

Gary Abbott

Wrestler, Wrestling Advocate, Wrestling Journalist

The Friends of Long Island Wrestling are proud to lift up a native son, Gary Abbott, now on the national scene, for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his lifetime service to the sport.

Gary Abbott was a three-year starter and letterman for Harborfields High School, competing at 119 lbs. (1976-1978), wrestling for coach John Szokoli. He was a conference champion

in 1977 and competed in the county championships three times. Gary was the 1978 USA Wrestling Greco-Roman state champion and competed for Team New York at the Junior Nationals. He medaled at the 1978 Empire State Games, representing Long Island. He then went to Boston University, graduating with a journalism degree. At B.U. Gary lettered all four years, was a 1979 New England runner-up, and was a three-time conference placewinner.

Gary Abbott has worked almost 20 years for USA Wrestling, the national governing body for the sport. His current position is Director of Communications and Special Projects, which he assumed in March 2001. He has handled the communications activities for over 19 years. Abbott edits and produces USA Wrestling's membership publications and directs Title IX and women's wrestling development. In fact, no one has done more to increase public awareness of women wrestling programs.

He joined USA Wrestling in May 1988, working on various event promotions, media relations, publications, and other communications activities. Among the publications he has edited are *USA Wrestler*, *Link*, and the *Complete Coach*. He is a regular contributor to *TheMat.com*, the organization's website. Since joining USA Wrestling, Abbott has worked many major events, including five Olympic Games, three Goodwill Games, and seven World Championships.

In 2005, Abbott was named the Amateur Wrestling News Man of the Year and received the NWCA Meritorious Service Award. He also received the 1992 Bob Dellinger Award as the wrestling writer of the year and has won National Wrestling Media Association awards recognizing the nation's top publicist and best publication. He was the *WLN Magazine* Journalist of the Year in 2002 and received a FILA Silver Star in 2003.

Previously he served as the editor of the national wrestling magazine, *Wrestling Masters*, for five years. He also worked as the publicist for the National Wrestling Coaches Association. He founded the ASICS High School All-American Team in 1986, and was a co-founder of the National Wrestling Media Association. Gary contributed to the first sanctioned beach wrestling tournament, the East Coast Beach Nationals, held at Long Beach in August of 2005 by

handling media relations and publicity for the tournament. He has been an event coordinator for the last two Beach National Championships, as well.

Thanks for all you have done for us, Gary.



Gary Abbott at 1996 Olympic Trials press conference



Gary (far right) at the 1992 Olympic games with Bruce Baumgartner, Russ Hellickson, Doug Brooker and Kevin Jackson