

Roy Scott



Roy Scott tells the story of one of his earliest wrestling memories. His father said to him, "I'm taking you to a wrestling tournament." Roy remembers going to watch the wrestling and thinking, "Hey, I want to try that!"

Next thing he knew, Roy Scott was in the basement of a school in Bayshore, New York without the foggiest idea what was going on but he knew he wanted to try this sport that he had watched that day. His early influences from current Hall of Fame members, Paul Brodmerkel and Bill DeSario, and events such as the Huntington Tournament and Stroudsburg Sports Camp helped embed deep within Roy the aspects of wrestling that he would come to love.

Roy continued his wrestling career at Miller Place High School. Miller Place was a brand new high school with a great group of teachers like: Dave Hartman, Rich Rocco, Frank Campagne, Ed Zapke, Bill Brown, Roy Reese and so many more. These men not only taught, but led by example. In high school on the mat, Roy won more than he lost and placed in the conference tournament 3 out of his 4 years. Injury just before the conference tournament his senior year crushed his hopes of a placement in the counties.

As a wrestler, Roy had always watched the officials. Tom Riccio, Bill Starke, Rick Connors and many others. As Bill Starke is prone to say, "He was always annoying me with questions about the rules." Roy still

remembers Bill telling him, "When you get out of college, come back and referee." And to Bill's chagrin, Roy did just that and now these two have been roommates on the road over the 30 years of officiating together.

Roy decided in his freshman year at Miller Place that he really wanted to go to a service academy. The US Naval Academy had always been on top of his list but after visiting Coast Guard his senior year, he quickly changed his mind.

Roy was offered appointments to all of the Service Academy's except West Point, to which he did not apply. Roy entered the Coast Guard Academy on July 7, 1980. Ironically, Roy's "academic achievement" was so notable that he received a letter from the Dean of Academics 7 out of his 8 semesters stating that perhaps he didn't belong there.

It was this that prompted Steve Eldridge taking a real interest in Roy, along with CDR Harding, and they both helped Roy get through his classes. CDR Arnold was his department chairman who routinely motivated Roy with a swift "kick in the backside."

Were it not for Eldridge, Harding, and Arnold, along with Arnold's wife Platt and their wonderful daughters Sarah and Maggie and a collection of people supporting him, there is no way Roy would have ever graduated.

Roy's parents and family were also so supportive. In those days of pay phones, they really tried to cheer up Roy when things got really difficult for him as a cadet. Though Roy was mostly in a support role with the football and wrestling teams he was always there, and had it not been for his wrestling training, he could never have stuck it out at Coast Guard.

Roy came back to New York after his ship tour and took the wrestling officials class in Suffolk County. That same year, Bill Starke grabbed Roy and had him start officiating

Freestyle and Greco Roman. This introduced Roy to another whole group of officials. Vince Zuaro, Tony Melosci, Paul Kieblesz, Joe Russo, Marcia Haise and Ray Bruno to name just a few locally.

Roy began to travel nationally and internationally. Through his interactions and assignments with USA Wrestling, Roy met several senior level officials who saw something in him just as Bill Starke had many years before. Hall of Fame officials, Rick Tucci and Bill Stecklein helped Roy move up the ladder and he began to receive high level assignments. Roy became a National Category I official in 1990 and the following year, he qualified for his international license.

Since then, Roy has had so many opportunities both nationally and internationally, that he does not think there are many countries on this planet that he does not know someone he could call to visit. One of Roy's most memorable trips was his trip to Iran in 2007 to referee the Takhti Cup. Despite the political differences and travel obstacles (as this was the first team to travel to this area in over 10 years) Roy had nothing but a positive experience. Roy remembers his entire delegation was treated with such respect by everyone in the country. "I shall never forget my experience in the bazaar where I was signing autographs. It was crazy! Some of the people that came to Grand Central Station for Beat the Streets were a part of the Iranian delegation and it was a great reunion." Roy has had the privilege of being a part of the Beat the Streets Gala every year it has been held.

Also during his career Roy has been the Mat Officials Director for NY-USA Wrestling designating promotions for officials in the various categories, officiating the Armed Services Championships almost every year and finally, he also had the opportunity to do 8 World Championships at various levels.

Roy would like to acknowledge his wife, Michele and my son Brendan, who has endured the years of wrestling insanity – and as we all know, the wrestling season NEVER ends.