

Bob Bennett



Bob Bennett's wrestling career began in Levittown, New York, as a 7th grader attending Levittown Memorial High School. There, this young athlete wrestled under coaches Phil Wolf, Nick Bolitsis, and Rich Knoblock. After earning All-League honors in 1972, at the conclusion of his senior year, Bob continued his passion for the sport at SUNY Farmingdale (1972-1974), wrestling under HOF Coach Bob Hartman.

He received his associates degree in Biological Technology and continued his athletic journey at the University of Massachusetts, coached by Coach Homer Barr. After receiving his bachelors degree in 1976, Bob began a part time job with BOCES and initiated his coaching career in wrestling at Jericho Junior High in the late 1970s.

In 1982 Bob was hired as a biology and chemistry teacher at Levittown MacArthur High School. While at MacArthur, he coached boys varsity soccer, and was the assistant varsity wrestling coach to Jay Davis. He even-

tually took over as head coach in 1986-1987. In 1987, Bob left MacArthur to teach at Oyster Bay High School. At about the same time, a coaching position for wrestling opened at Wisdom Lane Middle School (in Levittown), which coincided with the start of his sons' wrestling careers! He embraced the opportunity to coach his sons and nephew, and later followed them to Division Avenue High School in 1992 as Assistant Varsity Coach to Ray Downey. It was in 1998 that Bob took over as head coach, until his retirement in 2017.

Over the course of Bob's 35+ years in the wrestling community, he had the pleasure of coaching over 63 All-County wrestlers, 13 of who were Nassau County Champions, and 7 All-State wrestlers. Contributing to those accomplishments were his own sons, Bobby, Nick & Chris, as well as his nephew, Bill.

At Division, his team captured several league championships, along with finishing in the top 10 in Nassau

County numerous times. In addition to his public school coaching career, Bob volunteered in many other capacities, which included coaching for the Levittown Police Athletic League kid program between 1988-2000, coordinating USA Kid/Cadet for Nassau County from 1985-1998 along with Coach Terry Haise, and helping as Assistant Greco Coach for Team New York at Fargo, ND 1995. It was in 1990 that he was recruited by Jack Mahoney to coach the Nassau portion of "Team Long Island" for the Empire State Games (until 2001).

Bob is quoted as saying, "I have been involved in wrestling for over half my life and have made many life-long friends. I would like to thank my family, friends, teammates, assistant coaches, parents of my wrestlers, the supportive administrators I've had the pleasure to work with, and the many wrestlers that I coached to make this night possible."