

KEN CELLAN

50 Years of Officiating.... And Counting!

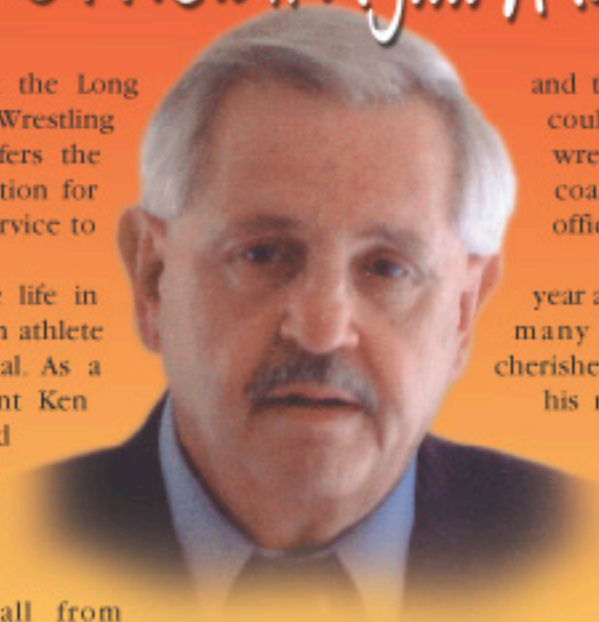
It is with great pride that the Long Island Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum offers the name of Ken Cellan in nomination for recognition in "The Life Time Service to Wrestling" Category.

Cellan has spent his entire life in the sport of wrestling, first as an athlete and then as a wrestling official. As a Lindenhurst high school student Ken participated in football, track, and wrestling. He was outstanding in all three sports in high school.

Upon graduation he accepted a "grant in aid" for football from prestigious football powerhouse the University of Miami.

Following his scholastic career, Ken entered the business world and simultaneously became a wrestling official. Joining the prestigious Long Island Officials Association he quickly moved to the top of the coaches' rating charts. He also took a leadership role as an official; becoming the president of the Long Island Association in 1961. As wrestling grew in the 1960's it became necessary to split the Long Island Association into two organizations, one to service the county of Nassau and a second for Suffolk County. At the time Suffolk County was in a school building frenzy, to accommodate the ballooning population, Ken rose to the challenge and was instrumental in creating the Suffolk County Wrestling officials Association. It is as an official and a proponent of the sport of wrestling that has earned Ken Cellan the respect and admiration of coaches wrestlers and fans alike.

Reflecting on some of his exciting encounters in wrestling, Ken recalls a heavyweight sectional championship bout he was officiating when he was kicked unconscious. The second official pushed him off the mat and continued the bout, awarding the two back points. The coach whose team received the award was incensed that it was only a two point near-fall and not three. During an intersectional meet between two fiercely competitive teams, Ken was hit in the nose. While he was recovering, one coach asked how he was



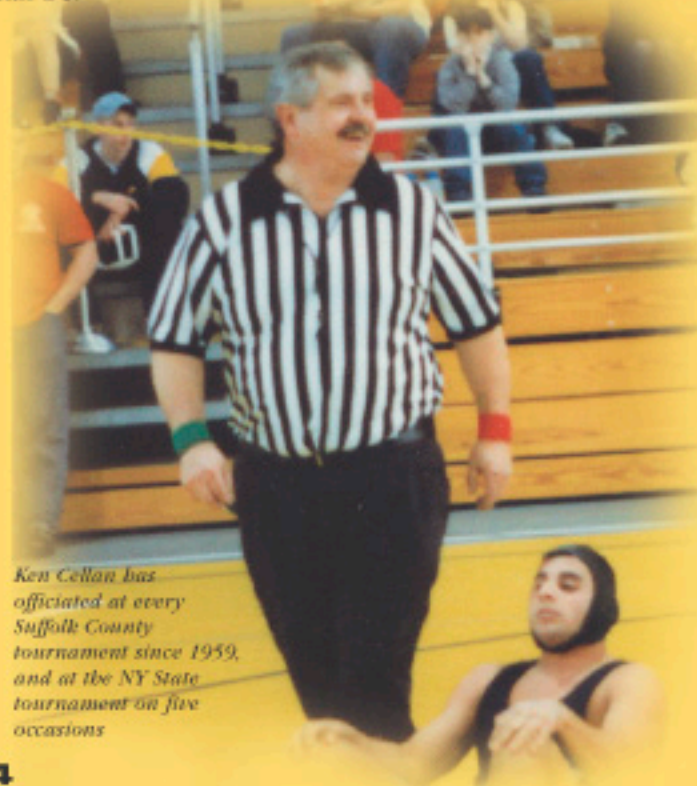
and then handed him a towel so he could clean up the mat. "I guess wrestling certainly is competitive and coaches' compassion for injured officials are short lived."

As he approaches his fiftieth year as an official Ken can look back on many highlights. Among them he cherishes officiating matches wrestled by his nephews Barry and Bruce Croce and Randy and Russell Cellan.

In addition Ken has had the experience of officiating the finals of every Suffolk county championship since 1959 and he expanded his prestigious

officiating career by officiating the New York State Championships on five separate occasions.

Because of his efforts and accomplishments in the sport of wrestling and as an outstanding official he was inducted into the New York State Officials Association's Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2000. Ken Cellan's entire life has been committed to making our sport as good as it can be.



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