

STEVE SHIPPPOS: Great Wrestler, Coach, and Human Being By Mike Robinson & B.A. Schoen



Steve Shippos

The Friends of Long Island Wrestling are proud to induct Steve Shippos into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. We lift him up as a great wrestler, coach, and human being. For 35 years Steve taught physical education and coached football and wrestling at Baldwin High School and simultaneously

molded young boys into young men.

His record speaks for itself: 355 total victories, four dual meet county championships during the 1980s, a NYS Cup title in 1983, and dual meet and tournament titles in 1986. Shippos had countless Christmas and holiday tournament victories in his career because he knew how to get the most out of his wrestlers. Shippos was a powerful motivator who practiced for



Steve and long-time assistant coach, Clark Crispi were a familiar team in Nassau County wrestling for many successful seasons

perfection and demanded that in his athletes' performances. With four state champions, 20+ county champions, and countless county place winners during his years as coach his athletes were always



The 1985-'86 Baldwin "Bruins" wrestling team was undefeated in dual meets, winning the Nassau County Dual Meet Championship and then went on to capture the Nassau County Tournament Title



Steve with his two sons, Steve (left) a Nassau County Champion and NYS runner-up in 1987 and Kevin (middle), a two-time Nassau County Champ, NYS and National High School Champion in 1997

regarded as fundamentally sound with the determination to win and be successful. Every wrestler understood that beyond all the achievement, that if you made it all



Steve is flanked by his first two Nassau County Champions, Lou Dionisio (Left) and Dave Sanford.

four years in the Baldwin wrestling room, you graduated with the tools to be successful in life. Every wrestler in the state knew that if he had to compete against a Baldwin wrestler, he would be well coached, conditioned, and would never give up.

Steve embarked on his life in wrestling under the aegis of coaches Orlando Turco and Bill Layton at Ithaca High School in Upstate New York. After winning almost every possible honor as a wrestler and a football player, Steve then went on to Iowa State where he was coached by Dr. Harold Nicols. At Iowa he was a 3x NCAA qualifier, Big Eight champion in 1966, and an NCAA All-American the same year. Iowa State teammates include NCAA champ and long-time U.S. Naval Academy coach Reg Wicks as well as Dan Gable. After college he remained an active wrestler by competing for the NYAC. From 1966 to 1972 he won a Wilkes Open championships and achieved All-American status four times for the AAU.

In addition to his winning wrestling and football teams at Baldwin, Steve's success can be measured by the number of future coaches that came out of his programs, either as his assistants or as his athletes. Tom Fitzpatrick (Wheatley H.S.) and Tom Reynolds (East Meadow) honed their coaching skills at Baldwin. Baldwin alumni coaches include Mike Robinson (Baldwin), T.J. Cavaliere (CT), his father, Tommy Cavaliere (Southside Jr. High), Chris Critchley (Valley Stream South and Central), Kenny Mueller (Springfield Gardens), Mike Stanley (Carey), Steven Shippos Jr. (New Hampshire), Joe Sabol (USSMA), Ray Adams (Long Beach), Paul Gillespie (Long Beach) and Oceanside), Dave Sanford (North Shore), and Nick Dionisio (Lynbrook).

Community minded, Steve ran the Baldwin Kid Wrestling program for over 30 years. This led to at least two coaching stints in Europe, one with his son Kevin who won a World Championship in Hungary in 1995.

In Baldwin where Steve lives and raised his family, he is known as a generous and caring man. He enjoys contacts with former students and athletes and always asks about families when he meets former colleagues. He was always solicitous of his coaching predecessor, Ed Reinisch, and included him in presenting medals at Baldwin tournaments. Today he enjoys golf outings, especially with his fellow Baldwin football coach, Vince Cesareo.

Many thanks to Steve Shippos for making wrestling all the better—Ithaca H. S., Iowa State, NYAC, Baldwin H.S.—by his presence and involvement.