

HOWIE GREENBLATT



Howie Greenblatt has been a part of Long Island wrestling from the days of his childhood in Suffolk County through his remarkable success as one of the finest coaches in Long Island wrestling history. He began wrestling in the Deer Park youth program under the guidance of Hall of Fame coaches, Ed Luksik, and "Jumper" Leggio where he won multiple youth wrestling titles. Howie went on to wrestle for Luksik at Deer Park High School where he graduated after a successful career as a 4 year varsity starter. On the way he finished second and third in the Suffolk County tournament. Tony Melosi, Bob Schwartz, and Ed Rooney also Coached Howie thru his schoolboy years.

As a 4x All-SUNYAC wrestler at Cortland State University, he compiled an outstanding record. He was a 2x place finisher in the New York State championships and was a 3x qualifier for the Division III Nationals. After college he continued to compete and was a 6x medalist in the Empire State Games.

Howie began his coaching career in 1986 at MacArthur HS in Levittown, NY as the Junior Varsity coach under the direction of Athletic Director and Hall of Fame coach Bob Goldberg. He took over the varsity in 1987 and began an astonishing career that spanned three decades. His innovative approach to wrestling would soon lift MacArthur into the elite of Nassau County wrestling programs. He scheduled his team to compete in the toughest Duals and tournaments in New York State including The Eastern States Classic and the Union-Endicott Duals (New York

State Duals). MacArthur paved a new road for Nassau. His team was the only Nassau team to compete in "The Beast of the East" Tournament. Howie would always schedule the top dual meet teams in the State and in the Northeast. Huntington, Sachem, Islip, Brentwood, Johnson City, Danbury, Bergen Catholic and Suffern HS to name a few. He was instrumental in having New York State approve the first "Varsity B" team to compete during the season. This helped assure that the greatest number of athletes on the team could compete and improve through the season. It was common for Howie to carry 70 wrestlers on the roster. It was also common for his wrestlers to stand side by side on the Nassau County Tournament podium.

His record during his tenure is amazing 300-60- 1. On the individual level he coached 41 Section VIII (Nassau County Champions, 99 county place winners, 22 New York State place winners, including 2 champions. 5 of his wrestlers became High School All-Americans. Just as impressive were his team accomplishments. In his 22 years at the helm the "Generals" won 7 Nassau County Tournament titles, 8 Nassau County Dual Meet championships, 17 Conference titles and 17 Qualifying Tournaments. His 2002 team was ranked 23rd in the Nation, #1 in New York State and #1 on Long Island .

Many of Howie's wrestlers have gone on to success wrestling for all levels of collegiate programs including the Ivy League. Many others have become successful coaches in their own right. Howie has always shared the glory with his devoted staff of assistant coaches. The MacArthur "Generals" are well named. The program is organized like a military unit. Each assistant coach has specific duties in the program. The Jr. High School program works as one with the high school program producing a steady stream of athletes trained in the "MacArthur way".

In 2001 & 2003 Howie was honored as the Nassau County "Coach of the year". In 2003, The NHSCA honored Howie as New York State Coach of the Year. This commitment to be the best has led him to the pinnacle of his sport both as a coach and mentor. He is a worthy edition to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Howie in a familiar spot, coaching his MacArthur "Generals" to another victory.