Edward P. Hubbard

Bay Shore Wrestling Legend By Andy Slawson

Intense! Fierce! Competitive!

These are a few words that have described Eddie Hubbard as both a coach and a competitor.

Hubbard was a 1959 graduate of Bay Shore High School. He was a three sport standout in football, wrestling, and track (shot-put and discus).

As a two way tackle in football, he was a two time all-Suffolk selection. Former Bay Shore gridiron coach Joe Erickson said, "Eddie Hubbard was the toughest linesman I ever coached or coached against."

Ed Hubbard

As a wrestler Hubbard was a three time Suffolk county and Long Island champion. And, he placed third in the Suffolk tournament as a freshman. Hubbard led Bay shore to three Suffolk team titles. He suffered only one loss in his last two years of high school competition, and that was when he wrestled in a match in the heavyweight class. Hubbard normally competed at 168 lbs.

In Hubbard's senior of high school, he was a Long Island "all star" wrestling team champion, the Junior AAU New York Athletic club champion, and Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament with six consecutive pins at 174 lbs.In 1977 Hubbard won the Metropolitan AAU title at 220 lbs. for the Town of Islip

As a 5th grader in 1952 Eddie Hubbard was introduced to the sport of wrestling in the living room of the Leggio family in Bay Shore. Leggio brothers, Carmen and Jumper, and Ralph, first taught Hubbard the basics of wrestling. from an elementary school age, Hubbard was hooked on the sport he came to revere. Upon entering Bay Shore High School, Hubbard met the man he still refers to as "my second father." That man was Bay Shore coach, Cliff Clark. Under Clark's watchful eyes, Hubbard became one of the all time Bay Shore wrestling greats along with his life long friends, the Leggios.

It was Eddie Hubbard's love of wrestling and Bay Shore that inspired him to his greatest passion in life-coaching youth wrestling. It was time for Hubbard to give back to the sport that had led him to achieve so much. And five back he did! Hubbard has been a volunteer, youth wrestling coach for nearly 40 years.

In 1964 Hubbard became a volunteer coach along with Jumper Leggio and Bill Knapp in the Bay Shore Kid Wrestling program. He has remained there ever since. In 1974 Suffolk police officer Bob Hubbard (the head of Suffolk Police Athletic League sports) directed his brother Eddie to start the Bay Shore PAL wrestling program at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Shore. Between these two programs Hubbard spawned the careers of many wrestlers who went on to become Suffolk place winners and champions including Eddie's nephew Robbie, a 1983 New York State high school champion.

Many of the youth that Hubbard worked with in PAL were under privileged boys whom Hubbard took off the streets and monitored closely. He gave them money for food and tried to mentor them the way Cliff had done for him.

It is Hubbard's dedication and commitment to youth, through wrestling, that he is being honored by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Hubbard was voted "Man of the Year" by the Bay Shore Athletic Sponsors in 1987. He was elected to the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. And now, the man who calls wrestling, "My life," sees that life as complete as we honor him, Eddie Hubbard into wrestling's greatest shrine, The National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Coach Ed Hubbard is pictured with one of the many youth wrestling teams he has coached in almost 40 years of service to Long Island wrestling programs.