

Jim Nanos



Jim Nanos began his wrestling career at Bellmores' Jerusalem Avenue Junior High School which was the first step in Hall of Famer, "Sprig" Gardner's wrestling program.

When Jim moved up to Mepham High School, he came under the wing of Hall of Fame Wrestler and Coach Ken Hunte who became the most important influence in young Jim's life.

Jim's dream was to earn a spot on Mepham's Wall of Champions. That dream came true in 1965 when, as a 115 pounder, he became a South Shore League Champion. A year later he repeated that achievement. In 1967 he added the C.W. Post College Championship to his record.

Moving to Oswego State University, coached by Hall of Famer Jim Howard, Jim was a place winner in the New York State College Championships in 1968 and 1970.

Upon graduation in 1970, Jim began his coaching career in the Brentwood High School as an assistant to Hall of Fame Coach Joe Campo. Working as the J.V. coach, Jim helped coach Campo's Brentwood teams become the

perennial League and Suffolk County Champions. In recognition of Jim's outstanding performance, in 1984 he was named League I, J.V. Wrestling Coach of the year.

In 1978 Jim became deeply involved in the Empire State Games as a coach, a referee, and an administrator. He continued to work with in the Games for 33 years.

In 1985 Jim became a Wrestling Official. For more than 30 years he was considered one of the top mat officials in New York State.

In 2007 Jim Nanos was honored with an award in recognition of his many years of Outstanding Service to the Empire State Games.

Jim and his wife Simona, who live in Setauket, New York, are lifelong residents of Long Island with their children Darren, Janelle, Stephanie, and Vanessa.

We are proud and honored to welcome Mr. James Nanos into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his many achievements and Lifetime Service to Wrestling.

