

Dr. Anthony Donatelli, MD



Tony “Doc” Donatelli began wrestling in the ninth grade in 1973 at the Robert Frost Middle School in Deer Park for Ed Nickla. He then wrestled his remaining high school years at Deer Park High School for Coaches Ed Luksik and Tony Melosci, both Hall of Fame members. Doc honed his skills on Fifth Avenue in Bay Shore every fall, after football practice, in the wrestling room of Hall of Famer, “Jumper” Leggio. Doc became the Deer Park Wrestling Team captain and wrestled at 145 and 157 pounds his junior and senior years.

In September of 1976, Doc went on to Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania to pursue his destiny in medicine and not in wrestling. At freshman orientation, he met Ken Levels, a Phys-ed teacher and the varsity wrestling coach, who convinced Doc to “Give it a try”. Ken immediately enrolled him into PE 50 and PE 75; physical conditioning and advanced physical conditioning (AKA, unofficial wrestling practice and interscholastic wrestling). And so, the beginning of Doc’s next 42 years in the sport began.

Doc only wrestled three years while at Allegheny, due to early acceptance into

medical school. He graduated as a double major in Chemistry and Biology in March of 1980, one trimester early. Though he forgave his final year of wrestling, the move proved fortuitous. He was able to find weekday work, night-time work, and weekend work to help save money for his upcoming long and expensive medical training. It was the third of these jobs where he met his future wife, Carrie, in April of 1980. Doc made the most of his three years wrestling at Allegheny, though, placing in every tournament he wrestled in but one. He stood on the podium in all 3 Presidents Athletic Conference tournaments he wrestled in and qualified for two D3 NCAA tournaments. He was named an Academic All-American during his tenure.

In 1980 Doc went on to medical school at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. There, Doc worked with Dr. Les Austin, anesthesiologist at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse, ex-Amityville wrestler, New York State tournament physician, and New York State Wrestling Hall of Famer, while doing his rotations as a medical student.

One year, Les introduced Doc to L. Robert Fallot, MD. That relationship blossomed over the next decade, as Doc Fallot taught Doc Donatelli “the ropes”. Doc Donatelli learned how to fix cauliflower ears from Doc Fallot. While serving as the New York State Freestyle and Greco-Roman team physician at the national championships in Fargo, Doc learned a new way to fix cauliflower ears from an ENT physician working with the California state wrestling team. Doc recently did his 500th modified tie-through, or “button” procedure this past year.

Doc went back to school on weekends at Columbia University to earn his Master’s Degree in Public Health in 2013 and uses this formal training as an impetus to train anyone he can in the

prevention of disease. Doc enjoys teaching and has lectured many times to athletic directors and athletic trainers in Suffolk, the Nassau County Athletic Trainers Association, the Suffolk County Wrestling Officials Association, the Nassau County Wrestling Coaches Association, and many high school wrestling teams.

Doc has been matside for the past 31 Section XI tournaments. He has been the Suffolk County tournament physician under wrestling chairmen Bob Panariello and Matt DeVincenzo. He has served as the Section XI team physician at the NY State championships since 2007 and as the Section 8 team physician since 2010. Doc was the physician in attendance at the first two Beat the Streets outdoor events in Times Square and the US National Wrestling Team verses the Russian National Wrestling Team pre-Olympic event at Hofstra University. Doc also served as the team physician for the American University wrestling squad, at Mark Cody’s request. During that time Doc’s son Glenn wrestled for Mark, and was there in 2011 when Mark’s team placed 5th in the D1 NCAA tournament.

