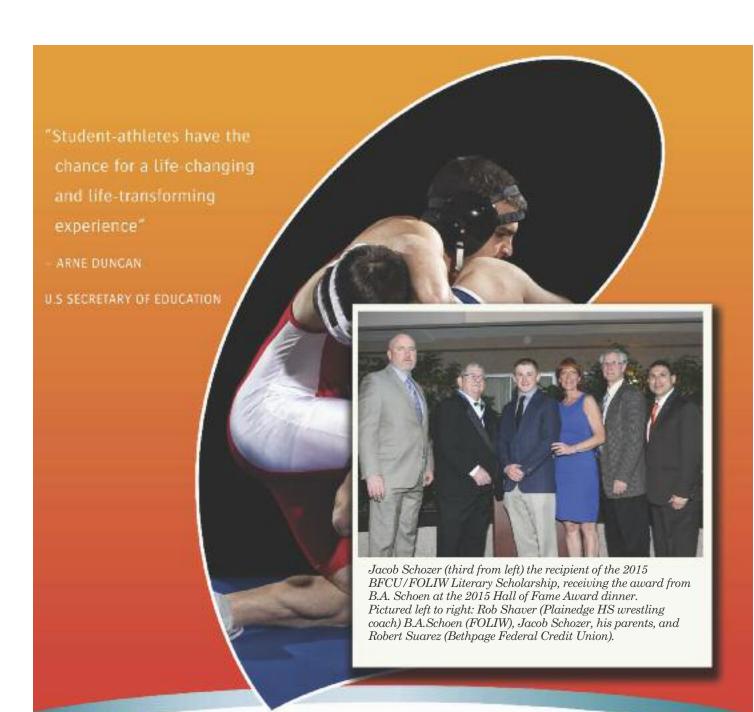
The photo shown on the cover is that of Tom Ryan, Coach of NCAA, Division I, National Team Champion, Ohio State, and College Coach of the Year presenting Steve Buscemi with his "Outstanding American" plaque from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Buscemi, is an international movie star, who has appeared in numerous film and television production, including *Fargo*, *The Sopranos*, and *Boardwalk Empire*.

In the background are some of the 730 guests who attended the Annual Downstate, NY Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dinner. This dinner is believed to be the largest wrestling event of its kind held in the nation. Our chapter is proud of the wrestling families and participant in the Downstate NY region for their support of the many activities of the chapter and the National Wrestling Hall of fame.

We believe that this support is a clear indication as to the health of high school and intercollegiate wrestling in our area.

Tom Ryan began his wrestling career at Wantagh High School in Nassau County. Steve Buscemi wrestled for Harold Earl at Valley Stream Central High School. Both were high school standouts!!!

—Jerry Seckler



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### STEVE ERBER

It's been two years since Steve Erber sold his house in Ithaca, New York upon retiring from his job as the Associate Athletic Director at Cornell University. He and his wife Mary Lou moved to the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia so they could be close to their son and three of their granddaughters. It's there that Steve is just now able to look back at the 65 years that he spent as an athlete, coach and sports administrator and appreciate the friends he gained in his fabled career.

"In the beginning, it's mostly about wins and losses, advancing to the next step, earning titles. And that's okay. But to me, as I now realize, what really matters is the relationships that you develop along the way ... and keep for a lifetime," says Steve.

As a youngster, Steve was active in all sports but didn't get involved with wrestling until the 7th grade. His brother Pete was two years older and took up the sport with the high school team as a 9th grader. The boys would wrestle around a bit as brothers often do and Steve picked up a couple of moves. He entered the Huntington YMCA "Wrestling Show" tournament that Lou Giani organized. Steve not only won the tournament but was also voted Out-

standing Wrestling His wrestling career was off and running – with one minor stumbling block. Steve was not able to wrestle for the Huntington high school varsity team during his 9th

grade year. He was too little and too young. Steve notes, "I only weighed 80-some pounds as a freshman and the lightest weight class was 103. Plus, I was only 13 years old and the minimum age limit was 14. I finally grew a little and wrestled 103, 110 and 116 my last three years at Huntington for coaches Frank Kubisa and Paul McCarthy."

Probably the strongest influence any one person had on Steve's wrestling career was the Hall of Fame wrestler and coach, Huntington's own Lou Giani. After Steve won the "Wrestling Show" tournament Giani kept his eye on Steve for the next decade.

Steve recalls, "Lou was training for the 1959 Pan Am Games and the 1960 Olympics while I was still in high school. We'd work out together, particularly in the summers. The high school gym was locked but we'd cart a mat around with us and put it down on a lawn somewhere and drill takedowns. Besides his full-time job at Grumman aircraft, Lou also owned a landscaping business so he provided me with a summer job as his helper"When I went to Penn State after graduating from Huntington High in

1960, Lou and

continue to work out during the summers and vacations. Lou didn't wrestle in college so he never benefited from the experience of wrestling for a great college coach. He was married with three kids, working two jobs, yet still made the commitment to turn himself into an Olympic athlete. He was a self-made man - a great teacher and a real inspiration to me.

"Lou developed some outstanding wrestlers at Huntington. In fact, later when I was coaching at Binghamton University, he sent me one of his finest wrestlers, Pete Berti, who later became Binghamton's first Division III All-American in any sport."

Not many wrestling people are aware that while Steve placed second in the Long Island championships as a

senior at Huntington, he went to Penn State on a partial lacrosse scholarship. His first year there he wrestled on the PSU freshman team in the winter and was goalie on the freshman lacrosse squad in the spring. That's when he first met Jerry Seckler, who acted as a big brother to Steve in the Sigma Chi fraternity house and in the wrestling room, and would give him a ride home during vacation periods. "Jerry always looked out for me and we've been good friends ever since," adds Steve.

After Steve's freshman year, he realized that trying to compete in two varsity sports at that level

was too taxing; thus, he dropped lacrosse while the University switched his scholarship over to wrestling. For the next three seasons, he competed on the mats for the Nittany Lions, serving as co-captain of the 1965 team. Steve wrestled for Hall of Fame coaches Charlie Speidel and Bill Koll while there, yet he gives special credit to the then-current Hofstra coach, Pete Damone. Says Steve, "Thanks to Pete, I was always able to work out with the Hofstra wrestlers when I came home from college. Pete helped me a lot, was very supportive of my goals and treated me just like one of his own Hofstra kids."

"And Vince Zuaro was another strong supporter of mine as well," adds Steve. "Vince was coaching over at Freeport and would always open his room in the evenings during the summer so some of us could work out. He never failed to encourage me and we became close friends for many years." Coming off his graduation from Penn State, Steve attended the University of Maryland for two years where he earned his Masters degree. From there he made his way to Binghamton University in upstate New York, where he initiated wrestling as a club sport in 1967 and became the first varsity coach of the program in 1969. He led his teams to five top-10 Division III finishes and saw four of his wrestlers become individual national champions in his 21 seasons as head coach. In 1984 his team finished 3rd in the nation, led by four former Long Island high school wrestlers – Tom Pillari, Keith Cavayero, Mike Trunkale and John Leo. He credits much of that success to his Long Island ties and relationships.

Steve offers, "Two Long Island wrestling coaches, John

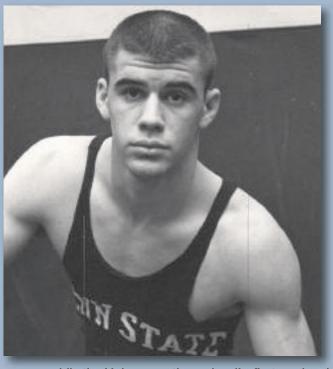
Schaefer and Joe Campo, helped me tremendously by sending some of their best wrestlers to Binghamton. John was the head coach at Bellmore-Kennedy high school while Joe was a very successful coach at Brentwood. We had a great relationship and I appreciated coaching their boys in college and developing similar relationships with them."

John sent the Cavayero brothers to wrestle for Steve at Binghamton. Stephen Cavayero became Binghamton's first-ever national champion in 1977 and followed that up by defending his crown in 1978 to become

the school's first and only two-time national champion; younger brother Keith later became a two-time All-American at Binghamton. Joe is well-known for coaching such Long Island icons as Carl Adams, Peter Galea and Bob Antonacci at Brentwood.

A lasting relationship that Steve is quite proud of is the one he developed with actor and Massapequa native, Billy Baldwin. Steve comments, "Billy wrestled for me at Binghamton and we are close friends. He is a great ambassador for the sport of wrestling, for Binghamton University and for Long Island. He was very instrumental in the international effort of saving wrestling in the Olympic Games two years ago. He is probably the best-known alumnus of Binghamton. Wrestling really brought us together."

The list of Steve's relationships that wrestling molded goes on and on .... Naturally, the heart of them are Long Island bred.



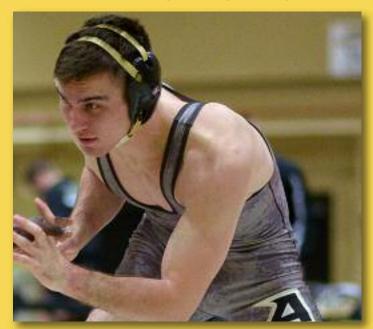
# West Point 2015/16 WSESTLING

By Stephen Waldman

The 2015-16 season promises to be a challenge for Army West Point wrestling. Head coach Kevin Ward's intention when constructing this schedule was to challenge his wrestlers on the mat. With tournaments such as the Cliff Keen Invitational and Southern Scuffle on tap, as well as dual meets against North Carolina, N.C. State, Oklahoma and his alma-mater Oklahoma State, he has certainly left no room for the team to slack off.

The Black Knights open their season in Troy, N.Y. at the Northeast Duals on November 15 with a trio of matches against N.C. State, Oklahoma, and LIU Post before competing in the New York State Championships, hosted by Cornell, on the 22nd. The next competition for the Cadets is the Cliff Keen Invitational in Las Vegas, Nev. on December 4 and 5. They then go to Poly Prep in Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 12th for a dual meet against North Carolina to conclude the 2015 portion of their season.

Army rings in the new year in Chattanooga, Tenn. for the Southern Scuffle on January 1 and 2 before beginning the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) portion of their schedule with their only three home matches of the season. The home-opener is against Binghamton on



Cole Gracey represented Army twice in the NCAA Division One Tournament

January 10, followed by Hofstra on the 16th and Penn on the 17th. The meet against Binghamton will be in Christl Arena while the ones against Hofstra and Penn will be held in Hayes Gymnasium. EIWA competition continues January 23 when the Cadets travel down to Philadelphia to take on Drexel. The final competition of January for Army is the All Academy Championships hosted by Virginia Military Institute on the 29th.

The Black Knights' final non-conference dual meet is a tough road matchup against Oklahoma State on February 12 before the team travels down to Annapolis for its annual star meet against service academy rival Navy on the 20th. Postseason competition begins the first week of March with the EIWA Championships on March 4 and 5 at Princeton, and the NCAA Championships will be held on the 17th through 19th at Madison Square Garden.

To purchase tickets for the Binghamton meet, call 1-877-TIX-ARMY. For more information about Army Wrestling, go to www.goarmywestpoint.com and follow the Black Knights on twitter @GoArmyWestPoint, @ARMYWP\_Wres and @CoachKWard.

"When I look at this schedule I know that we will be challenged every time we step on the mat to compete, and I like that," said Ward. "I don't expect it to be easy, but I think it is the schedule that we need. Our eyes are on Madison Square Garden for the NCAA Tournament, and everything we do is to prepare us for that event. I feel confident this schedule does that. We're really excited about the national tournament being at Madison Square Garden this year, and hope that there's a heavy Army presence there in March. Having the NCAA tournament here in New York is going to be a big deal. Obviously, for us, that's essentially a home match."

Ward joined Army from Division II Ouachita Baptist University in August of 2014. While at OBU, Ward turned a program that was built from scratch into a national contender.

"Having the opportunity to coach the cadet-athletes here and be part of the history of West Point is ultimately what made the decision for me," said Ward. "When you have a chance to coach somewhere where your values align with those of the institution, it's a pretty special thing. I wasn't looking to leave (Ouachita Baptist University). I was happy there. We had a good team and a really strong recruiting class. There were very few opportunities that would have made me want to leave where I was at before, and West Point was one of those. What drove me to the academy was the prestige of West Point, what West Point stands for and the way we believe in getting things done here is something that I felt very strongly about."

Ward's first season in 2014-15 saw Army improve on its finishes at a number of tournaments, including a second-place finish at the All-Academy Championships after placing fourth in 2013-14, a 10th-place finish at the EIWA Championships after coming in 14th a season ago and finishing 12th at the Southern Scuffle following a 33rd-place showing in 2013-14. He also led the Black Knights to their first victory over service academy rival Navy in 17 years.

There were four key members of the team that helped make Ward's transition to the Division I level a smooth one; Bryce Barnes, Cole Gracey, Brian Harvey, and Russell Parsons. Barnes made his third consecutive NCAA appearance, while Gracey and Harvey each represented Army for the second time at the national tournament. Parsons earned his first NCAA qualification in 2014-15 after sitting out the previous season due to injury. Gracey was the only one of the four qualifiers that was seeded, slotted 14th in the 33-man 165 weight class.

"I expect us to be a better program than we were last year,"



Bryce Barnes qualified three times for the NCAA Division One Tournament

said Ward. "I think that we've done a lot of work on some of our deficiencies as a team, and we've put a lot of effort into correcting some bad habits that I thought we had in the past. We are better now than we were at this time last year without question, but we've got to continue to make a lot of progress through the year. Hopefully that progress translates to more guys at the national tournament in March and putting guys on the podium."

It is clear that Ward's vision is set on the future of this program and continuously improving from the previous year.

"(Recruiting) is the name of the game, right?" said Ward. "If we're going to continue the success that we're having now, then we need to continue to recruit well. Long term, that's the biggest thing that we've got to continue to do better and continue to make a priority. What we're looking for are people who want to be NCAA champions and are willing to not sacrifice those goals for everything else. West Point is a place where you can get a great education; you can set yourself up for a promising future and achieve your goals on the wrestling mat. We're looking for guys that want to be well rounded and be successful at everything they do."

It was the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, who initially suggested that wrestling be added to the curriculum at West Point in 1906 during his second term as president; around the same time that Col. Herman J. Koehler was completing a major expansion of the physical education program which also included wrestling.

Koehler's first hire as head coach was Tom Jenkins, who was recognized as one of the finest wrestlers in the world at the time. Jenkins went on to devote 37 years of service to coaching and teaching wrestling to the Cadets, including becoming the inaugural coach of the program in 1921. In the 89 years of intercollegiate competition, Army has an overall record of 652-424-37 (.602) with 64 of those teams finishing with a record better than .500. The Black Knights won the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) team championship in 1987.

That much team success brings in its fair share of individual accolades as well. Nineteen All-Americans have donned the black and gold, as well as 29 individual EIWA champions. This group of premier grapplers is highlighted by Phillip Simpson. From 2002-2005, Simpson won three EIWA championships at three different weight classes (141, 157 and 149), and finished second at 141 his freshman year. That is the only time a cadet has ever won three EIWA championships. He is also Army's lone three-time All-American earning this honor from 2003 through 2005.

### MUHLENBERG COLLEGE Wrestling Coach Shaun Lally

By Matt Diano

Shaun Lally is an artist. Wherever he goes, he creates beautiful music on the mat...For his first hit, the married father of two needed only 2.5 years to take Stony Brook University from a budding club program to top 25 in the NCWA. With all roads seemingly headed north for the Seawolves, it would come as a surprise when on October 20th of last year, the Holbrook resident announced that he would be stepping down to accept the same position at Pennsylvania based, Muhlenberg College....Calling the decision one of the most difficult in his life, Lally understood that the key to establishing a legacy was not just to have an incredible opening number, but to also have a mind-blowing encore.

Inheriting a Mules program that had gone 2-60 in the previous five years and had not won a Centennial Conference dual since 2009, the local boy (wrestled for Parkland HS) made his presence felt immediately, compiling a 4-9 overall record,

including victories on January 17th over Washington & Lee and McDaniel College to snap a long 37 match conference losing streak.

Reflecting on the 2014-2015 season, Lally would say, "In all my many years of coaching I've never experienced such exponential growth

and visible results. We reached many of our goals and exceeded expectations when it came to dual meets, conference competition, and numbers. We also landed 11 recruits coupled with our 7 returning sophomores. From the start of the season until to the conclusion, not one kid quit and they all worked tirelessly to build the base of this program. We took the ship, turned it around, and set it on a course that will lead us to our desired destination." Addressing the buzz and campus-wide enthusiasm he has been able to create, Lally would state, "We have a deep history of wrestling that saw its first conference champ in 1940. I feel like we have awakened the sleeping giant that has been part of our identity for so many decades. From here it will only grow stronger." A sign of this

rejuvenated attitude would be the NWCA Best of Brand award given by the NWCA, an award won by Muhlenberg in 2015.

With the '15-'16 season approaching, Lally has no intention of taking a step back... Among the highlights this year will be a return to the Grapple at the Garden where the Mules are featured in a "matinee match-up" against SUNY Oswego... Muhlenberg will also be heading to the Sunshine State at the end of December for the Citrus Open, and are stoked to challenge themselves in Centennial Conference dual action against heavy hitters, New York University, Stevens Tech, Ursinus, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Speaking about the make-up of his roster, Lally would say, "We are a very young team, consisting mostly of underclassmen, which is definitely a coach's dream...On the topic of freshmen, he said, they will be exposed to great partners, a competitive schedule, and focused coaching.

I believe that the environment we have cultivated is one that can deliver early success... As far as the sophomores Jake Gordon, Ben Peck, Will Lamb, and Mark Gutierrez have all done some amazing things in the off-season and I am anxious to see those efforts pay off...



Coach Shan Lally (back row right) and his Muhlenburg 2014-15 team

Seniors Jimmy Coiley and Che Chengsupanmit find themselves in a very opportunistic position as this is the healthiest team they have ever been around as they write their final chapter at Muhlenberg."

Lally, who has always had an objective of filtering some of that deep LI talent into his program, made the following sales pitch on what his school can offer: "We are providing the ultimate student-athlete experience. MU is a place with a long track record of alumni success. The Student-athletes who are coming to Muhlenberg are not one dimensional when they exit. When you are surrounded by like-minded, goal oriented, individuals the sky is the limit as to what one can accomplish on and off the mat."

### A LOOK BACK AT 2014-15 ...

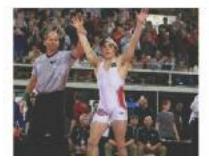
- Ohio State won its first national championship in the 94-year history of the sport in Columbus. The Buckeyes had three NCAA finalists, two champions and five All-Americans. In the team race, they finished 18 points ahead of second-place lows.
- Nathan Tomasello capped off a dominant freshman season to capture the
  national championship at 125 pounds. The Parma, Ohio native won his final 18
  matches of the season and at the NCAAs defeated unbeaten and top-seeded
  Alan Waters of Missouri in the semifinals before finishing off his magical run with
  a 9-5 victory over West Virginia's Zeke Moisey. Tomasello was 33-4 on the year
  and also won the Big Ten title at 125 lbs.
- Logan Stieber cemented his place in NCAA wrestling history by winning his
  fourth title and in the process became just the fourth wrestler in history to
  accomplish that feat. He won every major individual awards there was to win, including becoming the first Buckeye to take home the Hodge Trophy, considered
  to be the Heisman Trophy of the sport. With a career record of 119-3, Stieber
  won 50 consecutive matches to end his career and was also named the NCAA
  Most Dominate Wrestler.
- In September, Kyle Snyder became the youngest world champion in USA Wrestling history when he won five matches in one day, capped off by a dramatic gold medal victory against Abdusalam Gadisov of Russia. The 19-year old now sets his sights on winning a gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio.
- In the community, the Ohio State wrestling team compiled over 700 hours of community service last year, tops among all of the 36 varsity sports at Ohio State. The Buckeyes donate their time to read to children at elementary schools, among other things.

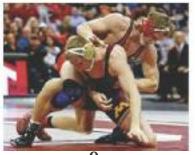




### A LOOK AHEAD TO 2015-16

- The defending national champions return four wrestlers who have previously earned All-American honors Nathan Tomasello, Bo Jordan, Kenny Courts and Hunter Stieber.
- Tomasello is the consensus No. 1 ranked wrestler at 125 pounds entering the season. He will begin his season at the NWCA All-Star Classic on Nov. 1 in Atlanta, Ga. against WVU's Zeke Moisey in a rematch of last year's 125 lb. NCAA final.
- Jordan is No. 1 by both InterMat and The Open Mat at 174 lbs. Last year, the redshirt sophomore was the third place finisher at 165 lbs., finishing with a 22-2 overall record and undefeated mark in dual meets.
- Courts' magical run at last year's NCAA Championships propelled the Buckeyes to the team title, and he enters the season ranked No. 5 at 184 lbs. Courts went from the eighth place finisher at the Big Ten Championships to fifth nationally as he knocked off three seeded wrestlers along the way.
- Stieber battled through injury last year and wrestled in only nine matches, but when healthy he has national championship ability, evidenced by this 2013 Big Ten title at 149 lbs. and third place NCAA finish. He has a career record of 85-14.







### GRAPPLING WITH RENAISSANCE

### The Resurrection of LIU Post Wrestling

2015-2016 By Ian Schraier

When Director of Athletics Bryan Collins conceived the idea to reinstate the wrestling program at LIU Post after a nearly 25-year hiatus, the selection of the head coach seemed to be the simplest decision that he had to make. Joe Patrovich leaped at the opportunity to be the leader in building the Pioneers redux program. Patrovich, who was inducted to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012, boasted an impressive resume. He had coached 21 county champions, 13 state finalists, 10 All-America selections, eight state champions and been named coach of the year in Nassau County and Suffolk County prior to accepting the job at LIU Post in 2013.

In only the Pioneers first season back, they had two wrestlers qualify for the NCAA Division II Championships, where returning sophomore Joe Calderone (133) took home All-America honors; LIU Post's first All-American in three decades.

Unfortunetly medical issues kept Patrovich off the mats for most of the season, but the wrestlers kept pushing toward their goals under the instruction of assistant coaches Rvan Patrovich and Michael Zimbler, whom the coach has all the appreciation in the world for. Without them stepping in, the program could have easily gone under while still in its infancy. Though the young team's overall record in its first season back was 4-15. the team's wins and losses

hardly reflects the immense progress being made within this upstart program.

Also returning to the team for the 2015-16 campaign, two wrestlers who were named All-Region a year ago, fifthplace finisher James Louison (285) and sixth-place finisher Ronnie King (184). Other returners include Corey Ashe (165), Juan Carlos Diaz (174), Rich Grillo (184), Jake Horton (197/285), Matt Langan (149), Jesse Meaney (149), Jackson Mordente (157), Ed Ramirez Jr. (157/165), James Sinclair (165), Vinny Turano (141/149) and Tyler Walsh (125/133).

Incoming freshman to the team this year are Dan Arkow (165/174), Monair McDonald (285), Joe Paterno (125/133), Pedro Rosales (125), Logan McGinn (174/184), Freddy Vidal (197) and T.J. Fabian (141). The Pioneers preach competitiveness, as multiple weight classes remain open while they identify their starters among a talented young group of men. Patrovich is optimistic that he has found the

"right kind of guys" to grapple for the program this season, and is very eager to see what they can do. Patrovich hints that some people may want to keep their eye on incoming transfer T.J. Fabian (141) throughout his LIU Post career, whom Patrovich feels has a very high ceiling. The buzz around campus is that they have really great group of people on the team, essential for the solid foundation Patrovich plans to construct upon.

The biggest challenges for the Pioneers last season was the lack of depth at the weight classes. When injuries occurred, there weren't enough guys on the squad to step up into that role. Patrovich stated that another major challenge of being a new program is the fact that they do not belong to a conference. They have to schedule meets with whomever they can get and whoever agrees to, most of the time with matches only being accepted if LIU Post

travels to them, leaving Post hosting only three home duals this upcoming season. Patrovich also noted that the strength of their opponents is higher than they normally would be if they had a conference. but he is ready to take the challenge head-on.

Opponents this year include two Division I programs in Binghamton University and Army as well as University of North Carolina - Pembroke and Notre Dame College of Ohio; whom are highly touted as the best Division



Returning sophomore, Joe Calderone achieved All-American honors at the NCAA Division 2 Tournament

Il programs in the nation. Additionally, the Pioneers are slated to make their second-straight appearance at the Grapple at the Garden and visit the state of Minnesota for a dual and tournament at Minnesota State University-Moorhead.

The Pioneers are set on building a resilient culture and reputation on Long Island, recruiting wrestlers from within Nassau and Suffolk and popularizing the brand through Patrovich's countless athletic connections at high schools all over the island. Patrovich wants to bring awareness to his upstart program and is doing so in multiple ways. One of these ways is by hosting their second-annual wrestleoffs in honor of the program's first coach, Jim Davey (1956-78), at LIU Post on Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.

Now, beginning the revamped wrestling program's second season, it is time to put this team on notice as a potential rising power among the Division II landscape.

### COLUMBIA WRESTLING

By: Gabe Gilson: Assistant Director of Athletic Communications

NEW YORK— One year removed from tying the programs best run at the EIWA Championships, the Columbia wrestling team is back in action for the 2015-'16 season.

The Andrew F. Barth Head Coach of Wrestling, Carl Fronhofer, returns with three athletes who qualified for the 2015 NCAA Wrestling Championships last spring in St.Louis. With the 2016 NCAA Championships taking place at Madison Square Garden, the entire team should be motivated to show off their talents on the national stage, just a few blocks downtown from campus.

"We are very excited to get the season started." Fronhofer commented."We have a solid core of kids returning to the mat with four returning former NCAS qualifiers, I expect to get a lot of production out of the other six spots with the talent we have assembled."

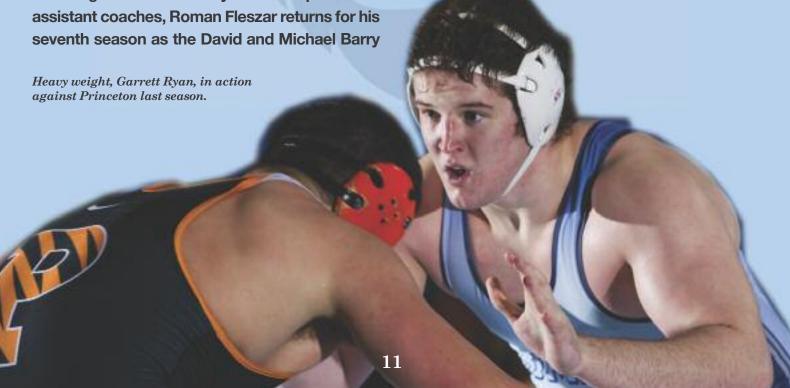
### **COACHING STAFF**

Fronhofer begins year five at the helm, and will once again be aided by three experienced

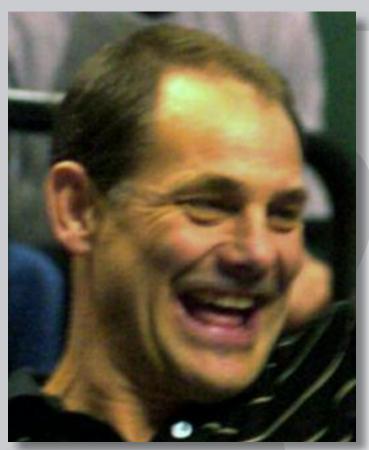
Assistant Coach of Wrestling, and will mostly work with the lower and middle weights. Former Columbia All-American Steve Santos has been promoted to the John Huemer Second Assistant Coach of Wrestling after spending last season as the volunteer Assistant, a role now filled by Joe Nard, who comes to Columbia from the **University of Minnesota.** 



Returning sophomore, Tyrel White, in action last season will wrestle at 165 lbs.



# WHAT'S WRONG WITH And How



Greg Strobel,, Executive Director of the EIWA

A few months ago Pascal Perri asked me to write an opinion piece for the FOLIW magazine about what is wrong with collegiate wrestling.

To get started, I did a very informal survey to see what people think are the problems with collegiate wrestling. The first person I asked was my wife. She is known as "Mrs. Coach" to all my former wrestlers and after decades of watching wrestling has a pretty good handle on good wrestling and what the fans are saying. I also asked a variety of people including current and retired coaches, fans, wrestlers and people that really don't watch much wrestling.

The results are not shocking but it really points out problems that have existed for years. Problems the rules committees have wrestled with for years....without really making substantive changes... that fixes what is broken.

Results of the Survey in rank order:

- 1. Stalling
- 2. Wrestlers going out of bounds
- 3. False starts

Stalling was by far the number one problem identified by ALL the people I asked. Everyone knows it a problem. All the fans know when the wrestlers are stalling, the referees know when the kids are stalling. So, why don't they call it?

#### Solution: Downgrade officials that don't call stalling.

I officiated for 20 years, I know what is going on in the official's mind. They are worried about deciding the match with stalling calls, They are worried about what the coaches think and are concerned about not being invited back if they call stalling. They should be worried about being downgraded and lose the opportunity to officiate in the NCAAs. I guarantee you, officials will call stalling if they knew they would be downgraded if they didn't.

We don't really need more rules or different rules. We just need the officials to enforce the rules. And we need a system that rewards officials that call stalling and downgrade officials that are too hesitate to make the call. Recently an official told me "over the last twenty years, if we (the officials) just called stalling like it should be called, we wouldn't need all these current rules clarifications on stalling".

Some officials drove me crazy because they wouldn't call stalling. I used to tell my team "it will take an act of congress for this guy to call stalling". A few retired officials that I thought were best at calling it: Pascal Perri, Mike Allen, Fred Richardson, Bill Stecklein.

Just like my coach Dale Thomas (Oregon State), I sometimes called my own kids for stalling. They didn't like it. That might be a little understated, they HATED it. But, I would say "all you have do is wrestle and I won't call you". In one of our dual meets, the ref called stalling on one guy and only at my insistence. He called it and my guy lost the match on the stalling call. But, it was deserved. It also had a tremendous impact on my wrestler. He stopped stalling and went on to win the EIWA championships that year.

## COLLEGE WRESTLING To Fix It!

Excessive going out of bounds was the number two problem in my survey.

It is a problem that can be solved by making going out of bounds a penalty instead of a reward. When international wrestling adopted a rule that penalized going out of bounds with a point everyone thought it was going to be a "push out" rule and that wrestling would become like Japanese Sumo. Frankly, I was skeptical too but what we found out was that it is really hard to push someone off the mat. It is very risky. Just pushing puts you at risk for a sweep single or being thrown.

If you watched the world championship in Las Vegas you saw the actual results of this rule. The international mat is only 10 meters across (about 30 feet) and in many matches I watched the wrestlers never went out of bounds. At most some went out of bounds a couple time.

Contrast this with collegiate wrestling. The seven minute match averages about 10 or more minutes mainly because of the number of times the wrestlers go out of bounds.

The rules committee made very positive steps to penalize excessive going out of bounds this year. Rule 5.9.2 states "When wrestling is stopped in the neutral position for going out of bounds, one of the following three calls shall be made: a) stalling on one or both wrestlers for leaving the wrestling area: b) stalling for pushing or pulling the opponent out of bounds: or c) wrestling action is taking place".

It is a great step in the right direction but why make it a stalling call? Why not a one point penalty every time? I say put a little more teeth in the penalty. Make going out of bounds a serious infraction and the wrestler will stay in bounds.

False starts continue to be a problem even though it has been addressed by the rules committee several times over the past decade or so.

Many dual meets have dozens of cautions. Each wrestlers gets two "freebees". Think about it, 20 wrestlers x 2 cautions each = 40 cautions without penalty. I know this never happens but the potential for it there.

The solution seems very simple to me. Why give the perpetrator two opportunities (cautions) to try to beat the system? Why not just make every false start a point.

How many other sports give you warnings on false starts? Football....loss of yardage. In Track and Swimming, the penalty for a false start in is disqualification. You seldom see a false start.

I do really like the new rule this year that says the official must pause for at least one second. At least we have a time period to go by. I think the old rules said "Pause". Good grief, how long is a pause.

Well, enough on the rules. But, while I have your attention. I have one more item that I think would really help high school and collegiate wrestling. If just former wrestlers made it a point to go to matches we would have full gymnasiums around the country. But, most former wrestlers don't go. In my mind this is a travesty. We need to educated our kids that once they are a wrestler that are a supporter for life.

Thanks for letting me pontificate,

### Greg Strobel

**Editors Note:** 

Greg Strobel has long been an advocate of "Action" on the mat. As a wrestler, he was a two time D1 NCAA Champion (Oregon State).

In 1973, he was voted the outstanding wrestler. As a coach, he promoted aggressive wrestling at Lehigh University. His teams won 6 EIWA Conference Championships (5 in a row). He was selected EIWA Coach of the year 4 times, and NWCA Coach of the Year in 2004.

He has spent 22 years coaching USA wrestling teams and was the Olympic coach in 1996 and 2000. In 1998 he was voted the USOC Coach of the years. In 2009, he was selected USA Wrestling Man of the Year. He spent more than 20 years as a referee, and is currently the Executive Director of the E.I.W.A. He is also a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

# CORNELL WRESTLING 2015-2016 ALL IN!!!

By Betsy Veysman

**ALL IN!** That's become the theme for the Cornell wrestlers, according to NCAA champion Gabe Dean; a chant the team says at workouts and lives every day.

It has been an interesting offseason for the Big Red, with weight changes, impact freshmen and multiple wrestlers considering taking the year off, including Dean.

"I was thinking about doing an Olympic redshirt," Dean said. "I watched the World Championships and I saw a little bit of an opportunity there. I had a couple of conversations and was gonna go for it, I was gonna try it. It was kind of a selfish act, but I didn't want to have any regrets about not taking that opportunity."

But some time went by and Dean said everything started to change. "Something really special happened," he said. "Everybody started doing unselfish things for the team - sacrificing for the team. It all hit at once. Everyone said they were willing to go wherever they needed to go to make the team better."

What did that mean? A new lineup took shape with Nahshon Garrett to 133. Mark Grey to 141. Dylan Palacio to 157. Duke Pickett to 165. Brian Realbuto to 174.

"I started to see this special thing form and

something I hadn't felt before and that's no disrespect to the past two Cornell teams I've been on," Dean said. "I've never felt this special connection. It's the definition of a true family for me. If guys are willing to sacrifice for this team to do something truly special this year - and I really believe we have that opportunity - then who am I to not want to be a part of it? At the beginning, I didn't want to have regrets about not trying to make the Olympic team, but at the

same time, I only get two more years to try to win a team national title. Everything seems to be lining up this year. I would definitely have a bigger regret if I didn't go for it with these guys this year. It became an easy decision for me." That feeling was echoed by junior Mark Grey.

"This year, there's so much accountability and everyone has really come together," Grey added. "Last year, it was kind of forced and we didn't click as well. But this year, pretty much everyone is making a sacrifice. We're all giving something that I think is going to be huge in the end. Everone here is looking at a common goal and ultimately we thrive off each other. There's so much momentum being created right now. I think it will be hard to stop."

With three All-Americans, two others who have made the Round of 12 and two additional NCAA qualifiers

back in the fold, Cornell wrestling looks ready for the 2015-16 campaign.



2015 NCAA Champion, Gabe Dean (below) and 2015 runner-up, Brian Realbuto (above) return, with other veteran wrestlers, to a Cornell squad dedicated to making a run for the National Championship at the NCAA Tournament at Madison Square Garden in March 2016.



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### HOFSTRA WRESTLING

### 15 Returnees Bolster Hopes for the 2015-2016 Season

When Hofstra Head Wrestling Coach Dennis Papadatos was hired in August, 2014 he laid out a multi-phase plan to rebuild the Pride program, both through coaching philosophy and wrestler mindset. With a little less than three months before the start of the season, he also had to evaluate his wrestlers and fill in five open weight classes that were lost to graduation.

The energetic Papadatos hit the ground running and quickly installed a renewed commitment to excellence for his team, on the mat, in the classroom and in the community. While the results

of the 2014-15 season were not what he wanted, the foundation and ground-work for future successes were laid during the Pride's 5-11 season.

Papadatos, who lost two starters to graduation last May, returns for his second year with phase two of his plan for his relatively young squad. A rigorous off-season conditioning program and the benefits of having seen his student-athletes for a full year should reap benefits in



Coach Dennis Papadotos starts his second season as head coach with much optimism for the future of the Hofstra wrestling

2015-16. He will have 15 returnees this season including eight starters on this year's roster. But that doesn't mean every spot is weight class starter is set in stone as Papadatos expects a competitive preseason and early season on the road to the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships at Princeton and the NCAA Division I Championships at Madison Square Garden in March.

Hofstra's lone returning NCAA Championship qualifier, junior Jamel Hudson (Bay Shore, NY) returns at 141. Hudson, who won New York State and

Lock Haven Invitational titles and placed fifth in the EIWA Championships, posted a 24-6 overall record including a 13-2 slate in duals last season. The fourth-year junior didn't rest on his laurels in the off-season. "Jamel did an outstanding job during the off-season and looks better than ever," Papadatos says. "We look for great things from Jamel this year and we expect him to complete the trip to the All-American stand in March.



Junior Jamel Hudson returns looking to improve on a successful 2015 season that saw him qualify for the Division I Wrestling Championships and post a season record of 24-6

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### RaZor Wrestling

By Ted DiPasquale

The Northshore RaZor Corp. is a 501(c) (3) not for profit organization that runs the RaZor Wrestling Club. RaZor is committed to offering instruction to wrestlers to improve their skills and realize their potential as student athletes. RaZor also supports wrestling on long Island

with its contributions to Hofstra, C.W. Post, the LIWA, and the Friends Of Long Island Wrestling. RaZor is a USA Wrestling sanctioned club and supports both the Nassau and Suffolk USA Wrestling Youth organizations. RaZor also donates a scholarship annually at the Suffolk County Coaches Association All County Dinner.

Ted DiPasquale and Wrestling Hall of Fame member Joe Patrovich founded RaZor in 2007. Their first clinic was offered to high school wrestlers at the Gold's



Ted DiPasquale (left) looks on as Don Donnelly gives instructions to his son Donny at The Ohio Tournament Of Champions.



Gym in Islip and was made up of about twenty-five athletes. Mike Patrovich came aboard after finishing his wrestling career at Hofstra where he was a two-time All-American. Looking to jump-start their youth program, RaZor joined forces with the Northshore Youth Wrestling Club that

was led by Don Donnelly. Under the guidance of Ted, Joe, Mike and Don, RaZor offered a year round club that developed youth and high school wrestlers "Sharpen their Skills". At its height, the club had over 230 wrestlers enrolled and had locations in both Nassau and Suffolk County. RaZor competed in tournaments throughout the northeast and even traveled to Ohio where they placed third in the youth team division of the very competitive and nationally renowned "Ohio Tournament of Champions". RaZor took home the first place trophy in the High School B division of the inaugural, very competitive, Pop&Flo National Duals in Lake Placid NY. The club also traveled to many tournaments in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, upstate New York and Connecticut. Recently, RaZor took first place in inaugural Island Wide Summer Dual held at Island Trees High School.

Eventually, Joe Patrovich would move on and is currently the Head Coach of the resurgent C.W. Post wrestling team. Mike Patrovich also moved on and is currently the assistant coach of Eastport South Manor HS and runs the Barn Brothers Wrestling Club. Ted and Don currently run the club with help from former Hampton Bays Head coach Rafael Lievano and lead clinicians Matt Sganga and Garrett Schnettler. The club also relies on their volunteer coaches Mike Sganga, Spencer Frankel and Jordan Wilner who help with instruction to their youth and high school wrestlers. Many RaZor wrestlers have seen some success with state titles and national accolades as well as many moving on to wrestle in college. Ted and Don are proud of the fact that they can continue to support wrestling on Long Island and help young wrestlers realize their potential as student athletes.

To view a photographic chronology of RaZor, Visit our website www.razorwrestlingclub.com or our Facebook page.

### NY KONG at the NHSCA National DUALS in Virginia Beach

By Kim Lee McClaugherty

As the high school wrestling season came to a close, coach Anthony Ciolino's work started. The head coach for the NY Kong wrestling team needed to put together a team that could rival well established, well funded club teams and decide if returning to the AAU Disney Duals was feasible on the elusive quest for a national championship title.

While there were some wrestlers from the 2014 team returning, there were still many weight classes to fill. Coach Ciolino reached out to wrestlers, first in New York and then in other states in his search to put together a formidable team. After many phone calls and careful selection, the team was in place. The majority being from Long Island, now for the first time, young men from Kentucky, Iowa, Michigan and Colorado would join their ranks. It was an impressive line up indeed.

With the help of coach Nick Mauriello, a practice location was secured at Hauppauge high school. Coaches Steve Hromada, John Paniccioli, Matt DeVincenzo in addition to Ciolino and Mauriello took turns running practices in the weeks leading up to the tournament.

Day one had an early start, first match at 7am. The last two team members, Tyler Frankrone (Kentucky) and Devin Rothrock (Colorado) having arrived very late on the arrival day, met the team at the venue. Team Kong easily defeated all three first day opponents, 40-15, 62-6 and 62-0. After Day two and three more matches, no one had yet challenged this talented team.

The last day of this tournament would prove to be the most grueling. The day again started early and it would take winning four matches just to make it into the finals. Kong won the first two matches of memorial day easily. The next two matches were against talented teams but Kong managed to secure wins in both to secure a spot in the finals where they faced the defending champions, a very powerful team from Pennsylvania.

148 high school teams started this tournament and now 2 were left. After an exciting back and forth match that came down to the last bout, Kong was defeated.

It was a heartbreaker, for sure, but at the same time, this team was now a family and were so proud of their second place finish. They did what no other team here had done by giving the returning champions a true competition. And they have every intention of doing it again next year.

If you or your business would like to help, we are always looking for sponsors and/or donations. Please email the team at NYKONGWRESTLING@aol.com.



Top row from left to right- Anthony Ciolino, Nick Mauriello, Edwin Rubio, Tyler Frankrone, Devin Rothrock Damani Burns, Ben Lamantia, James Matias, Chris Mauriello, Jesse Dellavecchia, Nick McShea, Tommy Dutton Jordan Bushey, John Paniccioli and Kim Leo McClaugherty

Bottom left to right- Tommy Cox, Blaise Benderoth, Steve Hromada, Kanen Storr, Anthony Sciotto, Jake Silverstein

Bottom left to right- Tommy Cox, Blaise Benderoth, Steve Hromada, Kanen Storr, Anthony Sciotto, Jake Silverstein Peter Pappas, Matteo DeVincenzo and Matt DeVincenzo.

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### SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION "SALUTES"

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### ENRY WITTENBERG E COMEBACK — 1952



Arno Niemand

Team of 1947, I found that one wrestler's name kept appearing in the results: Henry Wittenberg. Several national champions and coaches I interviewed said that he was one of the greatest wrestlers they had ever seen. In fact, he was rated the greatest amateur wrestler of the first half of the 20th century in a poll of wrestling coaches.

Henry Wittenberg was a "force of nature." At 5 feet 9 1/2 inches and

191 pounds, he was described as "built like a blacksmith" and "quick as a cat"; his shoulders and chest were massive. He was the only wrestler of his day who believed in weight lifting. Most coaches thought it would make boys "muscle-bound."

Henry's overall record was 354 wins and 3 losses, including eight national championships, Olympic gold and silver medals, and two Maccabiah Games championships. He was undefeated for 14 years, from 1938 until 1952.

The life of this legendary wrestler is the subject of my next book, to be published in 2016. -ARNO NIEMAND

F. Scott Fitzgerald once famously wrote, "There are no second acts in American lives." Apparently Edith Wittenberg did not subscribe to this notion. In the summer of1951 she began to lobby her husband, Henry, to make a comeback for the 1952 Olympics, to be held in Helsinki, Finland. After all, she had had to stay behind in 1948 to attend to his ailing father, who passed away hours after Henry returned from London with the Olympic gold medal. The only competition he had participated in since then was the 1950 Maccabiah Games in Israel, which he won.

Henry was now 33 years old, a member of the New York Police Departmentsince 1941 (where Edith also worked) and the father of two young kids. He did not need much encouragement. He had never stopped working out, always running and lifting. He would simply step up his mat workouts at the West Side YMCA and also at the New York Athletic Club, where he could find better workout partners.

Henry's first hurdle on his comeback trail was the 1952 NAAU Championship, which was held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Wittenberg had won every

In doing research for The Dream NAAU tournament he had ever entered beginning in 1940, when he and a few teammates from the West Side YMCA drove to Ames, Iowa, to compete. He won seven national titles between 1940 and 1948, missing one due to his police department duties and another while he was in the Navy. The wrestlers in 1952 were mainly from the East Coast, with a few exceptions including "Doc" Northrup, the oldest participant at age 43 from the Olympic Club in San Francisco, and Bill Smith from Iowa, who had won the three previous titles at 160.5 lbs.

> Everyone was eager to see how Wittenberg would perform after a four-year absence. He did not disappoint. He would have to wrestle Dale Thomas, an outstanding wrestler who had already won three NAAU titles in previous years at 174.5 lbs. and would now challenge Wittenberg at 191. Wittenberg and Thomas had first crossed paths in 1943 at the West Side YMCA when Thomas was representing Cornell College.

> The two men clashed after each had pinned their opponents in the first round. Wittenberg was forced to the fullest to obtain the decision in the 15-minute bout, which had to be stopped at one point when Thomas had the wind knocked out of him. Henry said that Thomas provided the toughest opposition he had had in years. They would both go on to win their other matches and finish first and second.

> Unlike 1948, when both the NCAA the NAAU championships were qualifiers for the Olympic Trials, in 1952 neither were qualifiers. In late March and early April, fifteen district qualifying tournaments were held throughout the country. The first two men in each weight class would qualify for the final trials. Henry Wittenberg chose the site nearest to his home in the Bronx, the Amityville High School in Amityville, NY, on Long Island, on April 11-12. He made short work of the competition, pinning both of his opponents. It was on to the final Olympic trials.

> The trials were held at Iowa State University in Ames. lowa. Ames was where Henry had won his first NAAU title in 1940 as well as the Olympic Trials in 1948. He announced that this would be his last season of competitive wrestling.

After a pin and a decision, he wrestled Brad Glass, 1951 NCAA heavyweight champion from Princeton, and won. He then wrestled Dan McNair of Auburn University. During the match Henry severely tore some rib muscles. In spite of this he was able to finish the match and defeat McNair, who would become NCAA heavyweight champion in 1953.

According to the Olympic scoring system, Henry then went into the round-robin with Glass and Thomas. Prior to the match with Thomas, Alan Rice heard Henry say to Thomas. "I am injured and you will win the match, but if you hurt me I will kill you." He knew that

if he could survive the match he would become the alternate and still have a chance to make the team. Thomas won the match easily. That was Wittenberg's first defeat in 350 matches dating back to 1938. Thomas then won a decision against Glass. Since Wittenberg had already beaten Glass, he became the alternate. He knew he would have at least two months to recover prior to reporting to the training camp at Annapolis, Maryland, for the final tryouts.

The wrestlers reported to the camp at the Naval Academy in Annapolis on June25, and the formal tryouts began June 30. Henry was elected captain of the team, which was coached by Ray Swartz, who was also

the head coach at the Naval Academy. Two workouts were held daily, at 10 AM and 5 PM, to correspond to the sessions to be held in Helsinki.

The ground rules for the wrestle-offs were simple. A wrestler had to win two out of three matches regardless of whether he had won the trials or was the alternate. Wittenberg won two close decisions against Thomas, who immediately challenged Bill Kerslake for the heavyweight position; they would wrestle off in Helsinki. When the squad arrived in New York, Henry arranged for them to work out at the West Side YMCA. On July 8 Edith joined Henry and the team on the flight to Helsinki.

In Helsinki Thomas won both matches with Kerslake and thought he had made the team. Unfortunately for Thomas, his name had not been submitted for the heavyweight class in time, and Kerslake would have to wrestle.

The Helsinki Olympics were held between July 19 and August 3. The Finns had been awarded the Games for 1940, which were cancelled due to World War II. For a small nation like Finland, the Games were a huge success. The Russians would be competing for the first time since 1912, and the Germans would also be participating. The main competition for the U.S. wrestling

team would come from Iran, Turkey, Sweden, and Russia. All the previous Olympic winners in Henry's 191 lb. class, dating back to 1920, had been from either Sweden or the USA.

Wittenberg easily pinned his opponents in his first two matches. In the third round he met Wiking Palm, a 27-year-old Swedish wrestler who had competed in both European and World championships. In a very close match Wittenberg lost by a unanimous decision 3–0; some thought he had won it. He then defeated the Russian Avgust Englas 3–0 and pinned Adil Atan of Turkey, one of the favorites, in 9:14.

The final match between Atan and Palm would determine Wittenberg's placing. If Palm

lost, Wittenberg would get the gold. But Palm prevailed 2–1, holding off a furious attack from Atan in the final minutes of the bout. Thus Henry had to settle for the silver medal. He made no excuses for his loss to Palm; he simply said he had had a bad day. That he stumbled slightly in the end was less an indictment of his performance than an indication of the improbability of what he was trying to accomplish.

With one gold medal (Bill Smith), two silvers (Wittenberg and Tommy Evans) and one bronze (Joe Henson), the American wrestlers made a good showing. Henry would compete in one more Maccabiah Games in 1953, which he won, and then he retired from competitive wrestling for good.



Henry Wittenberg was rated as the greatest amateur wrestler of the first half of the 20th century in a pole of wrestling coaches

### How Larry Owings Sneaked Into the Friends of Long Island Wrestling Golf Outing

By Terrence Rogers

How Larry Owings came to be at the recent Friends of Long Island Wrestling Annual Golf Outing is a complicated story. It starts two years ago, when I encountered George Dlugolonski, a Hall-of-Fame member of FOLIW, at a high school reunion. I had wrestled for Chaminade High in Mineola, and George had started his 40-year run at Chaminade the season after I graduated in 1973. I mentioned to George that I was planning to write a book about Dan Gable and his match with Larry Owings in 1970. He mentioned that he could put me in touch with the man who refereed that match, Pascal Perri. Obviously my interest piqued.

I already knew enough about the fabled match such that I'd written about it in Unfinished Business as being one of my influence points. The first thing I did was meet with Pascal and start to get his view of the match and a bit of Pascal's own backstory. Then I set about digging up all the books I could find on Gable. One thing that stood out was that every book on Gable included a chapter about Larry Owings, and every article had at least a few paragraphs about him.

In conducing my research, I found it easy to obtain information about Gable, but it was difficult to obtain any information about Larry other than he had come out of the University of Washington, landed in Evanston, Illinois in March 1970, and declared to all the world that he was there to beat Dan Gable, then did it. Aside from some stories about Larry eating a lot of shrimp, I could not find much of anything about who he really was. One article mentioned that he had gotten tired of talking about the Gable match. Another mentioned a book on him by Mike Gerald, but didn't provide the title and I could not find it anywhere. So there was nothing left to do but write to Larry. I tracked down an address for him in Oregon and sent him a letter. At this time I also penned a letter to Dan. 29 days later, Larry called me.

In the course of our initial discussions, Larry asked about Pascal Perri. He mentioned that he'd spoken to him a few years earlier and had been thinking about paying him a visit. A surprise visit. Thus began to emerge Larry's playful side, which turned out to be abundant. When I mentioned the upcoming Annual Golf Outing as a good time to come, Larry was unsure at first that he could break away from his activities on such short notice, the outing being but a few

weeks away. Eventually he made the decision to come, but asked me to keep the secret. Now I had to find a confidante within Friends of Long Island Wrestling, so I could make sure Larry had a ticket to play golf but remained anonymous. Luckily for us, the person who was arranging the foursomes was George Dlugolonksi. I entrusted him with the information and swore him to secrecy. George managed to assign Larry to Pascal's foursome without identifying him, and made up a story about why the person had to remain a mystery that proved plausible. Everything was set, save for the execution.

I picked Larry up at the airport in Harrisburg and we immediately went back to my place and started watching the various videos that exist of his match with Gable. As we picked apart every move, what started to emerge was Larry's story, and I gained an insight into his character. Over the next two days we would spend ten hours in the car together as we drove to Long Island and back, and sit down for meals and talks as we pieced together his tale. Among what I learned is that his announcement to the media upon arriving in Evanston-that he was there to beat Dan Gable long (viewed to be a contributing factor in his having done so)—was not planned, instead coming about through the intervening of fate. And it was true that Larry had tired of talking about his match with Gable—to the point that, in 1980, while dating his current wife Diane, he didn't tell her about it until she was surprised by an autograph seeker one day while they were dinning out. But he now was saying he was comfortable with discussing it, as it had, after all, been an accomplishment for him, and turned out to be something that had a significant effect on his life, for a lot of non-obvious reasons.

As I came to know Larry's side of the story, it seemed to me that for a time in the '70s he'd lost a portion of his identity; instead of being Larry Owings he became The Man Who Beat Dan Gable. This gave me ideas as to story structure. I now have the match occurring about two-thirds of the way through both the book and the screenplay, because it's just as important to show the drama of the match as it is to illustrate the aftermath

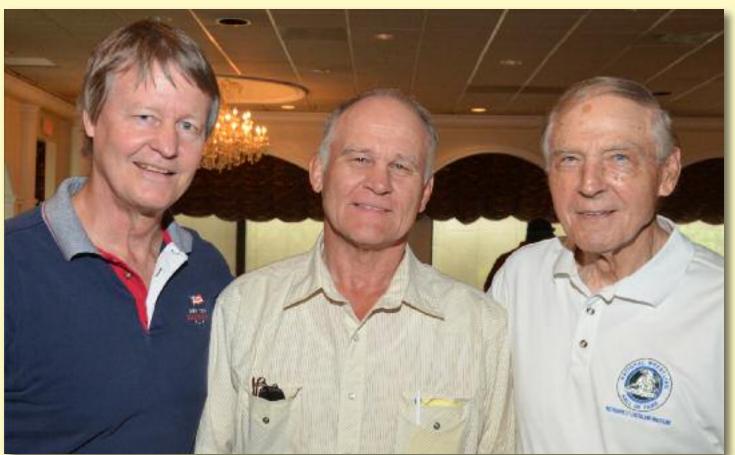
We stayed at the Garden City Hotel the night before the golf outing. Before I knew that Larry was coming, I had arranged to have dinner that night with Ed Russo, another member of Friends of Long Island Wrestling and my archrival from our high school wrestling days. I decided to keep the engagement, but also not to tell Ed that I was bringing Larry with me. As Larry and I were sitting at our table and waiting for Ed to arrive, I told him that I hadn't mentioned he was going to be there because I wanted to see the look on Ed's face when I introduced him. Larry got that playful look in his eye that I'd seen a few times over the weekend—a look reminiscent of the guy who'd arrived at the 1970 NCAA tournament with a quiet confidence and a sense that there were forces at play in the world that were taken far too seriously—and suggested that I not reveal who he was. I've been known to pull a prank or two myself, so I was in for the ruse. We decided to introduce him as just Larry.

Ed arrived and, introductions having been made, we sat down. Immediately Ed and I began spinning high school wrestling stories—we'd wrestled each other three times, each winning one and tying the other. At one point Ed looked at Larry and asked, "Did you wrestle?" to which Larry replied, "Yeah." As the stories continued, Ed asked what state Larry wrestled in; if he wrestled in college; and other innocent, unknowing questions. When the subject of Pascal Perri came up, Larry mentioned that he knew Pascal; that Pascal had refereed one of his matches. At this point I said, "Ed, we've

given you just about every clue in the book—", whereupon Ed turned to Larry and said, "I know who you are! I can't believe I've been sitting here telling high-school wrestling stories to Larry Owings!" We all enjoyed a big laugh, but the bigger moment was still to come.

The next morning, as we were walking through the parking lot on the way into the clubhouse, Larry asked me if he'd be able to recognize Pascal and vice versa. "After 45 years? How could you? And remember, Pascal doesn't have the benefit of knowing you're coming."

We walked through the doors and Pascal happened to be standing right there, amidst a few other people. Our hope was to get by him and spring the surprise later, but he immediately saw me and we shook hands. I then said to Pascal, "This is the mystery man in your foursome today." I'm not sure how long it took Pascal, but it seemed as if at least a few seconds went by before he started to put two-and-two together. His thinking may have been helped along by the fact that he knew I was working on the book and screenplay, but at some point his expression went from one of pleasantly smiling to a broader smile combined with a large dose of surprise as he shook Larry's hand and said, "How are YOU doing?" It was only a few seconds later that he turned to someone and said, "This is the man who beat Dan Gable!"



Terrance Rogers, (left) was instrumental in re-uniting Larry Owings (center) and Pascal Perri at the 2015 Friends of Long Island Golf Outing. Pascal was completely surprised when Terrance and Larry showed up on the morning of the event.

### Nassau CC Wrestlers win the 2015 NJCAA (Div. III) National Championship Look for a repeat in 2016

The Nassau Community College Wrestling Team captured their 7th NJCAA (Div. III) National Championship in Des Moines, IA last spring. Freshman Joseph Russ (133) became the twelfth Nassau Community College wrestler to win an individual national title. Russ avenged an early season loss by beating the #1 ranked wrestler Mizam Tamaradze from Springfield Tech CC (8-5) in the finals of the national tournament.

The Lions had two wrestlers also earn All-American honors Mark West (141) and Giovanni Santiago (184). Although the following wrestlers did not earn All-American honors they won valuable points which helped Nassau Community College win the overall team title; Josh Antoine (125), Tom McLoughlin (149), Sam Schwartzapfel (157), Deuly Espinal (165), Zack Small (174) and Jenard Rosemond (285). Also five wrestlers were named to the Coaches All-Academic team (Josh Antoine, Deuly Espinal, Dominic Holder, Tom McLoughlin and Danny Weiss).

Coach Paul Schmidt was named NJCAA (Div. III) National Coach of the Year!!

After winning eight National Junior College Division III Championships in the last fifteen years the lions are in good position to contend for another National title with four National Qualifiers coming back from last year's team. The rest of the lineup will be filled with quality

incoming freshman and second year members from last year's team that will give them a chance to repeat. The returning four (125 lbs Josh Antoine, 15 7lbs Sam Schwartzapfel, 165 lbs Deuly Espinal, 285 lbs Jenard Rosemond) all competed in the National tournament last season and are ranked in the preseason poll by the NJCAA Coaches Association. The lineup will also be filled by a talented group of incoming freshman to go along with a few returning wrestlers from last year's team. The freshman are Chris Meloni 133 lbs a section 11 runner-up in 2015 from Rocky Point, Sean Miller 141lbs, Mike Duloso 149 lbs a section 8 county champion from Locust Valley, 174 lbs Erik Adon NYS Place winner in 2014 from East Islip. Also at 184 lbs there is Andy Rodriguez, a two time New York State Champion from Central Islip who may be a freshman on the mat but will be someone that should do well on the National level. And there's Ralph Conzetta who jumped up two weight classes from last year and has really improved since last season.

The coaching staff Paul Schmidt, Vougar Orounjov, Mac Maldarelli and Sam Thomas and the Lion wrestlers open up the 2015-16 season at the North East Duals in Troy New York against The University of Oklahoma, Binghamton University and Springfield College. Once again Nassau will have a very demanding schedule in order to prepare the team for a National Title

### Nassau CC 2015 National Championship Team

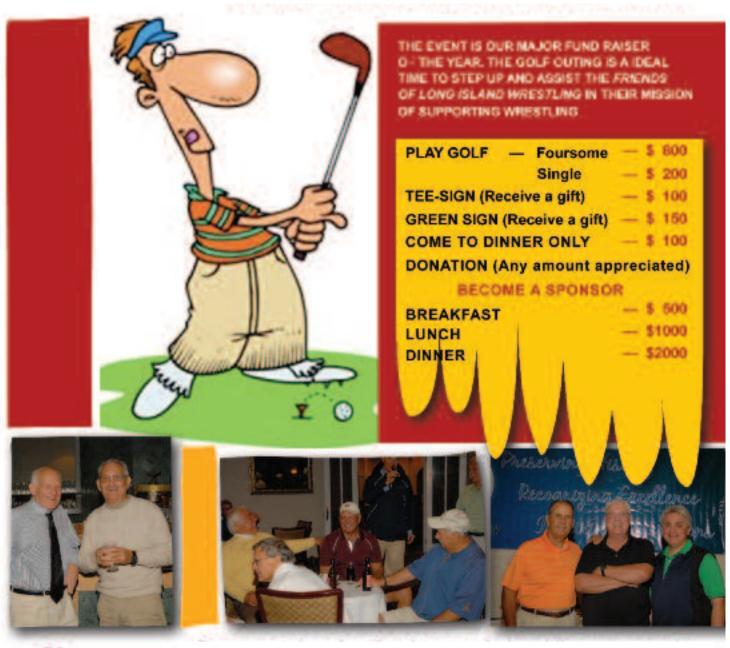
Bottom: (Left to Right)
Mark West Josh Antoine
Sam Schwartzapfel
Joe Russ, Tom McGloughlin
Top (Left to Right)
Coach Vougar Orounjov
Coach Sam Thomas
ZackSmall Gio Santiago
Coach Paul Schmidt
Deuley Espinal
Jenard Rosemond
Coach Mac Maldarelli



Friends of Long Island Wrestling...and beyond

### come join with us at

### 13th Annual Golf Outing





### DATE AND LOCATION STILL TO BE DETERMINED!!!

# A FEW GREAT EASTERN WRESTLERS I HAVE KNOWN

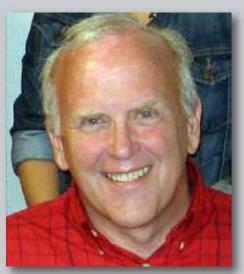
By Denny Diehl

All diehard wrestling fans find their way to that stature through countless relationships over the years with personal contacts or favorite athletes, preferably ones that we get to know. As with real estate, location can play important roles. Although I was born in Ardmore, OK, I've spent my life living in wrestling hot beds like Hicksville, LI; Northern and Southern NJ, plus the Lehigh Valley.

My indoctrination to the sport came in 1965 from brother, Gary,

Lehigh '67, who returned home from campus to put moves on me on the living room rug. My brother's messages to me about the epic Iowa State visit were electric: 1.) Lehigh's Terrific Trio – Mike Caruso (NJ), Joe Peritore (OH), Billy Stuart (CT) – were legendary; the *Sports Illustrated* headline read: "The Night The Cyclones Met a Thunderclap"; 2.) The rest of the ISU line-up were legends, too, the '65 team champions. Gary's last message to me as his protege' was ominous: "You will learn to hate Pascal Perri!"

Having no clue what that meant, I soon learned that "fan-friendly" had yet to be developed as Lehigh's school policy, a true understatement. LU crowds proved unruly whenever disagreeing with calls made by any ref – but authoritarian officials like Pascal and Dick DiBattista, or the other more hesitant ones, drew attention fastest. Imagine my pleasure to learn how amiable Pascal actually was while interviewing him in 1976 for a feature in my National Mat News (yes, I said 'pleasure' – and 'feature'). Pascal deftly handled my questions, as politely as Vinnie Zuaro did bailing me out in Oklahoma City in 1980 when I had credit card problems. Vin not only drove me to Stillwater for the OSU-Oklahoma dual, he bunked me in his room, before doing a heckuva job in the 'Bedlam Series.' Over the long haul, Pascal accepted invites to



countless LVAC golf fund-raisers and also spoke brilliantly at a Lehigh WC Annual Dinner. Luckily, it didn't take me long to learn to love Pascal Perri.

So I've intentionally opened my tribute to special wrestling characters I've enjoyed knowing by citing two fellow Long Islanders. In no particular order, here are some more natives of New York or New Jersey.

Gene Mills, Syracuse '81, NCAA 3,4,1,1, Career: 139-5-1, Pompton Lakes, NJ. Gene strained Logic 201 by cutting 20 lbs during tourneys and

made our 1980 Olympic team, also winning a World Super Championship. As loquacious as he was exciting on the mat, "Mean Gene The Pin Machine" won his two NCAA titles via seven falls, 28-4; 17-2 — and 16-13 over super star Joe Gonzalez, Bakersfield, in the '79 finals. Despite yielding three straight 3rd period takedowns, Gene finished with a 5-point move in the final 0:10. That win avenged a 10-9 All-Star loss, with Gonzalez scoring a late 5-pt move. In neither case did Pascal holler to urge "make 'em wrestle"!

Jeff Blatnick, NCAA 6, 3 and 1,1 in Div II, Niskayuna, NY. I've never met a more inspiring person than Jeff's courageous rebound from Hodgkin's cancer to win his '84 Greco-Roman Olympic title. An amiable commentator until his untimely death in 2012 from heart complications, Jeff used to treat me and Jay Hammond (Lehigh '66) to lunch at NCAAs so we could compare notes on collegiate records and backgrounds. Sadly, both are gone from the sport too early, true losses for wrestling. Hammond had worked tirelessly as a hobby to become one of the top statisticians and historians in collegiate history.

Chris Campbell, Iowa '77, NCAA 2,1,1, Career: 122-6-3, Westfield, NJ. Any vegetarian like Chris who practiced Zen and dabbled in poetry could flummox any coach, let alone Dan Gable, notably via his often 'energy efficient'

mat style. Chris was seeded 3,1,1,1 to earn his NCAA 2,1,1. The freshman loss was astonishing, giving up eight straight late to lose, 9-8, to EIWA 3rd, Steve Bonsall, Rutgers in Rd. 1. In the '75 finals after two prior wins of 4-2 and 3-3,1-1,o.t, Campbell led Lehigh's Mike Lieberman, 4-1 in the 3rd — but lost, 5-4, on a late TD and ride-out. The side story: I met Chris that summer at the Lieberman's summer party and tried complimenting him on his selection to my *National Mat News* Team of the Decade (collegians 1967-1976). His reply: "Why wasn't I higher than fourth?" (same reason for Lee Kemp, Wisconsin '78 – just one NCAA title at the time). As post-grad Chris thought about the military or a coaching career – and wound up a lawyer.

Chris is one of countless examples why fans should stop judging someone as "too short" to excel up at certain weights. Around 5'8", he won those titles at 177 lbs, then a World Championship at 180 in 1981, then at 198 lbs placed World 2nd ('90) and Olympic 3rd in '92. If my good friend from Lafayette College, Don Sayenga is known for his AWN column "The Oldest Sport," so it was that Chris Campbell became our oldest-ever Olympic freestyle wrestler.

As a later editor, I thought Damion Hahn, (Minnesota '04, NCAA 5, 5, 1, 1. Career: 118-21, Lakewood, NJ) would be too short once he moved up to 197 at mid-year as a junior. But I flunked both logic and math, since his record at 184 was 74-20 (.787) — while he went 44-1 at 197 for .978. In the '03 NCAA Finals, Damion stunned everyone after trailing his friend, Jon Trenge (Lehigh, NCAA 2, 2, 3, Orefield, PA) by 3-1 margin. Two dynamic TDs came at 1:07 and 0:10, with Blatnick's voice-over amping the action. Among Hahn's post-match quotes: "He could have stalled but didn't." I attended the Olympic Trials in '04 when Hahn at 211 lbs beat 6'4" former Hwt NCAA champion, Tommy Rowlands (Ohio St). At the 2008 Olympic Trials Damion was 2nd at 211 to World bronze, Daniel Cormier.

Another adage to avoid in sports: after so many losses, he'll never beat him." Overcoming this idiom as well as height was Ed Banach, Iowa '83, NCAA 1,1,2,1, Career: 141-9-1, Port Jervis, NY. Eddie's brute strength and love of freestyle moves helped give him the all-time Hawkeye for pins (73). I had developed a relationship with Eddie while helping recruit him for Lehigh; but Dan Gable held the trump card with an offer accepted by twin brother, Lou. As Ed shared as my house guest for the 1983 All-Star Classic in Bethlehem: "It's true; there was no way

we'd split up. We were very young when I huddled under a blanket with my arm around Louie, watching our house burn down which soon broke up our family, leading to our adoption."

I privately chided Ed about moving up to 197 as a senior — based on height only, not wrestling stature. That concern became evident as lowa State's Mike Mann beat him three straight times. I could no longer stay private when making my *Mat News* predictions for 190: I picked Eddie to avenge Mann in the semis before losing to Bill Scherr. When Mann got the top seed, NMN was right about the revenge (4-3, finals) but Banach buried Bill, 15-4, in the semis. My prognostication found later solace – and more kudo's for Banach ('84 Olympic champ) when Scherr placed 1,2,3,2 at Worlds and Olympic Bronze – four of the medals at 220!

Two more New Yorkers, including another from Syracuse: John Janiak '78, NCAA 2, 3 (EIWA 3,1,1,1). A tough hombre called by SU assistant, Steve Shields (Lehigh '71, NCAA 2): "the strongest wrestler pound-for-pound I've ever faced." Strong words from a bull at 167/177. John was strong enough to win bouts at 150/158/167 vs. three of their schools' best-ever: Michigan's Mark Churella (NCAA 3,1,1,1) by 10-3; WBF at 167 vs. Lehigh's Mark Lieberman (NCAA 2,1,1 at 167/177) and Minnesota's Larry Zilverberg (2,3,6). John accomplished this despite nagging shoulder injuries resulting in enough time-outs that fans nicknamed it the "Janiak Rule," when the Rules Committee cracked down on time-outs.

Nick Gallo (Hofstra '77) went one up on that: 4th in NY as a 112 pound senior for Deer Park HS, he wound up NCAA 4, 1 in '75 and '77 as Hofstra's sole NCAA champion — and earned the Outstanding Wrestler Award to boot — and was a 1976 U.S. Olympic Team Alternate. No longer a dark horse by then, in the Dec. Nassau Duals, he had pinned eventual NCAA 2nd, Keith Mourlam, Iowa, and beat the USA's youngest-ever Olympian, Jimmy Carr, Kentucky. At NCAAs, he whipped the Big Eight 2nd by 21-9 margin, and thumped former NCAA 2nd, Billy Martin, Okla St by 13-5, before beating Mourlam, 13-5.

So never say 'never' to an amateur wrestler: the aforementioned Gene Mills was 88 lbs as a HS freshman and barely recruited by Montclair and Rutgers, before winding up at Syracuse to become one of the world's most dominant lightweights.

### NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

### **Downstate New York Inductees**

#### LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD INDUCTEES

#### 1995

Harold Earl Al Muller

#### 1996

Al Bevilacqua Joe Campo Joe Russo

#### 1997

Bob Bury James Davey Reggie Jones "Jumper" Leggio

#### 1998

Bill Linkner Ted Petersen Jerry Seckler

#### 1999

Terry Haise Ken Hunte Ed Luksik

#### 2000

Nick Gallo Ed Rooney John Schaefer

#### 2001

Sam Boone Cliff Clarke Lonnie Kittle

#### 2002

Guy Guccione Walter Stewart Joseph Valla John Walter

#### 2003

Irv Apgar Ed Hubbard Matt Sanzone

#### 2004

Sonny Greenhalgh Don Jackson Ed Reinisch

#### 2005

Jack Mahoney Steve Shippos "Brick: Stone

#### 2006

Bob Busby Paul Gillespie Tony Mellino

#### 2007

Ken Cellan Robert "Doc" Fallot Bob Goldberg Gary Mims

#### 2008

Gary Abbott
Neil Duncan
Bob Gerbino
George Munnich
Don Snyder
Bill Starke

#### 2009

Paul Brodmerkel Kevin Murphy Richard Smith Pete Venier

#### 2010

Bob Armstrong Roger Bogsted Bill DeSario Larry Cantor Chris Edmond John Hamilton

### 2011

Mike Davey Mike Fitzgerald Paul Kiebesz Bill Knapp Terry Phelan Fred Recher

### 2012

Michael
DerGarabedian
Howie Greenblatt
Chris Messina
Joe Patrovich
Bill Santoro
Gary Ventimiglia

#### 2013

Bill Brennen
Sal DiFazio
Dick Doherty
George Doherty
George Dlugolonski
Reggie Jones, Jr.
Norm Maise

### 2014

Hilary Becker Cliff Forziat Marcia Haise Guy Leggio Isaac Ramaswamy

#### 2015

Paul Bass
Frank Carrozza
Robert Emmons
David Ironman
Jim Rooney
Ron Russo
Paul Schmidt
Jon Tush

### 2016 Ron Abatelli Bob Attonito

Bob Attonito
Bill Davey
Jerry Harrell
Steve Hartman
Laura Maddock
Tom Maddock
Steve Meehan
Tony Melosci
Bill Zagarino

### **DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS**

Henry Wittenberg 1997 Dr. Vince Zuaro 1984

Roone Arledge 1992 Steven Friedman 1993 David Pottruck 1994

### Eraple "Caria" Cardner 109

Frank "Sprig" Gardner 1986 William Farrell 1987

#### **OUTSTANDING AMERICANS**

Arthur C. Rutzen 1994 William Baldwin 2003 Pascal Perri 2006 Lou Giani 2003

Setrak Agonian 2007

Noel Thompson 2014

Steve Buscemi 2015

### OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS

Pascal Perri 1995 Mark S. Piven 1997

### **MEDAL OF COURAGE RECIPIANTS**

Rohan Murphy 2001

Charles Gadson 2005

Pat Augustine 2007

A Message To Our Members From

### LEE ROY SMITH

**Executive Director Of The National Wrestling Hall Of Fame** 



For the next several months the National Wrestling Hall of Fame will be experiencing one of the most transformational times in its 40-year history. We will be undergoing an interior renovation, set to begin in November of 2015 and completed in time for the 40th Annual Honors Weekend Induction Ceremonies for the Class of 2016 in June. Thus far we have spent \$750,000 on the Phase I renovation with a new roof, heating and air conditioning units, and entry vestibule on the exterior of the building. The Phase II construction will include a complete interior renovation of the Hall of Fame and Museum at a cost of \$2,750,000. Our staff and Board of Governors are grateful to the many people and organizations around the country that have helped to fund this project, including the Downstate New York Chapter of the NWHOF, this renovation will help us upgrade our facility and infrastructure, so that we can better preserve and promote the heritage of wrestling in the United States. It will also help us improve how we communicate the stories of those we honor at the national and state levels.

The National Wrestling Hall of Fame board and staff feel

we must maintain a standard of excellence in how we show-case our honorees. We strive to echo the same respect your incredible chapter has each year with the attendance at its banquet and induction ceremony, which annually set an attendance mark for our 35 state chapter programs. This display of loyalty to the sport does not happen by chance, but rather is the result of a passionate and competent group of Long Island wrestling leaders, led by President Jerry Seckler and our dedicated group of chapter volunteers. These individuals truly want to preserve the sport's history by recognizing extraordinary service and achievements, so that they can inspire future generations to continue the prestigious legacy that wrestling has on Long Island.

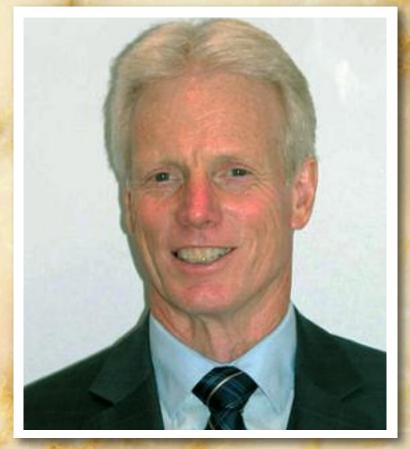
For the first time in its 85-year history, the NCAA Wrestling Championships are coming to the Big Apple in March of 2016. The culture of enthusiasm for wrestling that the Downstate New York Chapter inductions symbolize each year will no doubt be imitated at the championships in Madison Square Garden. Thank you all for working so hard to build up our sport, and for recognizing and honoring the body of work by those from the Friends of Long Island Wrestling and our Downstate New York Chapter represent. So, let us celebrate a new year of wrestling traditions and milestones by recognizing what Ron Abatelli, Robert Antonito, William Davey Jr., Jerry Harrell, Robert Hartman, Laura Maddock, Tom Maddock, Steve Meehan, Tony Melosci, and William Zagarino have given to our sport and to your Long Island communities.

Very Sincerely,

Lee Roy Smith
Executive Director, NWHOF



### Rom ALBAHLELLI



In his 34 years as the head wrestling coach at Bethpage High School, Ron Abatelli has amassed 336 victories and put Bethpage on the wrestling map at the New York State level. But to those who have wrestled for him, wrestling parents

and friends of Bethpage wrestling, he is just known as "Coach Abs."

Ron got his first taste of wrestling as a 4th grader in intramural wrestling. He wrestled in junior high and at Lutheran High School where he was coached by Daniel Juergensen. "He taught me a lot about wrestling and what it took to be successful", said Ron. "He was a great coach". Ron also wrestled for SUNY Cortland, but his senior year was cut short due to a knee injury.

In the years proceeding his start as the Bethpage coach, Ron was an assistant and JV coach at Lutheran and Plainview. At Bethpage, he continued to improve their wrestling program and compile an impressive list of team accomplishments in his 34 years as the Bethpage coach.

He has amassed 336 wins, 11 conference championships, 5 county B championships, 5 time conference coach of the year and 2 time Nassau county coach of the year. The Ron Abatelli regime at Bethpage, a school with a small

enrollment, finished with some incredible county tournament results. In 1988 Bethpage was 3rd in Section 8/Nassau County with 2 finalists and 6 All-County wrestlers. In 1991 they finished in 3rd place in Nassau County with 3 county champs,

1992 they finished in 5th place with 3 county champs, 1995 they had a 2nd place finish in Section 8 with 2 county champs and 5 finalists and in 1998 they finished in 3rd with 3 county champs and 5 finalists.

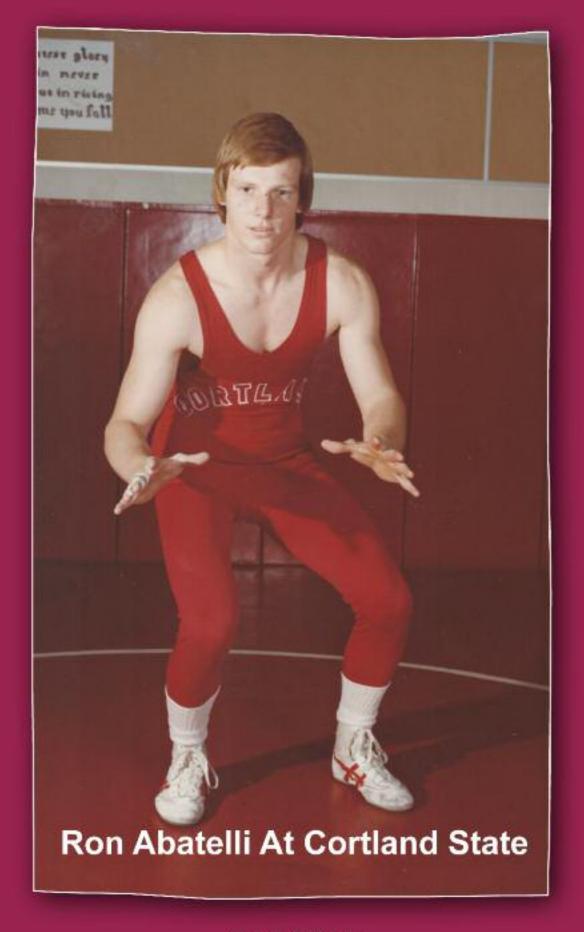
As coach Abs puts it, he had the good fortune and luck to coach: 1 state champ, 17 all state wrestlers, 23 county champs, 105 all county wrestlers and 101 qualifying tournament champs.

As strange as it may sound, Ron almost ended up as a basketball player at Lutheran High. At the end of his 10th grade year, his first coach ever, Vinny Angrisani, talked to him about not playing basketball at Lutheran High. That is when Ron chose to try wrestling. As it turned out, Vinny Angrisani was the father of his future wife, Deborah. Ron says he was one of the biggest influences in his life after his parents and brothers. He lives in Old Bethpage with Deborah and has 3 grown sons Erik, Anthony and Christian.

### RON ABATELLI FAMILY



SPONSORED BY: CHRIS VIASOPOULOS '98



SPONSORED BY:
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NICK CANDITO '73, MARK LEVANO '73
PETE CANDITO '77, GERALD LEVANO '78
MARC CANDITO '08

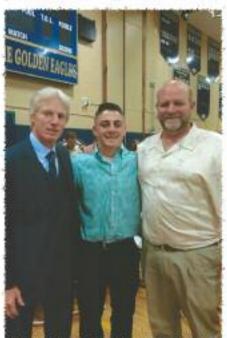
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### THE RON ABATELLI TEAMS













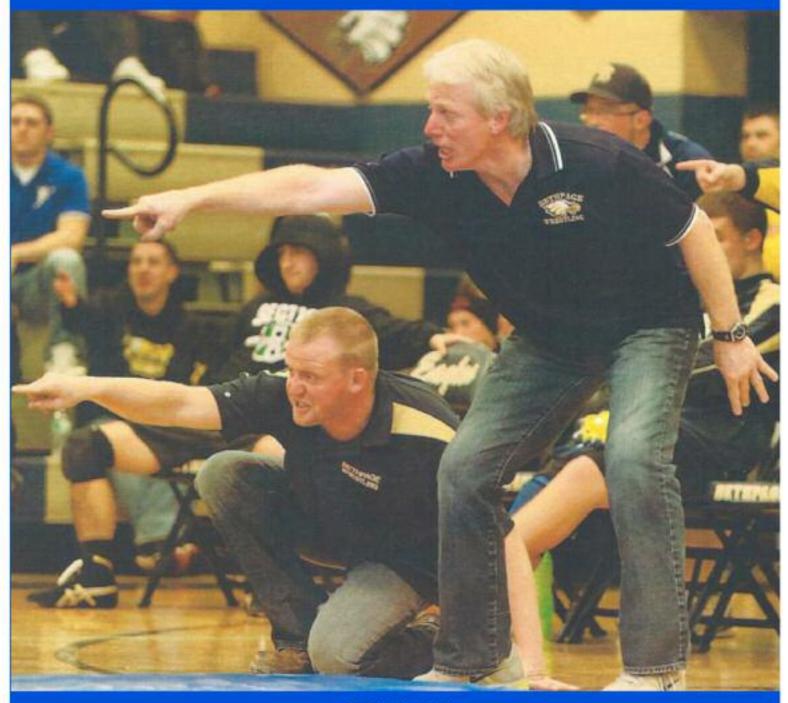




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# Coach Ron Abatelli @ Work



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## Bob ATTONITO

In 1963, Bob saw his first wrestling match as a freshman at Indiana State University. He was so inspired that he signed up for a wrestling class, won three intramural wrestling championships, and was hooked for life. He managed the wrestling team in 1964 because of a torn Achilles tendon incurred playing football (which ended his season) at Indiana. Coach Chuck Sanders, who later was named to the Hall of Fame, let Bob manage the Varsity team and workout with the team. This became a huge challenge for him because he

had to wrestle from his knees until the cast came off. These were the most intense workouts, which made him stronger physically and mentally. Bob returned to football and continued to manage as well as workout with the wrestling team in 1965-66.

Continuing his education for a double major (Physical Education & Health) and two weeks before the Indiana State Invitational, Bob received the ok from Coach Sanders to wrestle in the tournament. He was probably the first team manager to ever make weight and place first in the tournament. In 1966-67 his record was 16-8 and the following season it was 27-7. With a second place in the Indiana State Invitational, and a first in the Conference Championships.

After college, Bob's involvement with wrestling continued at Martinsville High School, Indiana. His team was 23-7 (1968–1971) with 6 sectional champions. In 1972 he returned to NYC where he continued to teach and coach

multiple sports. At Beach Channel High School, he coached the wrestling team from 1977 to 1980 where his teams were 22-8.

Bob's interest then turned to officiating. He started in Nassau County (worked for 27 years) and in NYC from 1977 to 2015. As an official, he worked the Nassau County Championships times along with 23 qualifiers. As a NYC official he worked 32 State qualifiers, 25 Private School State Championships, received the Distinguished Service Award 2013, 23 lvy League Championships,

plus 15 Catholic State Championships/qualifiers. In 1988 Bob became President and Interpreter for the NYCWOA, receiving the NYCWOA Distinguished Service Award 2015.

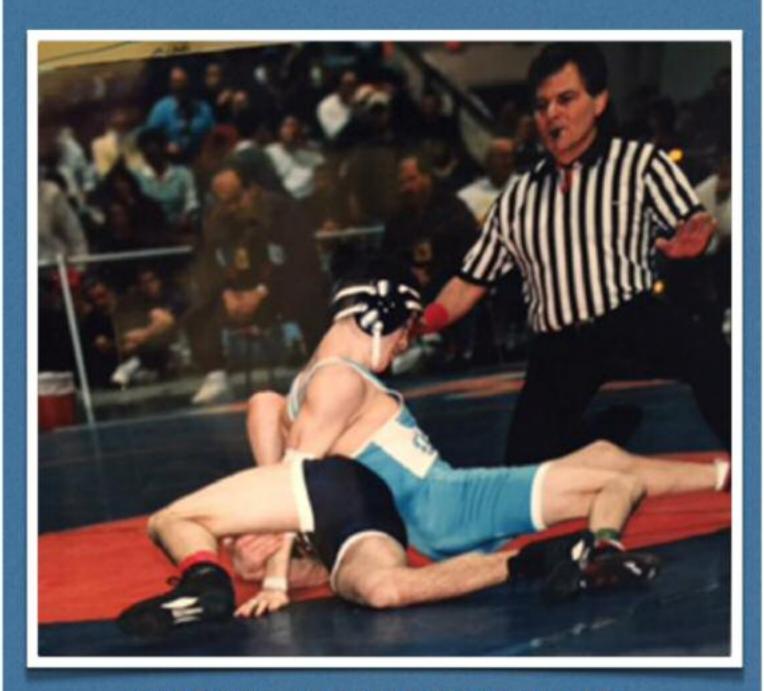
Bob served as the New York State Wrestling Officials Association President from 2008-2010, (receiving the NYSWOA Distinguished Service Award 2013). To date the NYCWOA, under his Presidency, has produced six NYS Championship Officials, whom collectively have represented New York City, working over 23 State Wrestling Championships. Beyond mutual respect for all, he has always emphasized equal dignity in the official's association and has cultivated a very strong mentoring program for the younger officials. To this end, the officiating in New York City has improved, so has the coaching and wrestling in the city.

Bob's career has always been supported by his wife Pam and their two daughters.



## ROBERT ATTONITO FAMILY

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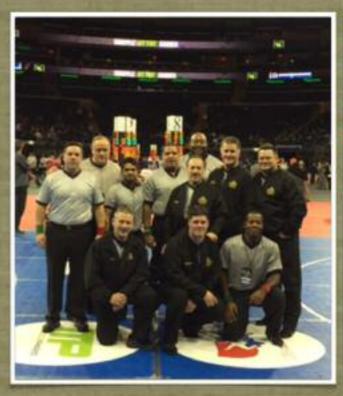


## **BOB ATTONITO**

### RECOGNIZED AS A OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL BY NEW YORK CITY AND STATE

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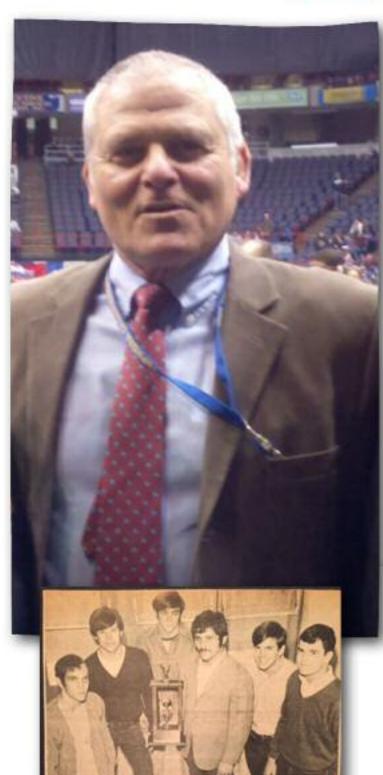


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### **BOB ATTONITO**

#### FROM INDIANA TO NEW YORK





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# William DAMETICAL

William Davey Jr., (Bill) was born into a true wrestling family. While growing up, furniture was often cleared to hold impromptu clinics amongst his cousins Dale, Rocky, Jimmy, Mike and Tim. These were lead by his father, Bill Sr., and uncles Ed, Jim and Kenny. In the early 1970's, Bill's biggest challenge was finding a practice room. His junior high school did not have a team so he would stay after school and practice with the Commack North High School team in the basement. Some evenings,

basement. Some evenings,
Bill had the good fortune to workout at Bay Shore's 5th
Avenue Elementary School Kid Wrestling program run
by Bill Knapp and "Jumper" Leggio.

Moving on to high school, he made all-league. At CW Post College, he wrestled for his Uncle Jim Davey and cousin-in-law, Bob Stack, who taught him a great deal about wrestling and coaching. Using the tools and philosophy provided, Bill became a productive and successful coach.

He started the Kings Park Kid Wrestling Program and was the Varsity coach for the next 11 years. His teams accumulated 101 varsity wins, 89 All-league wrestlers, including 25 champions. His teams placed 3 times in the



top 10 of the Section XI Tournament.

Bill then assisted Joe Colloca at Mt. Sinai High School and helped him develop a powerful wrestling program that culminated with an undefeated League 6 team along with a Suffolk County championship. This feat was only the second time that a "small" school was able to claim the county title.

While at Mt. Sinai, he also became involved with the Smithtown Kid Program, with more than 150 youngsters participating

each year.

In 2006, he became varsity coach T.J. Brockings' assistant at John Glenn High School. In the span of five years, this coaching team produced a D2 County title and two D1 titles. One of Bill's career highlights was when John Glenn dominated the Upstate teams, at the Union/Endicott Duals.

After retiring from coaching, Bill is still involved with the wrestling community. He now spends much of his time rooting for his son Bill's Half Hollow Hills East Wrestling team. He is also enjoying the Golden Years with wife, Denise, and daughters, Danielle and Andrea.

# THE BILLY DAVEY FAMILY



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## BILL DAVEY



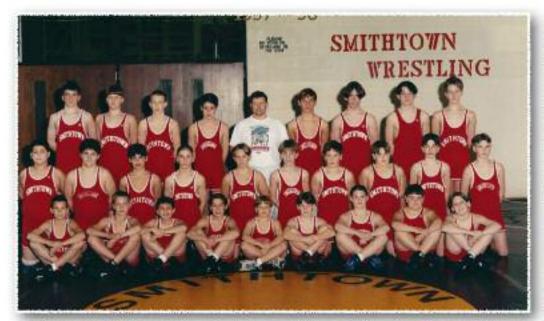


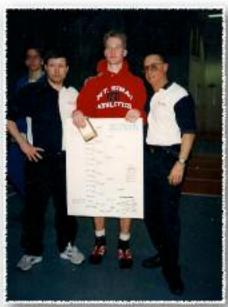




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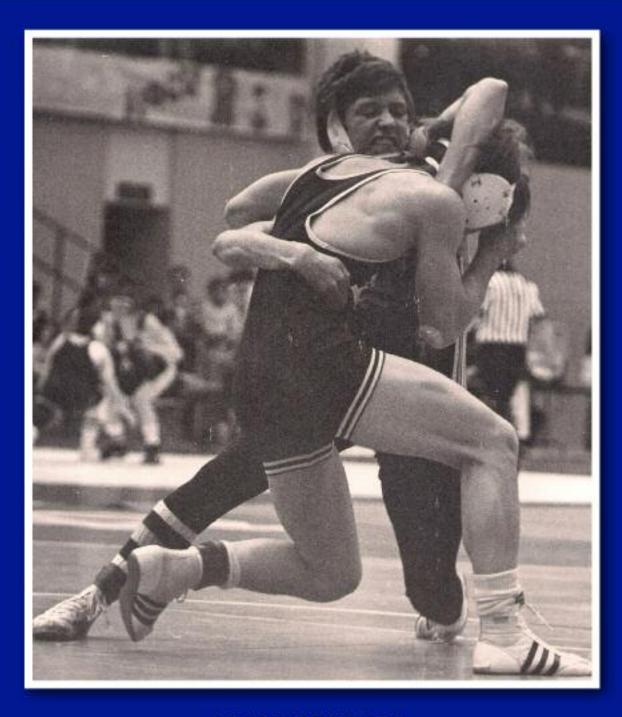




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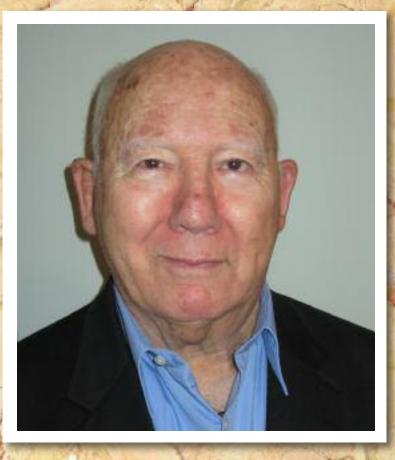
MICHAEL MALETTA, CRAIG LEHMAN, MIKE EGAN, DR. PETER MANCUSO KINGS PARK WRESTLING ALL STAR YOUTH WRESTLING CLUB

# BILLY DAVEY



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BOB MAYERI

## Jerry HAIRIE II.



Jerry started his wrestling career at Mepham High School, under the legendary Sprig Gardner. He was a mainstay for 3 years on one of the Mepham's great teams. He highlighted his career by becoming a Long Island Champion in his senior year.

At Gettysburg College, he played football and wrestled, winning the 167 weight class in the Middle Atlantic Wrestling Championships. Upon graduation, Jerry served 3 years in the Army Transportation Corps., stationed in France.

In 1960, he was hired to teach and start a wrestling program at the brand new Udall Jr. High School, in West Islip. At the same time, Jerry became an active mat official, working meets and tournaments in both Nassau and Suffolk. In 1962, Pete Damone asked Jerry to coach the newly formed Hofstra College Freshman Wrestling team. This gave him an opportunity to work with a

number of talented young men, including Sam Boone, Tony Mellino, Rich Cestaro, and Tom Ricolo.

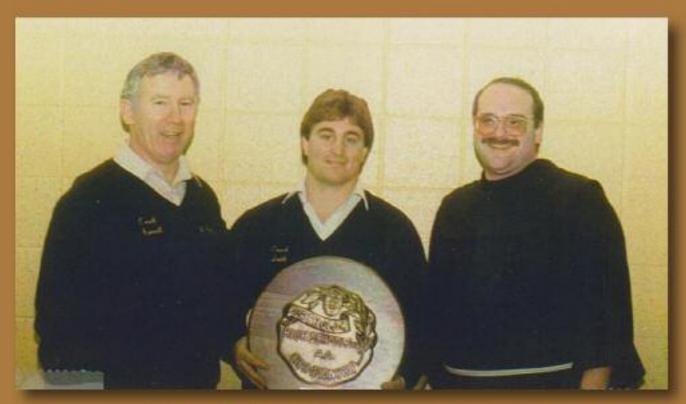
In 1964, Jerry accepted a teaching/coaching position in the Port Jefferson School district where he was asked again to develop a wrestling program. Two years later, he received a call to start another new program. This time, it came from St. Anthony's in Smithtown. It was here that Jerry settled in for a long stay. It took time, a great deal of patience and hard work, but the results were well worth the effort. Starting from "scratch", Jerry was able to build a program that produced 25 Catholic School State Champions, 54 CHSAA State Place winners, 41 Catholic League Champions, 74 league place winners, plus 2 Catholic School League State Championship teams. Today, as the results of Jerry Harrell's determination and coaching skills, St. Anthony's wrestling team continues to enjoy great success.

### CAROLYN AND JERRY HARRELL



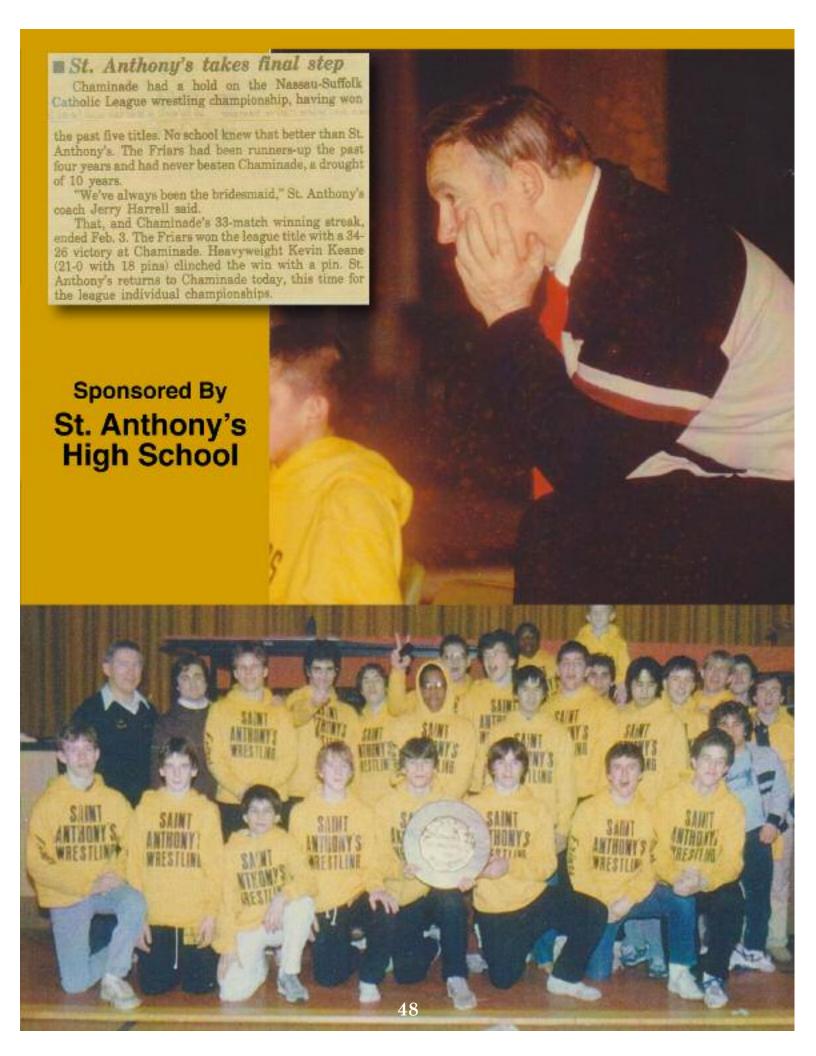
SPONSORED BY THE HARRELL FAMILY

### **COACH JERRY HARRELL**

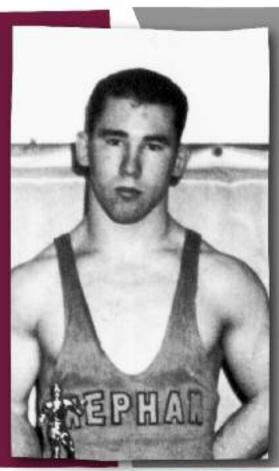


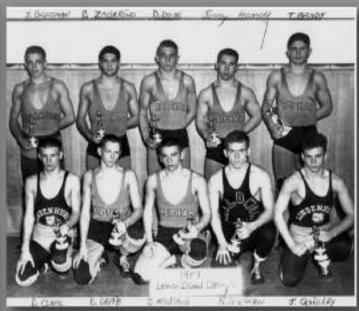


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# JERRY HARRELL LEADS MEPHAM HS AND GETTYSBURG COLLEGE WRESTLERS

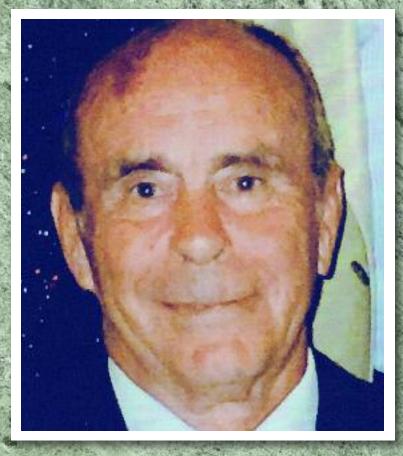




MEPHAM WRESTLERS DOMINATE THE LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS SIX OF TEN WINNERS IN 1953 JERRY HARRELL COMPLETED A PERFECT SEASON



# Robert Stephen HARTMAN



As a teenager, Bobattended Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School in Kingston, PA. It was a decision that changed his life, for it was here that he zeroed in on his two loves, Nancy Jackson, his future wife, and wrestling. In 1948, Bob's senior year, he was captain of the wrestling team and won the National Prep School Wrestling Championship in the 128 weight class. He was on his way to a collegiate wrestling career at Columbia University.

Under the tutelage of Coach Dick Waite, Bob Hartman amassed an impressive record of 28-0-1 in his three years of varsity wrestling at Columbia, including 23 consecutive victories. In 1951, he placed 2nd in the Eastern Intercollegiate Championships at 137 and went on to finish 4th at the NCAA Championships that year. He became Columbia's very first All-American wrestler. After graduation, Bob coached the freshmen grapplers at Columbia, before serving in the US Army in Korea. He coached the Far East Army wrestling team

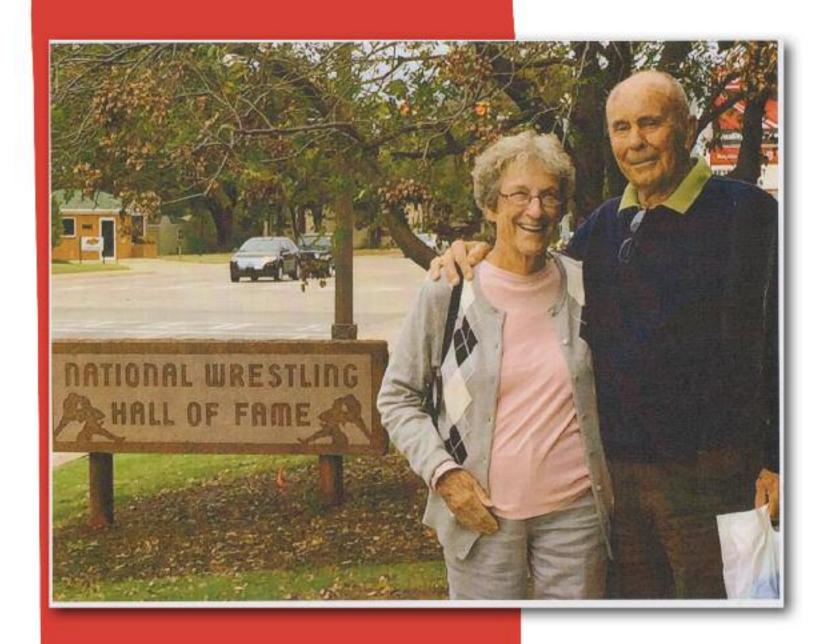
while overseas.

From 1957-1978, Bob was a professor of physical education and the wrestling coach at SUNY at Farmingdale, a junior college on Long Island, NY. He was instrumental in the creation of the first NJCAA Wrestling National Championship in 1966. He was proud of the national champions that he coached and of the team that went on to win the national championship in 1972. Bob was twice voted the NJCAA Wrestling Coach of the Year by his peers in 1969 and 1972. He was inducted into the NJCAA Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1979.

In 1973, Bob was selected to be the coach of the U.S. Greco-Roman wrestling team at the World University Games in Moscow. He was also the wrestling team leader in the junior Pan-American Games in Caracas Venezuela in 1978, the year he retired from SUNY.

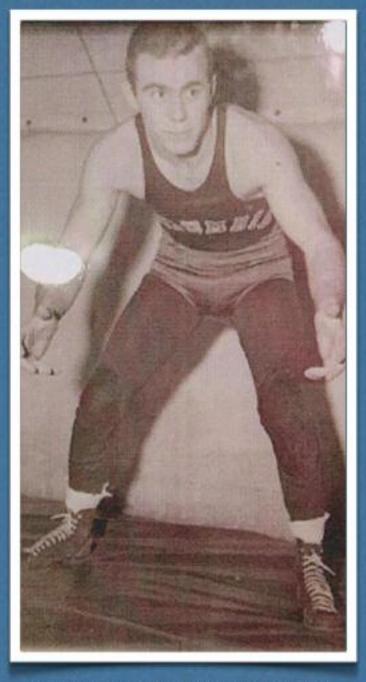
Columbia University's wrestling coach, Dick Waite, once stated that, "Men like Hartman can't really be replaced, because you find them only once in a great while."

### **BOB AND NANCY HARTMAN**

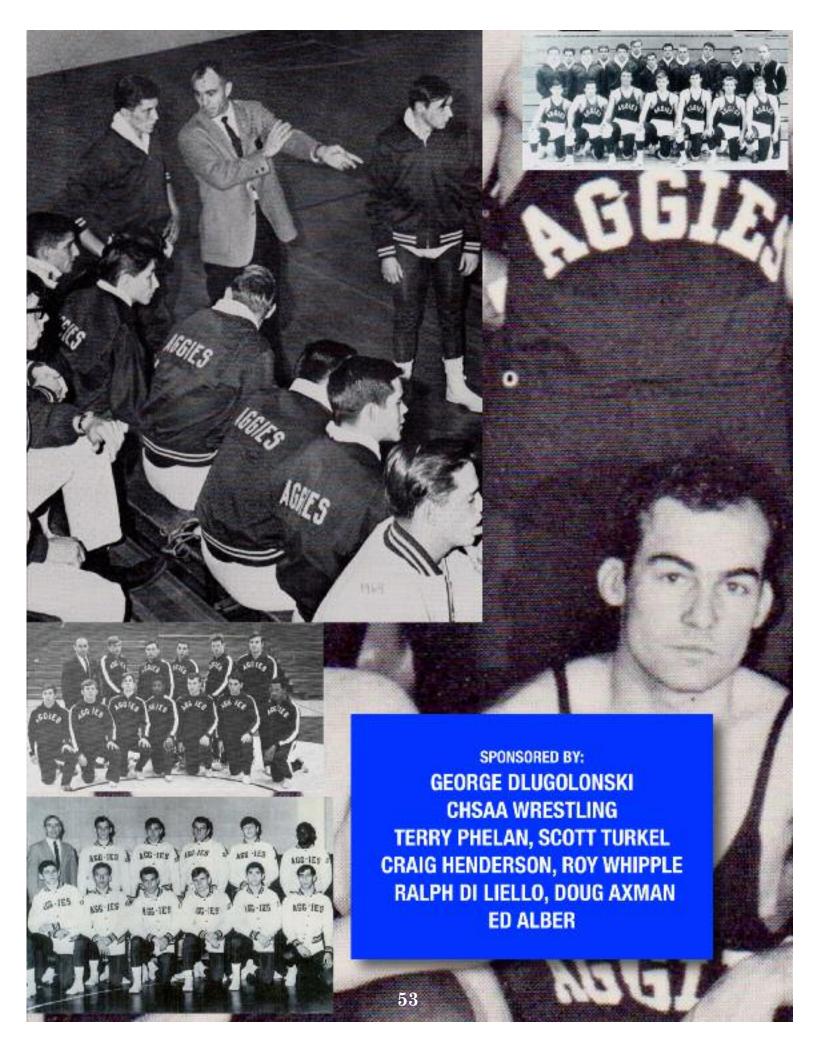


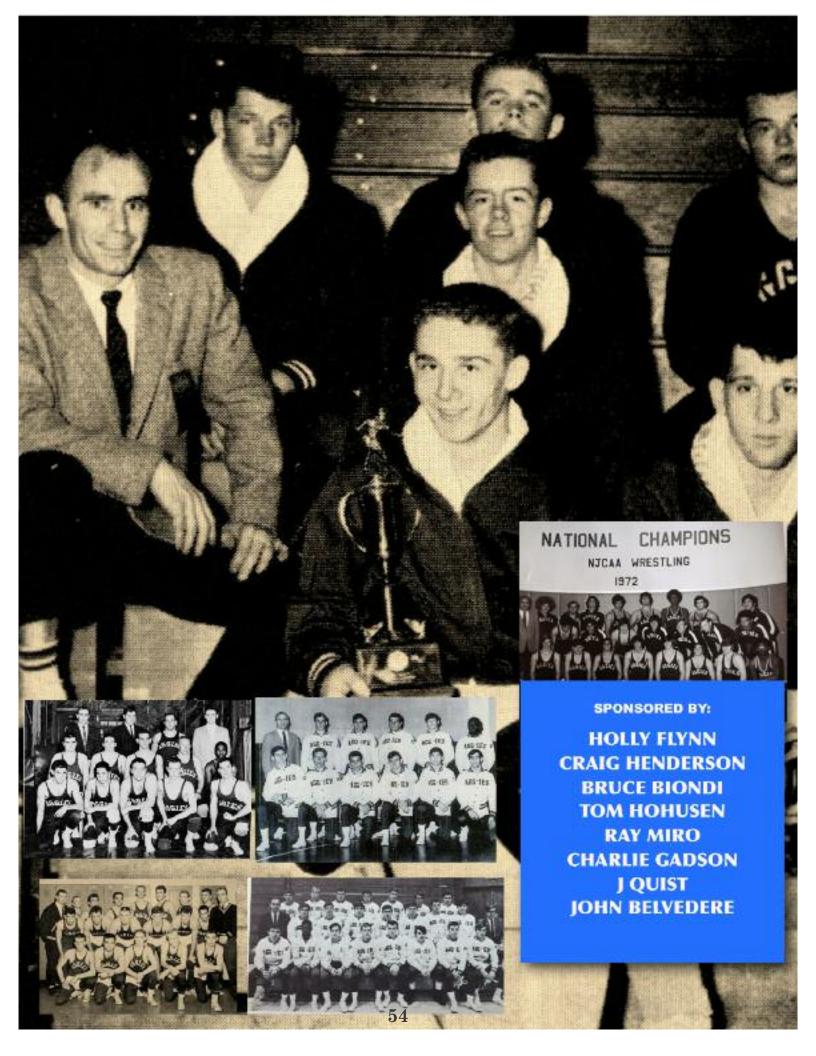
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www.foliw.com



# Laura IMAIDOCK

As a high school student in Farmingdale, Laura assisted Coach Irv Apgar becoming a score-keeper for his wrestling team.

When Laura went off to college at the State University at Brockport, she approached head coach, Don Murray with the suggestion that her experience as a High school team scorekeeper might add to her ability to help out with Brockport's Varsity wrestling program. Soon Laura was fully involved with the daily running of the team. She posted practice every day, ran drills, played the music and kept time. Coach

Murray has often said that she kept the team and him in one piece. Laura traveled with the team as their manager. For the next four years, she was responsible for arranging the travel schedules, meals, and hotel accommodations.

As she became more knowledgeable, she was often sent to scout opposing teams, attend seeding meetings and tournaments. At that time, she learned how to run and score tournaments, and over her four year tenure, she had the opportunity to participate in the operation of the New York State College Championships, the NCAA Division III tournament, as well as the Eastern Regional Olympic Trials which were held at Brockport University. It was at Brockport that Laura met the 142 lb. wrestler from Valley Stream, Tom Maddock, who later became her husband.

As a team, Laura continued her interest in running



wrestling programs while Tom was coaching at Great Neck South High School, Floral Park High School, Valley Stream South High School, and finally at Valley Stream North High School. Laura began keeping the scorebook for Tom's teams. Over the years, she became more involved Nassau with County wrestling. It was in the 1993 season that she became the treasurer for the Nassau County Wrestling Coaches Association.

Laura's duties included paying the bills, and making the appropriate purchases.

Laura also had the privilege of being part of

the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association, and a representative at the New York State High School State Championships. She has continued her role for Section 8 for the past five years working the Division 1 & 2 Tournaments in the State of New York.

Over the years, Laura and Tom Maddock have been a great team not only in the wrestling community, but also on the home front. They have two sons who became successful high school wrestlers. Scott, the eldest, was a captain of the Massapequa High School team and led them to a State Championship. Josh, also a Massapequa High School team captain, received All-County honors as well as the Outstanding High School Wrestler's Award during his senior year at Massapequa High School.

# Tom IVALDOGES



Tom Wrestled for Ralph Jensen at Valley Stream North High School. He competed on the Varsity team for three years and became the Varsity team

captain as a senior. He earned all-conference honors in his junior and senior years.

He attended Brockport State College, coached by Don Murray. While competing at Brockport, Tom was team captain during his junior and senior years. He was the State of New York College Champion at 142 and 150 pounds. He also won the New York State Intercollegiate Invitational Championship. During that period, as an undergraduate, Tom had the opportunity to work with the USA Junior World Team, the Armed Forces team, the Mongolian National team, as well as the US Olympic team. Tom wrestled in the regional Olympic trials qualifying for the final trials.

Toms career included coaching at several high

schools on Long Island culminating at his alma mater, Valley Stream North High School. At that time he founded the Ralph Jensen Memorial Tourna-

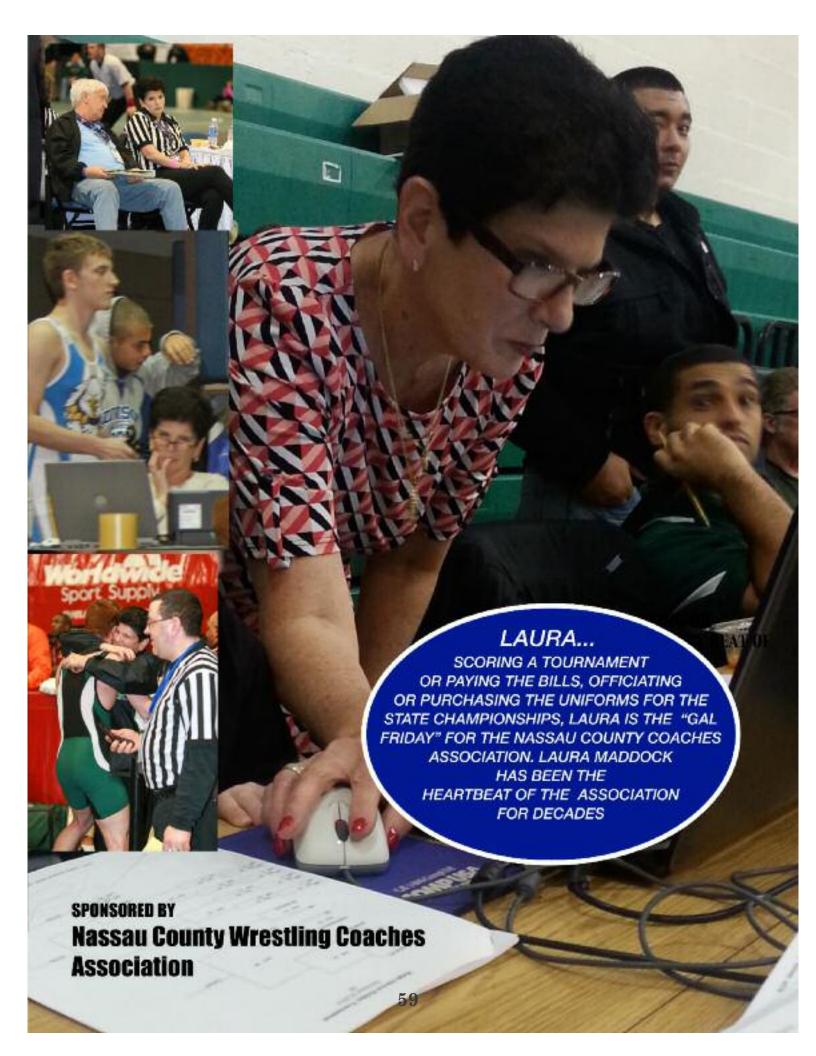
ment in honor of his high school coach. His first head coaching job was at Valley Stream South for seven years, before returning to Valley Stream North. He coached there for 31 years preparing the varsity and middle school teams for competition. He coached more than 600 varsity dual meets, 240 junior high school dual meets, 10 conference championships teams, and was named the Conference Coach of the Year four times. Tom Maddock has also coached 11 County champions, 46 All-County wrestlers, and 256 All-Conference wrestlers. He has been actively involved with the Nassau County coaches Association and has served on the County Tournament Committee, plus the Dinner committee. He served as secretary for the Association for several years.

## THE MADDOCK FAMILY

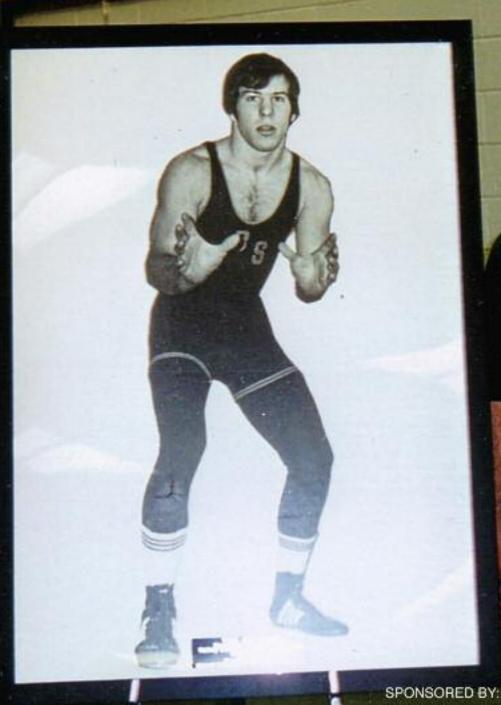


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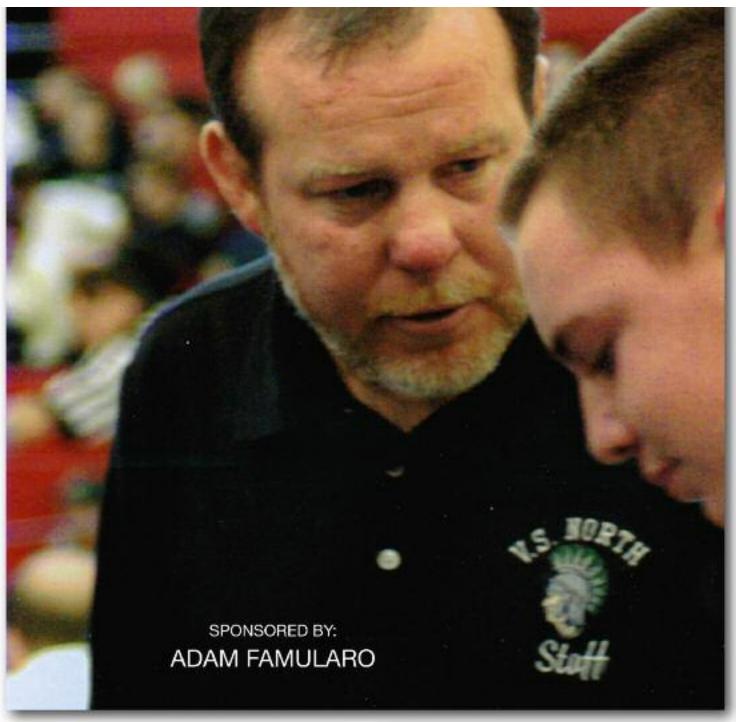
JEFFERY MERZ • ANTHONY DICLEMENTE • BRYAN RODGERS
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STEPHANIE PETRONE • BONNIE STREIGOLD
TIMPONE FAMILY • JAMES CASTELLO



# TOM MADDOCK



VALLEY STREAM NORTH SPARTAN CLUB THE GISONDA FAMILY DOUG AXMAN, CELESTE PHILLIPS SCOTT, JESSICA & JOSH MADDOCK JIM & JOANN MADDOCK







## Steve THEELEGAIN

Steve's introduction to wrestling came when his son's got involved in Kid Wrestling. When they were old enough to travel with the PAL, Steve would go on the trips to help with travel arrangements. It was during this time that he learned how to do freestyle pairing from the USA Wrestling Guide. Steve became a licensed USA Wrestling Pairing Official in 1989. He worked as a freestyle and Greco-Roman pairer at many local, state and national events.

In 1985 Steve was elected as the Suffolk County Kids Director for freestyle and Greco-Roman. In this

capacity, he was involved in helping to compile a spring wrestling calendar and was responsible for organizing and running the state freestyle qualifier in Suffolk County.

In 1995 Steve became the Suffolk County Chairman for USA Wrestling and remained in that position until 1999. During that time, as Suffolk Chairman, he was also elected to the position of State Membership Director. He was responsible from 1995 until 1998 for all USA Wrestling membership and associated funds. In 1998 Steve was elected State Chairman for USA Wrestling in New York.

During the years as a freestyle pairer, Steve helped run the wrestling events at the New York State Empire Games. In 2001, he became the Tournament Director and Head Pairer for the New York Empire State Games.

Through his interest in high school wrestling, Steve had the idea to develop a website. Starting with the NY



State sectional tournament qualifier results in February of 1996, he developed the NYwrestling.com website. The coverage expanded after that to report wrestling stories and results from around the state.

In 2002, with Scott Arnel and Tom Ryan, Steve formed the Long Island Wrestling Association whose charter was to support all phases of amateur wrestling on Long Island. Steve was elected Vice President of the Long Island Wrestling Assoc. at its inception and remains in that position today. This organization runs a website called longisland-

wrestling.org. and Steve is the sole webmaster for the website.

From 2008 until the present, Steve has been the Section XI High School Championships Computer Operations Director. He is also the volunteer webmaster for the following organizations: Nassau County Wrestling Coaches Association, Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association and the Suffolk Wrestling Officials Association and an advisor to the Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association on all matters involving computer operations.

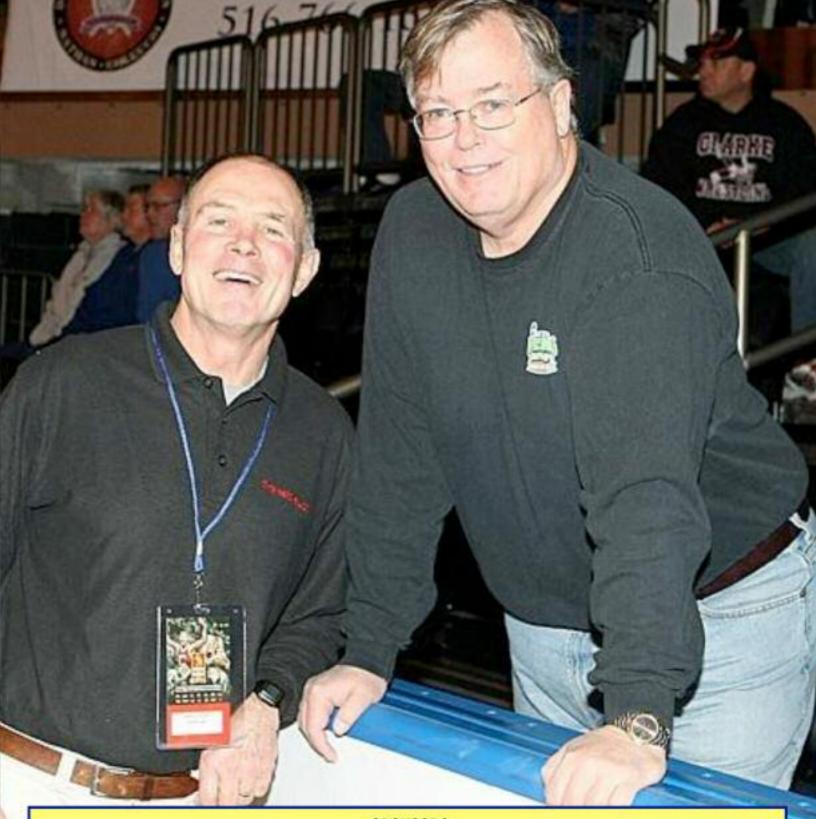
Steve has been married for 46 years to his wife Cathy, and has three children, Cindy, Chris and Bryan.

Steve's sons wrestled in high school at Connetquot High and both went on to become Junior High School coaches. Chris at Longwood and Bryan at Connetquot. Bryan was also a high school wrestling official in Nassau County.



# STEVE MEEHAN FAMILY

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Preparing For The Match Or Tournament

Advice From Champion Derek Briggs



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# Tony MILLOSCI

In 1967, Tony became the assistant wrestling coach at Deer Park High School, under the guidance of future Hall of Famer Ed Luksik. He served as head wrestling coach from 1974 thru 1979. Having never wrestled before, Coach Melosci credits Coach Luksik with giving him the solid foundation of wrestling skills that would shape his coaching career for years to come.

While at Deer Park, he coached many league and county place finishers along with All-State wrestlers Nick Gallo, Mike Nock, Joe Downey, Ted Di-Pasquale, and Howie Greenblatt.

He became an assistant wrestling coach at Hofstra University from 1980 to 1983, under head coach, and former NCAA champion/ NCAA tournament outstanding wrestler, Nick Gallo.

Melosci returned to the high school coaching ranks in 1984 at Lindenhurst HS with future Hall of Famer Joe Russo. While at Lindenhurst, he coached a number of all league and all county place finishers along with all state wrestlers Mark Frole and Rob Friese. He retired from teaching and coaching, on Long Island, in 1997.

Tony Melosci took his coaching talents down south after leaving Long Island. He served as an assistant coach in Wilmington, North Carolina where he would coach his first high school folkstyle state champion. He went on to become the head coach for one year in Gainesville, Georgia (North Hall HS) and ended his coaching career as an assistant coach at Citrus HS in Inverness, Florida.



He served for 8 years as the Co-State Chairman for New York USA Wrestling. He has also been the Team Leader for New York's Cadet and Junior Freestyle and Greco Roman Team at National Championships. While leading team New York at the Nationals, he coached numerous All Americans along with Cadet Freestyle National Champ Dipasquale, Freestyle Junior National Champ Peter Yozzo (later NCAA Champ), Freestyle Junior National Champ Dan Mayo and Junior Greco Roman National Champs Bill Starke and Willie Warren.

He also served for 4 years as the Northeast Regional Kid Director for USA wrestling.

He started officiating Freestyle and Greco Roman in 1975 and continues today. In 1982 he received his International (FILA) Officials license. In 1988 Tony earned the FILA E (exceptionale) Level, which is the highest level of international officiating. Melosci credits Mort Gellar, Chuck Almeida, and Bill Stecklein, all Olympic Exceptionale officials, for mentoring him in his journey of international officiating. He also earned the title of "Official of the Year" which recognizes the top official in the USA.

He officiated 16 world championships at all levels (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Europe and Espior). He officiated at 25 USA Open Championships, 15 World Team trials, 15 World Championships, the 1988 Pan American Games (Indianapolis) and the last three World Police and Fire Games (New York, Dublin, and Fairfax).

Tony is married to Terry, and has two sons, Brian and Tim.

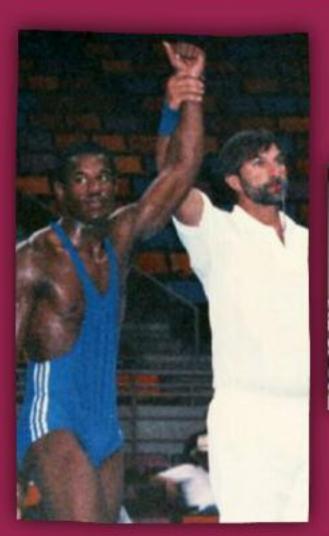
## The Tony Melosci Family



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## TONY MELOSCI OFFICIATING







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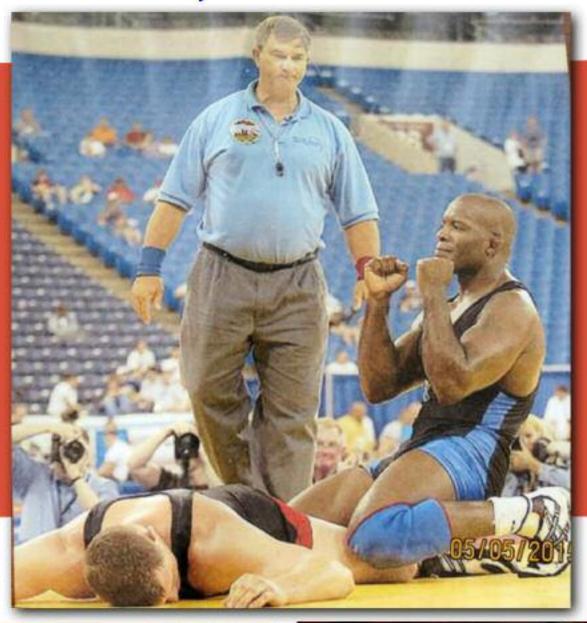




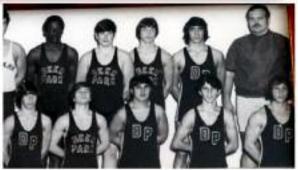
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ED PIDGEON
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RICHARD DAILEY
BILL CRUM
BILL STARKE
MARCIA HAISE

Sponsora

## TONY ON THE MAT AS AN OFFICIAL A COACH, AND A WRESTLER

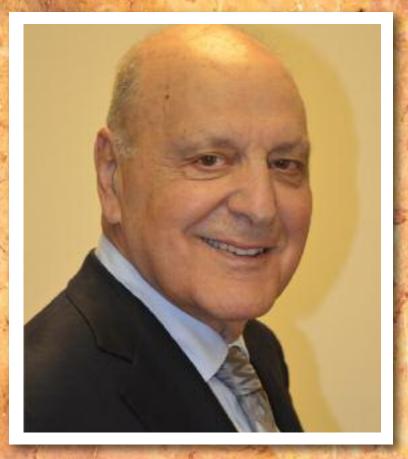






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## William ZAGARINO



Bill's wrestling life began in September 1946 when he met Coach Frank "Sprig" Gardner as

his freshman football coach. "Gardner started recruiting for wrestling at that point and I was hooked." This is when Coach Gardner took some of the freshman football players into his office and wrestling room to view "The Wall of Champions". Every wrestler wanted to get his picture on that wall. Bill had four years of wrestling under Coach Gardner and wrestled varsity his junior and senior years. In those two years, he only lost two matches.

After graduating high school, Bill attended Hofstra College for one year and wrestled on the Hofstra freshman team in the 145 weight class. He had a good year in wrestling with first place in the NY Metropolitan AAU's at 145 lbs.

After his freshman year, Bill transferred from Hofstra to Millersville, PA. He wrestled Varsity his second and third year at Millersville with only two losses. He lost to Gus DeAugustino of Lock Haven, who became NCAA Division 1 Champion at 137. Later, he lost to brother Pat Zagarino in the Pennsylvania State Teacher College Tournament-when Pat won Gold and Bill won Silver.

After graduation, his first stop, back on Long Island was Coach Gardner's office in search of a

teaching position. Gardner put a call into Lonnie Kittle, at Amityville High School. Amityville had an opening, so he went right to work teaching and coaching.

In 1956, Bill started officiating wrestling and from 1957-1980, officiated the high school leagues and Suffolk County Championships. During this time, he represented Suffolk County twice in the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships. He also acted as rules interpreter along with Bob Hartman. He later served as President of the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association.

Bill joined the Friends of Long Island Wrestling and became a Board Member. He was appointed Chairman of the Hall of Fame Nominating Committee and has been an active supporter of that organization.

Within the business community of Bellmore, NY, Bill has been the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Bellmore Lions Club; Zone Chairman for the Lions, and a Melvin Jones Fellow for Lions International.

Bill married Ann Marie Friedel. They have two children, Patti Ann and Bill.

## BILL ZAGARINO TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME



PICTURED ABOVE THE MEMBERS OF THE ZAGARINO FAMILY : LEFT TO RIGHT:

GEORGE BRADLEY, ANN MARIE ZAGARINO, BILL ZAGARINO
BILL J. ZAGARINO, KARA BRADLEY, PATTI ANN ZAGARINO BRADLEY

## THE THE MAN



WHEN BILL FINISHED COMPETING AND COACHING HE BEGAN HIS OFFICIATING CAREER, BECOMING A CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIAL AND ONE OF THE FEW WHO INTERPRETATED THE RULES TO THE OFFICIALS.

SPONSORED BY
PAT AND JERRY SECKLER, PAT AND BILL BRENNEN
PETE VENIER

### LONG ISLAND PRESS SPORTS Wrestling News

## **BILL ZAGARINO ENTERS HOFSTRA**

## Zagarino Shows Way In A.A.U. Grappling

Long Islanders dominated the opening round of the Metropolitan A. M. Junior wrestling championships as the five - time winners

and Hofstra College came through last night's grappling at the West Side Y. M. C. A. almost unscathed.

Bill Zagarino, Hofstra freshman and former Mepham ace, was a two -time winner in the 145-pound class. The Merrick grappier pinned Al Lang of the German Oak with a Princeton in 8:45 and followed with a 5-0 decision over Bob Mc Gill of the McBurney' Y.

George Creason, Long Island 121pound king from Mepham High School, came through with a quick fall in the same weight class as he topped Joe Perez of the New York Institute for the Blind in 2:15 with a head stand.

Wade Cummings of South Side High School, South Shore 113-pound Class B king, scored a mild upset when he outpointed Sid Nodland of Mepham, Long Island 104-pound titicholder, 4-2, in a 115-pound sette.

Henry Gobetz of the Long Island Grapplers Club, 165-pounder Syra-

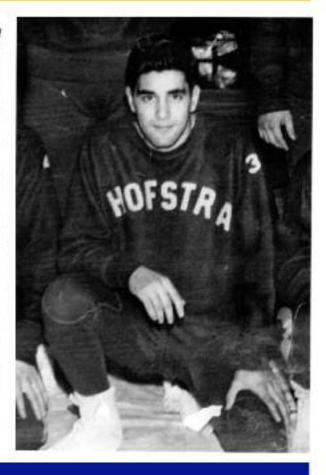
cuse frosh via Mepham was another double winner in the first round, defeating Ed Dawson of Kings Point and Bob Cornfich of the McBurney 'Y.'

In the same weight class, Bill Martin of Massapequa pinned Larry Kittredge of Mepham in 2:37 with a body press.

In the 136-pound class, Walt Schaefer of Valley Stream and Hofstra applied a grapevine to Nick Pena of the West Side 'Y' in 1:13 to take his opening round tussle. Gerry Gobetz of Mepham, polished off Kings Point's Bob Rathkopp in 1:57 with a half nelson and crotch in the same weight class.

Other winners were Lee Gallo, heavyweight; Frank Pusco, former Hofstra ace, 128-pounds; Paul Bedell, Long Beach, 115-pounds, Pat Zagarino, Mepham, 136-pound class and Bill White, Mephem, 128-pound class.

Action was to continue today with the finals slated for 8 P.M. Tom Harvey's Long Island Grapplers hold a slim edge on the field with their seven falls.



LONG ISLAND WRESTLERS MAN THE MATS AT HOFSTRA AS THEY TAKE ON TRADITIONAL RIVALS, PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGES, CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK, AND COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

BILL ZAGARINO OF HOFSTRA LEADS THE REST WITH A STUNNING VICTORY IN THE SENIOR METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### EXCITING NEWS FROM STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

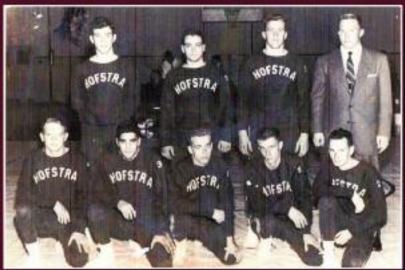
The National Wrestling Hall Of Fame And Museum has announced a facelifting of the museum displays located on the campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. The museum is dedicated to the preservation of he history of wrestling. Pictures, renderings, and memorabilia of

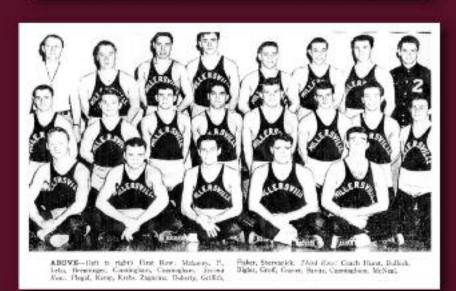


elected members of the museum are on display seven days a week. In addition to the preservation of wrestling history, the museum is committed to promoting the sport of amateur wrestling throughout the world. Included in the displays are representations of American Olympians.

## FRANK "SPRIG" GARDNER AND HIS MEPHAM WRESTLERS SET THE PACE FOR AMERICAN SCHOOLBOY WRESTLING







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## **NOEL THOMPSON**

**CEO and Chief Investment Officer** 





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## PASCAL PERRI CUP





The Pascal Perri Cup is awarded each year to the outstanding high school wrestling team in the Downstate Region of New York State
Chris Messina (right) Head Coach of Hauppauge High School receving the 2015 Award from Pascal Perri at the Annual Hall of Fame Dinner

## HAUPPAUGE WRESTLING

By Chris Messina

## 2014—2015 "A SEASON TO REMEMBER"

The Hauppauge wrestling team completed the 2014-15 wrestling season by being crowned the "Suffolk County Tournament champions", in addition to being selected as the recipients of the prestigious "Pascal Perry Cup", downstate team of the year, given by the FOLIW organization. Hauppauge finished the season with a 23-1 dual meet season while winning the Sprig Gardner tournament along with the Center Moriches and West Islip dual meet tournaments. The Eagles won their fourth consecutive League Four tournament and won the

League IV dual meet crown. Hauppauge sent nine wrestlers into the League IV finals coming away with four championships. Winning for Hauppauge was Ben Tepperman, 120lbs., John Donohue, 152lbs., Chris Mauriello. 160lbs. and Francisco Bisono, 170lbs. Silverstein. 106lbs... Jake Marcus Bisono. 182lbs... Anthonhy Ottaviano, 195lbs., Alex Donnarumma, 215lbs. and John Munro, 285lbs. all placed second with Danny Mauriello,99lbs. and Justin

Members of the 2014-215 Hauppauge team are shown after receiving the "Pascal Perri Cup". (Left to right;) Marcus Bisono, Francisco Bisono, Ralph Cazzetta, Coach Chris Messina, Nick Mauriello, Michael Messina.

Seay, 113lbs. both placing third. Tepperman was selected as the tournament MVP, while Mauriello won his 5th consecutive league tournament title. Following the leagues, saving the best for last was an understatement with Hauppauge having the Suffolk tournament Championships locked up after the semi-final round. With eleven wrestlers competing, Hauppauge won the title by a 45 point margin over runner-ups John Glenn. The Eagles advanced five into the semis with all five making it to the finals. Jake Silverstein,

106lbs. and Francisco Bisono, 170lbs. both won their weight classes with Silverstein being selected as the recipient of the "Champion of Champions" award winner, as voted on by the wrestlers. Silverstein defeated Deer Parks Tommy Cox, 3-1 while Bisono defeated East Ports, Nick Garone, also by a 3-1 score. Ben Tepperman, 120lbs., Chris Mauriello, 160lbs. and Marcus Bisono, 182lbs, all placed second. John Donohue, Hauppauge's 152lb wrestler fought back for a third place by defeating Joe Bartolotta from Miller Place 8-0. Heavyweight Alex Donnarumma was the surprise place winner ending up with a fourth place finish. Alex avenged two pre-season losses to Deer Parks, Marcus Rivera and John Glenn's, Anthony Pino to get to the medal round. Sending four place winners onto the NYS championships Hauppauge

continued their success by have three wrestlers place. Jake Silverstein led the way with a second place finish at 106lbs., while Francisco Bisono completed his banner year with a third place at 170lbs. Chris Mauriello finished sixth at 160lbs, while Marcus Bisono was one match away from placing at 182lbs. For their efforts the Eagles finished fourth in the team competition.

Although a good number of seniors graduate Hauppauge will be respectable for 2015-16, with Soph., Jake Silverstein, Jr., Ben

Tepperman, and seniors, Chris Mauriello and Marcus Bisono leading the way. Super heavy weight Jr., John Munro is ready to step onto the podium with Danny Mauriello and Justin Seay close behind. Hauppauge will look to seniors, Nick Giannotti, Biagio Mendolia and Frank Ragone, Juniors Darren Brophy, Steven Holder and Cristian Garlarza along with Sophomore Nick Trentini to fill in the holes for the team. If all the pieces to the puzzle fit together, Hauppauge will look to win it again and add a NYS title to their resume.

## THE MAT SLAP

### 2016 Long Island Wrestling Preview

#### By Jim & Tony Nordland

Long Island wrestlers enter the 2015-16 season with another talent-laden group that features six defending state champions and three former winners along with a plethora of All-State matmen. The Nassau and Suffolk teams have garnered a total of thirty-three state sectional titles: Suffolk with 23 and Nassau with 10 championships. Long Island wrestling has a rich history with the first title claimed by Section VIII in 1963 and Section XI with seven consecutive state sectional team titles. One of those elite squads is figured to claim yet another state crown in Albany at the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of the NYS Championships.

LI will be led by two-time champion Vito Arujau (136-1 career mark) of Syosset, now a junior at 132 pounds. Three-time placer Arujau (2-1-1) and 2015 Cadet national champion has been basically untouchable the past two years and his lone loss is to heralded Yanni Diakomihalis (Hilton HS) with an overtime ride-out in the 2013 state finals. Both have made a verbal commitment to the Big Red of Cornell. Nassau's other two-time winner is sophomore Jacori Teemer (100-4) of Long Beach who will most likely compete in the 120-pound class. Nassau's other reigning state king is Locust Valley junior Jon Gomez (76-6) a Cadet All-American at 113/120 pounds. Suffolk boasts three returning champions: freshman Adam Busiello (90-7) of Eastport-South Manor at 106, Huntington's John Arceri (132-22) at 126 and Princeton-bound Christian Araneo (134-29) of Ward Melville now in the 220-pound class.

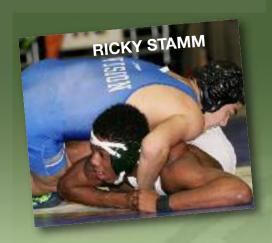
Former state winners from 2014 include three-time placer Matteo DeVincenzo (2-1-3) of Port Jefferson. DeVincenzo (112-4) will compete in the 125-pound class. Hunter Dusold of Locust Valley a junior at 125/130 and Chris Mauriello (203 career wins) of Hauppauge at 152 pounds. Two-time medalist Mauriello has state placings of 1-6, along with a NHSCA junior championship, he will take his mat skills to Old Dominion next season.

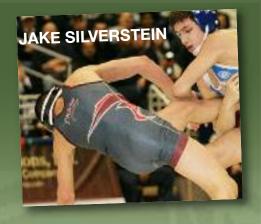
Three state finalists return to seek redemption, including two-time silver medalist **Peter Pappas** (113-6) of Plainview at 132, Hauppauge sophomore **Jake Silverstein** (111 career victories) at 120, and gridiron star **Edwin Rubio** (125-11) of John Glenn. Rubio (285) also has two NHSCA runner-up finishes and will wrestle on the collegiate level at Virginia next year.

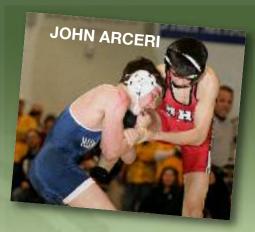
Nine other state placers are in the field for the upcoming campaign including state bronze medalist and national junior champion Tommy Cox of Deer Park a senior now at 113 pounds. Other outstanding lightweights include freshman Kyle Mosher of South Side, sophomore Jack Bokina (Mattituck), both at 106, junior Anthony Cirillo (113) of Rocky Point, and North Babylon senior standout Anthony Sparacio in the 120-pound class. Also returning and seeking higher state finishes in 2016 are Phil Spadafora of Hills East, a junior at 126, Jack Taddeo (145) of Shoreham-Wading River, junior Ricky Stamm (152) of Levittown Division and Huntington's JP Puca who will compete in the 170 or 182-pound class.

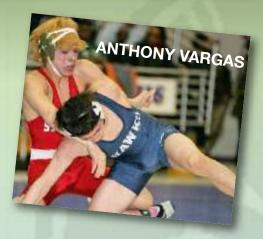
Nassau also has county champions Alexander Vargas (126) of Syosset and Owen Bachelder (145) of Hewlett, along with finalists Justin Vines a freshman at 106 from Wantagh and junior Quinn O'Rourke (113) of Oceanside. Other county runners-up are Long Beach junior Tyrese Byron (152), MacArthur's Jeremy Hughes (170) and Mike Curiel of Hewlett in the 285-pound class. Also to watch on the Nassau mats are Michael Killard (99) of Wantagh, Angelo Petrakis (106) of Massapequa, LB's Matt Maquet (120), Chris Ponce (126) of Division, Lucas Pincus (138) of Hewlett, Paul Brachfeld (170) of Massapequa, and Liam Miller (Bethpage) at 195 pounds.

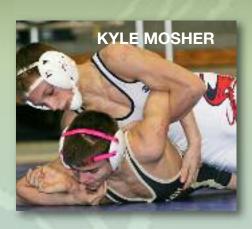
Suffolk's four returning finalists are sophomore **Tony Negron** (99) of North Babylon, Hauppauge teammates, junior **Ben Tepperman** (99 career wins) at 126 and **Marcus Bisono** (160), along with **Nick Garone** of ESM at 182. Also in the mix will be **Kevin Meloni** (106) of SWR, NB sophomore **Anthony Sobotker** (132), Longwood's **Brett Brice** (138), **Tom Repalone** (145) of Connetquot and Lindenhurst's **Jonathan Solorzano** at 285 pounds.



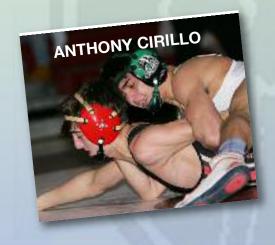




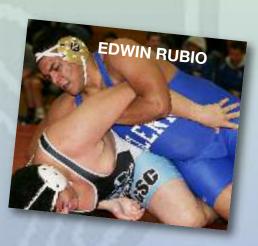


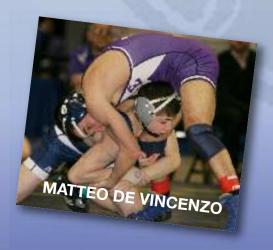


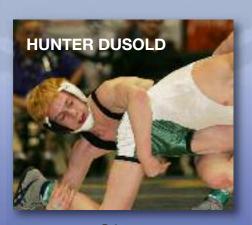


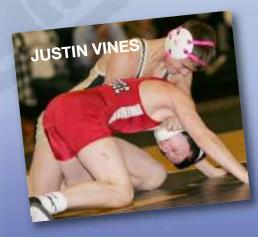




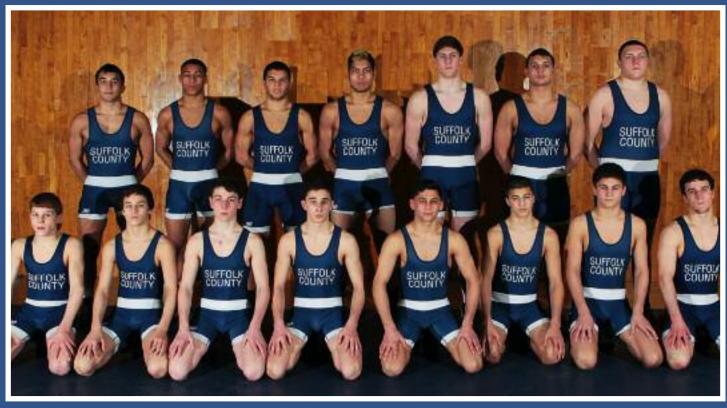








# SUFFOLK COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2015 DIVISION 1 SECTION XI CHAMPIONS



Front Row (left to right) A. BUSIELLO, Eastport-S.Manor; J SILVERSTEIN, Hauppauge J. ARCERI, Huntington; E. MATYKA, Riverhead; N. PICCININNI, Ward Melville J. DELLAVECCHIA, E. Islip; M. D'ANGELO, Commack; T. DUTTON, Rocky Point Top Row (left to right) J. RESTREPO, Sachem E.; B. AVILES, John Glenn F. BISONO, Hauppauge; D. HAMIL, Deer Park; C. ARANEO, Ward Melville V. FEOLA, Walt Whitman; S. DEE, Sachem East

#### SECTION XI "NYS TEAM CHAMPIONS" 2015

 ${\it Individual\ Champions}$ 

A. BUSIELLO, J. ARCERI, N. PICCININNI, T.DUTTON J. RESTREPO, D. HAMIL C. ARANEO

Runner-Ups:

J, SLVERSTEIN, J. DELLAVECCHIA, M. D'ANGELO, V. FEOLA

Third Place:

B. AVILES, F. BISONO

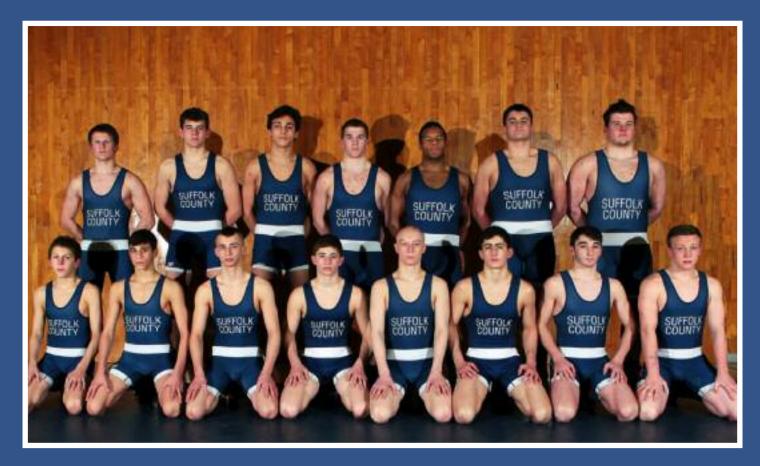
Fourth Place:

E. MATYKA

Fifth Place:

S. DEE

# SUFFOLK COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2015 DIVISION 2 SECTION XI CHAMPIONS



Front Row (left to right) J. BOKINO, Mattituck; V. MICELI, Port Jefferson D. MAZZELLA, Babylon; M. DeVINCENZO, Port Jefferson; B. FROLE, Babylon T. DeVINCENZO, Port Jefferson; C. OSUFSEN, Southhampton C. LENEHAN, Southhampton Top Row (left to right) R. OSWALD, Hampton Bays; J. HOEG, Mattituck T. ZAGARINO, Mattituck; J. NOLAN, Hampton Bays; A. GOODE, Mattituck R. MATTHEWS, Babylon; P. STRASSFIELD, Southhampton

#### NEW YORK STATE PLACEWINNERS

Third Place:
MATTEO DeVINCENZO
Fourth Place:
JACK BOKINA, Mattituck
Fifth Place:
DOM MAZZELLA, Babylon

# SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS AT THE 2015 SECTION XI TOURNAMENT



Back Row (left to right) Sean Brocking, John Truscello, Chad Smith Len Barone, Greg Mazzola, Roy Scott Front Row (left to right) Rich Boscarino, Umberto Fasolino, Ken Ahrem Bob Kazis, Jason Gerondel, Frank Gagliardi

SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
President: RICH BOSCARINO: Secretary/Treasurer: ROY SCOTT
Vice President: KEN AHREM; Interpreter: JOHN TRUSCELLO

## JOHN GLENN H.S.

### **Wins The First Suffolk Dual Meet Championship**

Despite being one of the smallest Division 1 schools in New York state John Glenn's wrestling team has had a great history both team wise and individually. Since 2007, they have a record of 162-15 with two Suffolk Team Tournament Titles and finishing as the runner up three other times. They have won seven League Dual Meet and League Tournament Championships. The Knights also were named the number one dual meet team in the state in 2010. Individually John Glenn has crowned 36 League Champs, 49 All-County Wrestlers, and 14 All-State Wrestlers.

The 2014-2015 season Suffolk County introduced the first Dual Meet Championship. When the Tournament was made official, winning it became John Glenn's number one goal. Brocking said "To me a dual meet championship was the best way to determine the top team in Suffolk County. We wanted to prove to how good our program is and compete against the best. You can do well in tournaments with a couple of real good kids, but to win duals you need to have a complete team."

A couple of days before the tournament the small four mile square town was struck by what seemed to be another too frequent tragedy in their community. The passing of a well-liked student in a sledding accident the week of the tournament

"Our tight knit community has been involved in so much adversity the past couple of years. Being such a small town the kids all grow up so close together. It was a terrible tragedy and made for a very difficult week. Our kids had to make the decision to miss matches to attend the wake and funeral for one of their best friends."

The team was able to find a way to put it all together to pick up a first round win against Copiague on Wednesday, and then three more wins on Saturday.

The quarter final vs Brentwood was difficult for the Knights because they attended the funeral in the morning and were missing four starters. They had to bump kids around and had to find a way to win a couple of key "swing" matches. I was very happy with how the kids competed against an always tough Brentwood team.

In the semi finals John Glenn was matched up against Hauppauge. "Hauppauge is always one the best teams in the state, so to be able to compete against them was a great challenge that we were ready for." The Knights were down 12 with four matches left. John Glenn won those final matches to defeat Hauppauge 37-30.

On to the finals where John Glenn would face Rocky Point another top program in the state. Glenn jumped out to a big lead of 30-3, followed by Rock Point's comeback in the lighter weights. "I felt the match dual would come down to three very evenly matched kids, and we were able to win all three and lock up the title by a score of 39-32."

"It was a very tough week for the kids," Brocking said. "Our community has been through some tough situations and for the kids to come together and find a way to wrestle the way they did in three very tough duals says a lot about their character. I'm just happy that they put such a tough situation behind them for a couple of hours and enjoyed the hard work that they put in for so long. I couldn't have been more proud of being a part of such a great program."



## NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS AT THE 2015 SECTION VIII TOURNAMENT



Back Row (left to right) Tom Reynolds, Rich Smith, Roy Scott, Matt Fiala Marcia Haise, Bill Young, John Hamilton Front Row (left to right) Gerry Armengua, Rob Aquilina, Bill Starke Tom Wade, Matt Gaynor

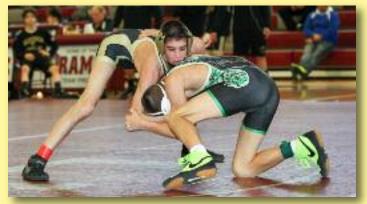
NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
President: JERRY ARMENQUA: Secretary/Treasurer: KEVIN AKNER
Vice President: KEN RICHARDS; Interpreter: ROB AQUILINA

## WANTAGH WRESTLING 2015-2016

Time for trivia. Can anyone name the only teams in Section 8 (Nassau County ) history that have captured six consecutive County Championships? Tick Tock Tick Tock. Ok, that's enough time. The answer is Mepham, Massapequa and Long Beach.

Wantagh High School has won five years in a row covering 2011 thru 2015 and six out of the last seven years. They finished second to Long Beach in 2010. They could join the list if things go their way in 2015-2016. Under the leadership of Head Coach Paul Gillespie who has been at the helm for the current streak. It has become a force of habit to win. Coach Gillespie was at Long Beach during the early part of his coaching career and established their winning streak. The key to his success is to lead by example. Coach Gillespie is a former wrestler from Baldwin HS. He was a two-time NCAA College All American at Westchester State College in Pennsylvania. Coach Gillespie has been a Section 8 Coach of the year a record seven times, a two time Long Island Coach of the year, New York State Coach of the year, Mid Atlantic (Regional ) Coach of the year and in 2013 was named the National Coach of the year. In addition, Coach Gillespie is a member of the NYS Hall of Fame as well as a National member.

Wantagh has had lot's of help. Reggie Jones is also a National Hall of Fame member and is a huge part of the coaching staff. One of the members coaching staff is Ray Hanley Sr. It seems that everything that needs to be done from the kids program, middle school and High School is run through this man. Wantagh is also fortunate enough to have P.J. Gillespie, a former High School State Champion, Fargo All American and Hofstra



Wantagh is looking to returning wrestlers like Jonathan Lowe to have a big part in the quest for another title in 2016



The 2015 Wantagh team enjoying the action on the mat.

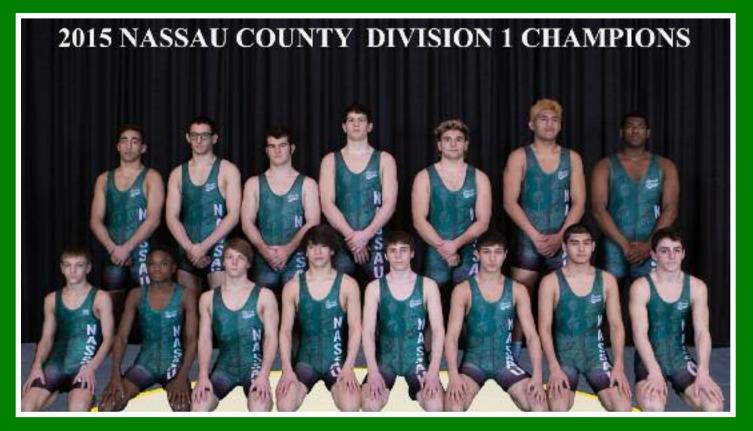
Division I place winner on the staff, Ray Hanley Jr. and Todd Bloom who was the former Head Coach at Brooklyn Tech High School are also part of the coaching team.. Both were former Wantagh standout wrestlers and attended Rhode Island College, where they both wrestled for four years.

This year Wantagh marches out some loaded young guns who placed in the Nassau County Tournament last year: Justin Vines is a 2015 Nassau County runner up, Michael Killard is a 3rd place winner. James Langan, Charles Maier, Jonathan Loew and Gavin Casey will all be instrumental in the quest for a Nassau County Championship in 2016. In addition, the Warriors have back thirteen other wrestlers who were All-Conference last year. Wantagh has a loaded schedule that includes the David Bloom Memorial Tournament at Wantagh High School, the Union Endicott Duals, the Eastern States and several other difficult competitions. In 2012 -2013, Wantagh H.S. was the only team to ever win the Union Endicott Duals, the Eastern States, the Section 8 Counties and the NYS Championships in one season.

The proof of the quality of the Wantagh wrestling program is evident. Wantagh has had 9 State Champions and several other finalists. Tom Ryan the current Head Coach of the Ohio State Wrestling Team and NCAA Division 1 Coach of the year was a former three time County Champion at Wantagh High School.

For more information about Wantagh Wrestling, visit our web site at www.WantaghWrestling.com. Wantagh Wrestling is now on FACEBOOK and TWITTER. Like us on-Facebook Twitterrrit1ru1rest1i:na and follow us on hwms:tle for up to date news and photos.

# NASSAU COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2015 DIVISION 1 SECTION VIII CHAMPIONS



Front Row (left to right) K. MOSHER, South Side; J. TEEMER, Long Beach; K. QUINN, Wantagh A. VARGAS, Syosset; S. GOLDWIN, Port Washington; V. ARUJAU, Syosset; R. STAMM, Levittown Division; J. EINBINDER, Bethpage Back Row (left to right) E. KOKALIS, Great Neck South; C. TSAKH, Hewlett A. FITZSIMMONS, Calhoun; T. LANE, Garden City; A. RAKITSIS. Plainedge E. MENDEZ, Port Washigton; M. McDONALD, Roosevelt

#### NEW YORK STATE PLACEWINNERS

Champions::

J. TEEMER, V. ARUJAU

Second Place:

P. PAPPAS, Plainview

Third Place

K. QUINN, T. LANE

Fourth Place:

J. EINBINDER

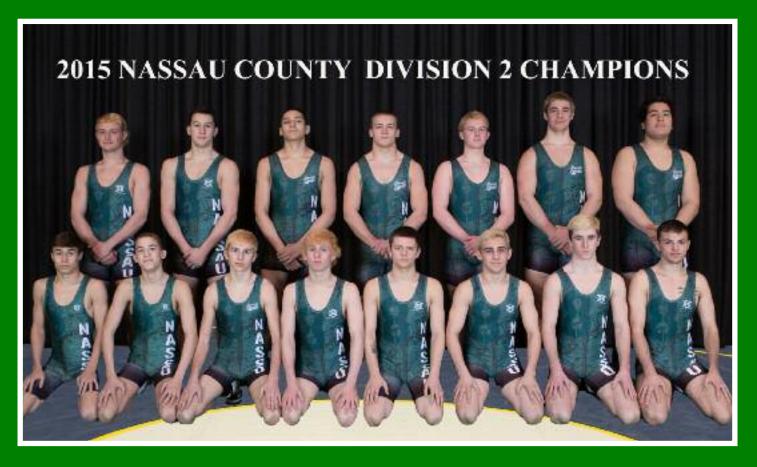
Fifth Place:

K. MOSHER, S. GOLDWIN, R. STAMM

Sixth Place:

N. WARREN, Farmingdale; E. KOKALIS; A. RAKITSIS

# NASSAU COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2015 DIVISION 2 SECTION VIII CHAMPIONS



Front Row (left to right) B. MAROHN, Clarke; J. GOMEZ, Locust Valley; B. COLL, Locust Valley H. DUSOLD, Locust Valley; C. DONNELLY, Island Trees; N. CASELLA, Locust Valley S. WARD, Locust Valley; K. JACKSON, Locust Valley Back Row (left to right) M.DUSOLD, Locust Valley; S. MOSCA, Carle Place/Wheatley J. RODRIGUEZ, Mineola; A. KALEY, Cold Spring Harbor; B. DUSOLD, Locust Valley S. MATTHAEI, Locust Valley; P. PARADA, Island Trees

#### NEW YORK STATE PLACEWINNERS

Champions::
J. GOMEZ, N. CASELLA
Second Place:
S. WARD
FourthPlace:
K. JACKSON

Fifth Place: H. DUSOLD

## BROOKLYN'S POLY PREP COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

### A Wrestling Program With A Long Tradition

In Recent Years, Blue Devils Wrestling Team Wins Ivy Prep League Wrestling Crown, NYSAISSA Championship & Mayor's Cup

Wrestling has always been an important tradition in the Poly Prep Country Day School community, with the sport going back to at least 1919.

Since 1854, Poly Prep has also been in the business of educating the future leaders of New York City and America. It just makes sense for the Poly community and its supporters to have invested in the wrestling program so that Poly can continue to attract talented New Yorkers who will be instilled with the leadership qualities our country needs to grow and flourish in the 21st century.

Wrestling is a sport that produces leaders within the Poly community and in the greater society. You don't have to look too hard to see that many of the leaders in education, finance, medicine, science, the U.S. military, and government are people who have wrestled in high school and college.

Wrestling teaches discipline and grittiness. Even though wrestlers compete individually, students know

they represent Poly as a team. Teammates encourage each other, help each other to be better at the sport, urge each other on.

In recent years, three Olympians including 1996 Olympic gold medalist Kendall Cross came to Poly as guest coaches to give clinics for Poly's varsity wrestlers.

Alumni wrestler Glauco Lolli-Ghetti '96 praised the Poly wrestling program. "It taught me preparation, efficiency, belief, and hard work are integral in achieving my goal," said Lolli-Ghetti a real estate developer and founder of Urban Muse. "Values I've transitioned into my professional life."

#### **Beat the Streets**

Poly has great support from Dave Barry P'16 and Mike Novogratz P'14, '16, who is founder and chairman of Beat the Streets, a non-profit organization that builds wrestling programs in New York City public schools. In that tradition, Poly has been partnering with Beat the Streets, whose mission is "to develop the full human and athletic potential of the urban youth and to strengthen the culture of New York City wrestling."

The goal of Beat the Streets is to get kids off the streets



The Brooklyn Poly Prep 2015 team completed a successful season by winning the Ivy Prep League title, crowning seven champions.

and to train them. Beat the Streets began a program at Poly several years ago for all kids, all year round, both girls and boys.

#### Highlights of the 2014-15 Season

In December 2014, Poly Prep ended the dominance of Monsignor Farrell High School by winning the Mayor's Cup wrestling tournament 206 points to 194.5.

On January 7, 2015, Poly defeated rival Horace Mann 40-36.

#### **Eastern States Wrestling Classic**

Six Poly wrestlers traveled to Sullivan County, New York to compete in the prestigious Eastern States Wrestling Classic on January 9-10. All of the boys wrestled very well against the elite competition. Poly wrestler Lenny Merkin '16 led Poly to 19th Place out of 136.

Also this year, for the third year in a row, Poly won the Ivy Prep League Wrestling Crown as the Blue Devils scored an undefeated season. The team had 10 finalists and 7 champions.

On February 7, Poly wrestlers and coaches traveled to the Hackley School for the Ivy Prep League Championship tournament. Poly's wrestlers were aggressive. Of the 15 Poly wrestlers who were entered in the tournament, 11 made it to the finals. David Berkovich '19 (99 lbs.), John Luke DeStefano '17 (113 lbs.), Joseph Donohue '16 (120 lbs.), Andrew Andrade '16 (126 lbs.), Jake Barry '16 (138 lbs.), Lenny Merkin '16 (145 lbs.), Jack Argast '15 (220 lbs.) and Stanley Kaminsky '16 (285 lbs.) were all victorious in the final rounds and earned lvy Prep League Championship honors.

#### **NYSAISAA** Tournament

On February 14, 2015, Poly had the opportunity to host the NYSAISAA Tournament. Poly had eight wrestlers in the finals and seven champs! Lenny Merkin was named the Outstanding Wrestler and Stanley Kaminsky '16 was named the Champion of Champions. And Poly's wrestling coach Konstantin Avdeev was unanimously voted The Coach of the Year!

National Prep WrestlingTournament at Lehigh University Poly wrestlers traveled to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to compete in the National Prep Wrestling Tournament at Lehigh University in February 2015. The tournament has been held every year at Lehigh University since 1935. Because Poly Prep has had a wrestling team since 1919, it is safe to assume that this year's participants for Poly were continuing a long tradition of Poly Prep "wrestling tough" at this event.

Two Poly wrestlers, Jake Barry and Lenny Merkin earned All-American honors at the 81st National Prep Wrestling Championships at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, on February 28. The top eight competitors in the National Prep League Wrestling Competition are designated "All-American."

Third place winner Lenny Merkin (145 lbs.) went 5-1 in the tournament and won an exciting overtime victory in the consolation finals to finish in 3rd place. Eighth place finisher Jake Barry (138 lbs.) scored a last-second take down in the round of 12 and placed in a weight class that featured a group of All Americans.



Returning senior, Jake Barry achieved All-American honors at the 2015 National Prep Wrestling Tournament

## LONG BEACH WRESTLING 2015-2016

Once again, the young men and women of the program achieved great things both on and off the mat in 2015. The high school team started the season off at the "Battle at the Beach" Tournament at Long Beach. It is regarded as one of the top tournaments on Long Island. The team went on to win the Amityville Tournament, Timmy Collins Duals Tournament at Farmingdale, the County Qualifier and the 2015 Nassau County Dual Meet Championship with a hard fought 36-31 victory over Farmingdale.

In addition, the team competed in the 'Grapple at the Garden". This event is a once in a lifetime experience for the kids. They were able to compete in the high school portion of the tournament and wrestle at the most famous arena in the world, Madison Square Garden, alongside the top college teams in the nation.

The team also competed in the Eastern States Classic which is widely regarded as the toughest tournament in N.Y.S. with over 150 teams being represented. The team finished in a very strong 4th place. Long Beach captured its fourth League title in the last five years. At the Nassau County Tournament held at Hofstra University, the team had eight All-County performers and Jacori Teemer won the 106 lb. Nassau County Championship. Teemer became the 63rd Nassau County Champion in Long Beach history. He followed that up two-weeks later by winning his second New York State title in as many years. He was the first eighth grader in Long Island history to win a title in 2014.

Long Beach has crowned 12 New York State Champions in its storied history. That is tied for the most in Nassau County with Mepham. Long Beach finished in second place behind Wantagh in the Nassau County Championships in an exciting battle that went down to the wire. In addition to Teemer, sophomores Tyrese Byron and Tyreek Bromley both made it to the county finals and finished second. Bromley was the recipient of



Last season Jacori Teemerwon his third Nassau title.

a wildcard to the New York State Tournament. Junior Marc Paez placed third at 152 lbs. and sophomore Matt Maquet earned his second All-County honor by placing third as well. Fourth place finishers were tenth-graders Charlie Spada at 138 and Mark Rivera at 220. Sean Bourne had a great tournament placing fifth at 113 lbs.

In addition to the returning All-State and All-County wresters mentioned above, the team returns a number of other starters. Sophomore Elijiah Rodriguez and Junior Joe Giorlando return to the upper weights. Pablo Martinez returns to lead the lightweights. Look for juniors John Colletti, Brandon DeVivio, Brian Sandmeier, Jeffrey Alvarez, Thomas Rutherig, Vincent Deale, Greg Reid, Conor Doyle, Ever Enamorado and Greg Wildstein to make a name for themselves. The team is led by senior captain Andrew Garcia who is a two time county qualifer and a top studentathlete with a 100 plus average. Also in the mix is tough

freshman Dylan Martinsen who qualified for the county tournament last year. Look for upcoming 8th grader Max Maquet to make some noise at 99 lbs.

The team has many great challenges ahead for the season. Best of luck to all wrestlers and teams in this 2015-2016 campaign.

Jacori Teemer celebrating his second straight NYS title. In 2014 He was the first Long Island wrestler to win a state crown as an eighth grader.

## TRUCTURE and DRIVE

Massapequa"Chiefs", Wrestling By: Phil Soman

Massapequa High School has a rich tradition of wrestling championships dating back decades. Countless efforts of coaches, athletes, community members and administrators have played a role in this success. In the two seasons since Coach Serrano took over, the team has placed 3rd and 4th in the Nassau County Championships. The Chiefs placed eight All-County wrestlers and with seven returning this season, they have their sights set on a 2015-16 championship. Coach Serrano attributes the recent success to these attributes of the program's foundation:

#### **COACHING STAFF**

When asked about his coaching staff, Coach Serrano said, "I prefer a modest outlook in life, but when it comes down to my coaches, I have no problem stating that we are one of the best staffs around." The Chiefs have four coaches in the varsity room who have all found success in their high school and collegiate wrestling careers. Assistant coach Kevin Shippos brings a wealth of knowledge from his impressive career. The former high school national champion and Penn State wrestler does an incredible job with the upper weights. The varsity room also holds two invaluable coaches who volunteer their time year-round. Howie Greenblatt (National Hall of Fame) and Mike McCann (2x All-NY State) coached together during an incredible run at Macarthur H.S., in which they acquired 15 dual meet/tournament Nassau County explains, "Coach Greenblatt has the ability to think outside the

box and see the big picture of building a dominant program." An excellent motivator, Coach McCann is an intelligent coach who won two Nassau County titles of his own. "At the junior varsity level Coach Phil Soman does an excellent job teaching young student athletes how to build mental toughness and transition into becoming a successful varsity student athlete. Coach Soman won a Nassau County title of his own in 1998 from Macarthur and received the illustrious Champion of Champions award.

#### **ATHLETES**

Thirteen seniors will get to learn the trials and tribulations of what it takes to be a leader. I feel confident about the group we have", says Coach Serrano. As mentioned earlier, the team willbe bolstered by seven returning All-County members during the 2015-16 season; freshman Angelo Petrakis (3rd), senior Paul Brachfeld (3rd), senior John Kalinoglu (4th), junior Shane Gibbons (4th), freshman Garrett Gibbons (4th), senior Travis Paradiso (5th), and senior Jesse Bran-Umana (5th) all made impressive gains in the off-season. Other major contributors are junior Andrew Ashmawi (NYS championship honors in both freestyle/greco state tournament), Mike Quadrino and Hunter Scuttelaro. Ashmawi, Quadrino, Scutellaro, and Bran-Umana are all coming off representing NY state at the national tournament in Fargo, North Dakota (widely regarded as one of the most difficult tournaments in the country).



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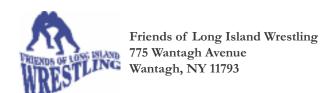
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