

BILL STARKE

Referee Extraordinaire

The Friends of Long Island Wrestling are pleased to nominate William (Bill) Starke into the National Hall of Fame and Museum for his lifetime service to wrestling. Bill has been involved in and contributed to the sport of wrestling as a competitor, coach, referee/judge, and administrator.

Bill began wrestling as an eighth grader at Hicksville Jr. High School and continued his career through high school, where He won the 106 lb. North Shore Championship in 1963.

After graduating from high school, Bill became a volunteer assistant coach at Hicksville High School. In 1965 he moved to Holbrook and began coaching in the kids wrestling program at North Shore High School. Both of his sons wrestled at Sagem High School. Bill again volunteered to coach high school and kid programs while developing his two sons. Bill Jr. won three Junior National Championships and two National Championships.

In 1966 Bill joined the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association. He began officiating to help development of kids' programs on Long Island.



Bill Starke has officiated at every Suffolk County Tournament since 1969.

He has continued officiating scholastic wrestling since 1966. He is a member of the scholastic officials programs in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. And, He has officiated scholastically

for 35 years. Bill has officiated at the Suffolk County Championships in every year since 1969. He has been selected to officiate at 10 New York State Tournaments. The local and state tournaments that he has officiated are too many to enumerate. Most were pro bono.

Bill was introduced to the international styles of wrestling when his sons were interested in post scholastic wrestling. At the time there were very few people who knew the international rules because of the lack of qualified officials. He volunteered to officiate and coach at many international style tournaments. By attending every clinic he could, he quickly became an international

rules expert. And by evaluating the teaching techniques of his mentor, Dr. Vince Zuaro, Bill became a knowledgeable clinician. He worked his way up to the title of "Exceptionale" in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

After qualifying for his international license, he has officiated over 100 regional, national, and international tournaments.

Suffolk County selected Bill Starke as "Official of the Year" in 2005.

In addition he is a Category "E" Exceptionale National Official and a Category "I" F.I.L.A. Official.

