



CARL DESTEFANIS

Wrestling at Locust Valley High School for Hall of Fame coaches Matt Sanzone and Doug Axman, they comment... "Carl DeStefanis stands out as the epitome of the athlete a coach is blessed to mentor."

Raised by wonderfully supportive parents, Carl is the youngest of five boys, all of whom wrestled and had success at Locust Valley. In 1979, Carl, along with brother Al, led Locust Valley to victory... first in the Nassau County Dual Meet Championship... followed by the Nassau County Tournament Championship... then capped it off with the New York State Championship Team title, with Carl winning his second consecutive individual State Championship!

Carl completed his high school career with a record of 86-2!

A true competitor, Carl carried his winning ways throughout his four years wrestling at Penn State University. There, his coaches Rich Lorenzo and John Fritz extolled all the positive qualities and values they saw in Carl... "His wrestling prowess of course... along with his always unselfish, respectful personality and model citizenship are what earned him the respect and admiration of his Coaches and teammates, as well as rival competitors and their coaches."

At Penn State, he was the team captain... setting the school record for most career wins... was a three-time Eastern League Champion... League "Wrestler of the Year" and inducted into the Eastern League Hall of Fame in 1984.

Carl reached the pinnacle of college wrestling in 1984 at the Brendan Byrne Arena at the Meadowlands, NJ with his NCAA Tournament Championship Victory!

Carl's work ethic, commitment, responsibility, and loyalty are the values that have guided his path through High School, College, and today, as husband, parent, coach, and business executive.

The DeStefanis family was officially named and honored as the "First Family" of wrestling in Nassau county in 2012. The Nassau County Wrestling Coaches Association honored brothers Ron, Ken, Bob, Al, and Carl by making the presentation just prior to the Section 8 Championship Finals... citing not only their wrestling achievements, but also their character and integrity while representing their County, their school, the sport, and their family.

Carl now resides in Randolph, New Jersey with his wife Debbie and their children, Angela, Rachel, Lauren, and son Matthew. He is a successful business executive for the Johnson & Johnson Company. His love and dedication to wrestling has continued as he trained, coached, and served the Randolph Recreation Youth Wrestling Committee from 2005 to 2016, and is currently on the coaching staff at Buxton school of Wrestling in Randolph, training Youth through High School wrestlers, while volunteering at clinics, wrestling camps and wherever called upon to motivate wrestlers.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Carl DeStefanis on his induction to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.