



DARREN GOLDSTEIN

Darren Goldstein's wrestling life began as an 8th grader, after being "cut" at a basketball tryout. A bit rejected, he bumped into his Phys Ed Teacher who encouraged him to come out and wrestle. Darren's first love was born with that invitation and the fire it lit is burning still, thanks to that chance meeting in the hallway with Coach Joe Colloca. Thanks Coach!

Wrestling for Hall of Fame Coach Bob Armstrong at Port Jefferson HS a few years later, Darren was an All-league wrestler and member of the Port Jefferson State Cup Championship team of 1985!

In college, wrestling at D-1 Wagner for Hall of Fame Coach Kevin Gallagher, Darren found that he was somewhat light for the 118- pound weight class, so he decided to concentrate on wrestling the International styles where there was a more suitable 105-pound weight classification. That decision brought him to wrestling for the NYAC, and he became an 8X age group All-American, including a National Veterans Greco-Roman Championship in 2003. In the record books of The Empire State Games, Darren is the winningest athlete of all sports, with a record 42 medals, including 22 Gold Medals!

Darren's first coaching position was at Rocky Point HS, assisting Robin Winkel. He soon founded and ran the North Shore Wrestling Club, training eager young wrestlers from Mt. Sinai, Miller Place, Shoreham-Wading River, Rocky Point and other nearby towns. He also worked with Paul Jendrewski and Hall of Famer Don Jantzen at Shoreham-Wading River, then returned to his roots in Mt Sinai, to coach alongside the man who started it all for him...Coach Joe Colloca! Thanks again, Coach!

Darren's first Head Coaching position was at Longwood HS. He returned to Rocky Point in 2003, and with the hiring of former wrestlers and NYS Champs Billy Coggins and Anthony Volpe as his assistants, they've had great success! He's had All-American Charlie Griffen and NYS Champ Steven Hromada on his staff as well. He is grateful for having had all these excellent coaches on board and gives them much credit and thanks for their tireless efforts.

Coach Goldstein has amassed 232 dual meet wins, five Dual Meet League Championships...seven League Tournament Championships...two Suffolk County Dual Meet Championships...a Suffolk County Tournament Championship... and a 2010 New York State Championship!

To date, Darren has coached...55 All-County wrestlers including 12 Suffolk County Champions...AND... 21 All-State wrestlers that include 6 State Champions! Additionally, he's coached Olympian Brandon Escobar and female World Team member and National Champion, Jenna Burkett.

Coach Goldstein's philosophy is... Whatever It Takes or "W.I.T.", meaning everyone who is part of the program will... Be a little better today than you were yesterday, and a little better tomorrow than you were today! "I want my students and my wrestlers to learn the life lessons that go beyond the walls of the classroom, or the wrestling room."

Darren has proven to be an excellent teacher and coach, as well as being a loving husband and father to his wife Laura Jean and son Brett

We are proud to welcome and congratulate Darren Goldstein on his induction to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.