

Mark Miller



Mark Miller, while attending Stuyvesant High School, was first introduced to wrestling by Murl Thrush. During the time that Mark attended Stuyvesant High School, the New York City High Schools did not have a wrestling program and so Murl Thrush encouraged Mark to join the wrestling team at CCNY under coach Joe Sapora.

While at CCNY, Mark won the Metropolitan Conference Championship (the Mets). Winning the Mets was not an easy feat for a wrestler that began wrestling as a freshman in college and competed against far more experienced wrestlers. Mark's rising accomplishments in college gave him a thirst and determination to continue his quest to greater success.

Upon graduating from CCNY and with the help of Murl Thrush, Mark became a freestyle wrestler for the NYAC. Following in the footsteps of CCNY stars Henry Wittenberg and Jerome Steinberg, Mark became a national force and a nationally respected wrestler in the 149.5 weight class (arguably the toughest weight class in the nation and possibly the world).

Maintaining a wrestling program in New York City has always been a

challenge. Mark took the challenge of coaching at the college level (CCNY), high school (Stuyvesant), and as the NYC Empire State Team head coach. Because Mark was a NYC athlete who battled catching up to the rest of the wrestling world and because of the credibility of being successful in his quest; it was easier for the NYC wrestlers to take his lead and to gain from his experience.

Although we can point to NYC wrestlers that came before him and were more successful (e.g. Henry Wittenberg), as a competitor, Mark was the only one who had the selfless desire to grow wrestling in NYC. In the 1970s NYC began a competitive high school wrestling program; Mark became the beacon for those wrestlers that chose to succeed. There are high school wrestlers that were coached and guided by Mark who became collegiate wrestlers; Division III All Americans; and coaches that are still passing on the word of wrestling to young men and women.

Mark's integrity to the sport and commitment to make others succeed inspired many of us to succeed at the high school, collegiate, and open division level.

