

Tom Schlendorf



Tom Schlendorf was a talented athlete who excelled in several sports in high school and was even on the Syracuse University football team for a while, but his passion was always wrestling.

He began his career in 1959 at Calhoun High School in Merrick, NY under the guidance of coach Bob Bury and assistant coach Harry Bierman and quickly became a powerhouse champion with a winning record of 63 wins and 0 losses, according to coach Bury.

In 1962 he won the Nassau County championship and the South Shore Division Championship. In 1963 he repeated these accomplishments winning first place in both Nassau County and the South Shore Division Championships and represented Nassau County at the New York State Championships at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He became the first New York State Champion at the 165 lb. weight class defeating Miles of Riverhead High School who had been undefeated at that time. He was recruited by the Syracuse University wrestling coach, Ed Carlin, and joined a stellar team. Tom's college record was outstanding at 84/8/1. He took first

place in the Coast Guard Invitational tournament in 1964 and finished second at the Eastern Wrestling Championships in 1965 wrestling at 177 pounds. In 1967 Tom was a 1st Team All American, EIWA Champion and culminated his career with a 5-0 victory against Don Buzzard from Iowa State to become the NCAA Champion at 191 pounds. He was captain of his team, named outstanding wrestler in 1967 and was a champion at the East West All Star meet held in Oklahoma.

As a business major at Syracuse he was an officer of his fraternity, Delta Upsilon, and named Fraternity Man of the year in 1967. He was a strong voice and powerful advocate for all of his fellow athletes competing on teams other than football and basketball. He served as their representative to the athletic department and governing bodies of the University. He earned the respect and admiration of the athletic community and in his senior year was named Syracuse University Athlete of the Year, an honor he shared with football All American, Floyd Little.

After college he joined the Marines. Most of his business career was in the textile industry as a Marketing executive. He was National Sales Manager for Greenwood Mills and a Divisional Vice President. He was President of Harmony Grove Mills and Vice President of sales and marketing for Johnston Industries. He was named Textile Man of the Year in 1988 and was on the Board of Directors of the Textile Distributors Association from 1985 – 1998.

Tom believed strongly in giving back to the community and continued to contribute throughout his life. In college he volunteered as a wrestling coach for children struggling with physical disabilities. When we moved to Long Island he helped to create the Northport Youth Wrestling Program, coached our children on many sports

teams including, soccer, football and baseball, and served as President of the Northport Youth Soccer League where he oversaw the design and construction of a community sports facility.

He was a member of the Syracuse University Varsity Club, was a recruiter for the Syracuse University wrestling program, spoke at numerous high school athletic dinners and was the keynote speaker for the Syracuse University Wrestling dinners for many years. After the death of our youngest son in 1996, Tom worked tirelessly to ban the over the counter substance, ephedra, that had killed him, and many others, as well as injuring thousands of people. We then created the Peter Schlendorf Foundation in our son's memory to support the hopes and dreams of today's youth. Tom organized several fund-raising efforts to support the scholarship program of the Foundation. He ran a duathlon in the village of Asharoken, ran a successful golf outing for several years and helped create a Casino Night that is held each January at the Yale Club in New York City. To date we have raised over \$115,000.00 for scholarships and grants awarded to deserving students.

In 2007 Tom was honored by Syracuse University and named a Letterman of Distinction for his lifetime achievements in athletics, contribution to the university and outstanding success in life. He always attributed his many successes to his wrestling training. He believed the greatest coach he ever had was his high school wrestling coach, Bob Bury, and that the strong foundation learned in the wrestling room at Calhoun High School served him well in life. Tom died in 2007 having lived a life focused on dedication, perseverance, and excellence; lessons learned from each and every wrestling experience throughout his life.