

Inductee Biographies



Leo Quinones (Class of 2007) Rancocas Valley Regional High School

A 1971 graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School, he had a modest 15-5 record. He continued wrestling at Kutztown University where he was captain of the 1974-75 team. He was selected as the Burlington County College Wrestler of the Year in 1975. He was an assistant wrestling coach at Rancocas Valley 1975-1980 and Freedom High School in Bethlehem, PA 1981-82. He was a head coach at Rancocas Valley 1983-1992 where he implemented the Rancocas Valley Wrestling Booster Club. He is credited with rebuilding the program to playoff level - winning District and League championships in 1985. Quinones, who had 21 district and six regional champions, coached Rancocas Valley's only state champion, Eric Childs, in 1988. The head coach at Northern Burlington Regional High School from 1993-1998, Quinones started the Northern Burlington Wrestling Booster Club and implemented the 7th-8th grade wrestling program in 1996. He coached nine district champions and had two Region 7 champs. Overall, Quinones compiled a career coaching record of 149-125-3. Quinones also became a referee and officiated two years in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association as a registered official and six years as a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association registered official. Quinones also served as President of the Region 7 New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association.



James M. Reaves (Class of 1981)
Vineland High School

Reaves accomplished a feat no other South Jersey wrestler has ever duplicated by winning the South Jersey tournament title (recognized as District 4 in New Jersey) four consecutive years. He won his first title at 134 pounds in 1948 and then won at 139 and 146 pounds while making four consecutive trips to the state championships. Coached by Joe Homiak, Reaves had his best finish in the state when he placed second in 1951. Reaves combined working with attending college classes at night after graduation and received his degree from Rider College in 1965. Reaves is a certified public accountant and, for the past two decades, has worked as a fiscal officer for the state of New Jersey.



Bernie Reider (Class of 1996)
Jackson Memorial High School

A 1963 Penn State University graduate, Reider became head coach at Jackson in 1966 and over 15 years led his teams to a 160-59-3 record, 29th on the all-time win list in South Jersey. Reider's teams won seven district and six conference championships. From 1972 through 1975 Reider's teams won 58 consecutive dual meets. Reider had 44 district, 14 regional and four state champions. Several times district and regional Coach of the Year, Reider served on the state coaches association ranking committee five years and still serves as tournament director of the Shore Conference Wrestling Tournament. He recalls his team's 20-18 victory over Howell in February of 1973 among his most memorable moments in the sport, and considers the association with his fellow coaches, athletes and parents to be one of the highlights of his coaching career.



Elmer C. Reid (Class of 2004)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

A 1936 graduate of Mount Holly High School, Reid attended Rutgers University for two years. When the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Organization was formed, he served as the organization's treasurer for several years. An avid sportsman and farmer, he fathered four daughters - Carol, Sandra, Janet and Barbara. A football and baseball player in high school, he started following college wrestling when his daughters were in high school that led him to becoming a wrestling official. He started officiating in the early 1960s and officiated at the district and regional level. He was a respected official who was remembered as straightforward and honest. Reid had to retire from active officiating in the early 1970s following his first heart bypass surgery. He passed away in February of 2000.



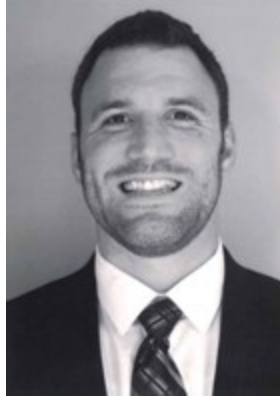
Mark J. Reid (Class of 2006)
West Deptford High School

A 1968 graduate, Reid was a three-time District 29 finalist who capped a 69-9-1 career at heavyweight with a Region 4 championship and runner-up finish in the state as a senior. Reid won his 1967 district title with a 5-4 win over Paul Cooper of Triton Blue. As a senior, Reid defeated Sam Giordano of Paulsboro 2-1 in the district final and decisioned Ted Gatanis of Pennsville 5-3 in the Region 4 finals. After a 1-0 overtime win over Joe Bongiovanni of Neptune in the state semifinals in the Asbury Park Convention Hall, Reid lost 3-1 to Ira Lubert of Newton. A versatile athlete in high school, Reid also competed in football and track and field. Following graduation, Reid went on to wrestle at the University of Maryland. As a senior, he was captain of Maryland's team and won an Atlantic Coast Conference championship before graduating in 1972.



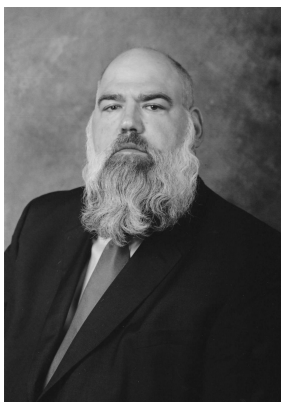
Fred Renner (Class of 1995)
Penns Grove High School

A graduate of Penns Grove High School in 1958 and Washington College in Chestertown, MD in 1962, Renner began his teaching and coaching career at West Deptford High School in 1963, coaching freshman football, basketball and baseball. When he took a teaching position in Penns Grove in 1965, Renner became an assistant in wrestling and football. He took over as head wrestling coach in 1970 and compiled a 241-192-4 record in 24 years. His teams won the overall Tri-County Conference championship twice, the Tri-County Classic Division twice and were District 31 champions four times. His team won the South Jersey Group 2 title in 1981 and the Edgewood Christmas Tournament title in 1991. Renner coached two state champs (Willie Crews and Charles Moorner), had 20 Region 8 and 90 District 31 finalists. He had 36 wrestlers, including six voted Most Outstanding, win Edgewood Christmas titles. Renner, the District 31 and Region 8 Coach of the year in 1990, considered winning his first District championship in 1976 (and repeating in '77 and '78), having his first regional champions in 1976, winning Tri-County in 1978, winning conference, district and South Jersey Group 2 championships in '81 and his two individual state champs among his fondest memories.



Eric Ring (Class of 2018)
Washington Township High School

A 2001 graduate, Ring was a three-time District 30 Champion and a two-time Region 8 Champion, an 8th place finisher at the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament and a two-time state place finisher (4th and 3rd). As a sophomore in '99 Ring qualified for the state tournament at 140 pounds, but was eliminated in the opening round by Blayne Adams of Rancocas Valley in a 7-5 OT match. The following year at 145 pounds, Ring avenged the loss to Adams, defeating him 3-1 in the pre-quarterfinals. He then won by fall (7:06) in the quarterfinals, but lost a hard-fought semi-final match 5-4. In the wrestlebacks, Ring won by major decision over D.J. Cama of Paulsboro before dropping a match to Matt Brienza to finish a very respectable 4th. In his senior year, Ring won by technical fall, 19-3 (5:39) over Ray Lamb of Absegami, but dropped a 6-2 match to Jerry Rinaldi of Lodi in the quarterfinals. In the wrestlebacks, Ring was not to be denied. He reeled off wins over John Caprio of St. Peters and Joe Casella of North Warren to set up a rematch with Jerry Rinaldi. This time Ring emerged via decision, defeating Rinaldi, 6-2 to claim bronze medal honors at 160 pounds. Ring completed his senior year with only one loss and compiled a career record of 107-15. Upon graduation, Ring matriculated to Edinboro University where he continued his wrestling success by winning the Central Michigan Open in '02 and unfortunately, sporting a 10 – 1 record his freshman season ended abruptly due to an injury. Upon returning from injury Eric continued his success by winning EWL silver and gold place medals in 2005 and 2006 and becoming a two-time PSAC Champion, qualifying twice for Division I NAAs. Ring finished his college career with an 80-57 record before graduating in '06 with a degree in education. Ring served as an assistant coach at Drexel University from '06 until he left to teach and coach in the Washington Twp School District. He served as an assistant coach at his alma mater beginning in '11 and was named Assistant Coach of the Year in both District 30 and Region 8 in '15. Ring was named as Washington Twp's head coach at the conclusion of the '17 season. Ring cites avenging his loss to Jerry Rinaldi to claim bronze medal honors as a highlight of his career, along with earning two Division I NCAA appearances. Ring adds that seeing his college team's 8th place finish in NAAs was a most memorable moment. On the lighter side, Ring recalls Hall of Famer, Steve Smith ('03) having the wheel fall off his van due to overloading it with wrestlers on their way to a summer wrestling camp as yet another most memorable moment. Employed by the Washington Board of Education as an elementary teacher, Ring lives with his wife, Danielle, in Woolwich Twp.



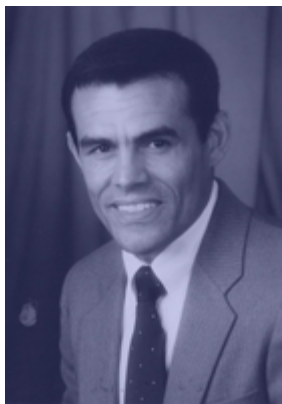
Dave Ritz (Class of 2024)
Highland Regional High School

A '96 graduate of Highland, Ritz captured two District 30 championship titles, a 3rd place finish in Region 8 and a Region 8 championship (heavyweight), qualifying him for two appearances at the N.J.S.I.A.A. state wrestling tournament in Atlantic City. As a junior, Ritz dispatched his first two state opponents by scores of 10-7 and 10-5 before securing a fall in 2:27 in the quarterfinals. The semifinal round proved problematic for Ritz when he dropped a close 4-3 decision to John Green of Pompton Lakes. This loss sent Ritz into the wrestle backs where he emerged with a commendable 5th place finish. The following year, having bested Jermaine Ruffin in the Region 8 finals, Ritz seemed unstoppable at Boardwalk Hall as he began his second assault on a state title. He rolled over Kevin Koveloski (Burlington), 14-7, secured a fall in 2:31 over Mike Esposito (Manalapan) and outlasted Caldwell's Anthony Cascino, 8-6 before he fell by a hard-fought 3-2 loss in the finals. Ritz completed his high school career with two all-state finishes (5th and 2nd) and a career record of 89-10, while anchoring his Highland team to 3 Group IV State Championships. Upon graduation, Ritz enrolled at Gloucester County College where he distinguished himself with a record of 28-5 and a 5th place finish on the 1999 Junior College (JUCO) National Championship team. As Ritz worked to complete his college degree (Rutgers/Camden), he served as an assistant coach for 5 years at Moorestown ('00-'04) and as an assistant at Timber Creek for 9 years ('05-'14) before being named as the school's head coach in '15, a position he continues to hold. Ritz cites winning the Region 8 Championship his senior year as his most memorable moment in the sport, and states that wrestling on Highland's 3 Group IV State Championship teams under Hall of Fame coach, Ralph Ross ('90) as the highlight of his career. A bachelor, Ritz works in the special education program at Timber Creek and resides in Erial.



Edwin Rivera (Class of 1992)
Jackson Memorial High School

A 1975 graduate, Rivera was a three-time district, two-time region and two-time state champion under coach Bernie Reider. Rivera, who also won two Wall Township Christmas Tournament championships, compiled an 82-5-1 record in high school. In 1974 Rivera won the Region 7 title as a junior with a 2-0 win over Stu Freeman of Brick Township. He followed that with decisions of 6-2, 7-3 and 6-1 in the state championships before winning his title with a 7-3 victory over Joe Braco of South Plainfield ó two bouts after what he considers the most memorable moment for him in the sport, watching his brother Hector win the 122-pound state title. Rivera was the top-seeded wrestler in the 1975 state tournament after winning the Region 7 title with a 4-1 win over Paulsboro's John DeSalvo. After decisions of 6-2, 5-3 and 8-2, Rivera won his second state title with an 8-1 victory over Brian Surage of Passaic Valley. Rivera later wrestled at Temple University, where he finished second in the Easterns in 1976. Rivera, who also participated in soccer and track at Jackson Memorial, said he considers placing in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Tournament in 1976 the highlight of his wrestling career.



Hector L. Rivera (Class of 1996)
Jackson Memorial High School

A 1974 graduate, Rivera defeated Gateway's Ed Lightcap 8-2 to win the 122-pound Region 7 title his senior year and went on to complete a 27-0 campaign, winning the state title with an 8-2 overtime win over previously unbeaten Mark Preston of Sparta. A two-time district champion and Wall Christmas Tournament champ his senior year, Rivera attended Temple University for two years before enlisting in the U.S. navy. He was stationed at Guantonimo Bay, Cuba, from 1980-84. The most memorable moment in his scholastic career was winning the 1974 state title along with his brother Edwin. Another highlight in his high school career was being part of a Jackson Memorial team that kept its unbeaten record intact when he was in the varsity lineup.



Greg Rizzo (Class of 1999)
Gateway Regional High School

A 1981 graduate, Rizzo accomplished his goal of an undefeated season and a New Jersey State championship as a senior. He narrowly missed that same goal his junior year, going 29-2 and absorbing his first loss in the state semifinals on the way to a fourth-place finish. A recent inductee into the Gateway High School Hall of Fame, Rizzo was a three-time finalist and two-time champion in the Pennsville Christmas Tournament, and an Edgewood Christmas Tournament champion. He also was a two-time District 29 and a three-time Region 8 champion. Rizzo culminated a 99-8-1 career record by winning the state title, the first in school history. Rizzo wrestled on the college level for Franklin & Marshall College and Old Dominion University. He compiled a modest 36-5-1 record with two season-ending injuries hampering his collegiate effort. He was invited to compete in the 1984 Olympic trials, but a career-ending injury prevented his participation. While at Old Dominion, Rizzo learned SOMBO, a sport combining wrestling, Judo and self-defense. He eventually finished fourth in the SOMBO Nationals. He was an assistant coach at Woodbury High School in 1986 and 1987, and was an assistant for one season at West Deptford. Among his most memorable moments were four- year rivalries with Eftim Velahos of Paulsboro, Greg Gaspari of Collingswood, and Dennis Dean of West Deptford. The highlight of his career was winning the 1981 state title.



Elmer W. Roane (Class of 1984)
Paulsboro High School

A 1954 graduate, Roane was talked into competing in wrestling as a junior by team captain Jimmy Gentile (1980 Hall of Fame inductee). After an unbeaten jayvee season, Roane stepped up to the varsity his senior year and compiled another unbeaten season by winning the South Jersey and state 115-pound championships under the late Ed Pszwaro, who was inducted posthumously into the 1980 Hall of Fame. Following high school Roane was offered a half-scholarship to West Chester State Teachers College but could not attend because of financial difficulties. Roane returned to the sport he excelled at by joining the coaching staff in the Paulsboro Junior Wrestling program where he helped coach for 12 years.



Ronald B. Roberts, Jr. (Class of 2016)
Buena Regional High School

A 1992 graduate of Buena, Roberts earned varsity letters in football, wrestling and track and field, an unusual achievement in the modern day era of sports. He was named captain of both his wrestling and football teams and was selected as 1st team All South Jersey in both sports. Roberts wrestling career peaked his senior year when he won both the District 31 and Region 8 Championships at 189 pounds and was named the OW in the Region 8 Tournament. At the NJ State Tournament, Roberts won his pre-quarter round match, but dropped his next match, then was eliminated in the wrestlebacks by the eventual 3rd place finisher, ending his career with a 52-9 record. Upon graduation from Buena, Roberts attended the Peddie School for one post-graduate year where he earned 1st Team All Prep honors in football. His next stop was at the University of Delaware, where he played football for one season before transferring to The Robert Stockton College of NJ. After graduating from Stockton with a B.A. in criminal justice in 1997, Roberts attended Seton Hall where he earned a M.A. in leadership and education in 2004. Though Roberts received numerous awards for his athletic prowess, he made an indelible mark as an official, logging 19 and 20 years of officiating football and wrestling respectively and currently officiates football at the NCAA Division I-AA level. Roberts served as the president of the NJWOA in 2011-2012 and spent 7 years as the NJWOA, Southern Chapter Cadet Supervisor. Roberts officiated in 5 N.J.S.I.A.A. State Finals matches, and was named Official of the Year in the 2012-13 season by the NJWOA, Southern Chapter. Roberts cites officiating the 2013 state final match between Anthony Ashnult of South Plainfield and Gary Dinmore of Hunterdon Central, which saw Ashnult emerge as the only undefeated 4-time N.J.S.I.A.A. Champion, as one of the highlights of his officiating career. He also states that winning the Region 8 Championship under 1st year head coach (and fellow inductee), Doug Castellari as something that he will always remember. Capping off the list of fond memories Roberts has of his career in sports was being the 100th recipient of the Old Grad Award, which is presented to the top male athlete in Atlantic County.



James B. Robertson, II (Class of 1982)
Collingswood High School

A 1962 graduate, Robertson never lost a dual meet in varsity competition. He lost only three bouts and had one draw while wrestling varsity three years under Coach Sam Coursen. He was a district and regional champion at 98 pounds in 1960-61-62; was fourth in the state as a sophomore, third as a junior and state champion his senior year. Robertson was a three-time varsity letterman in cross-country, wrestling and tennis and received the Outstanding Athlete Award at Collingswood upon graduation. After graduation he attended Springfield (MA) College where he was a member of that school's first undefeated team (1964). Size betrayed Robertson in college and he never realized the dream of competing collegiately (lightest weight 118) but he worked as a student-manager and assistant coach.



Jimmy Rollins (Class of 2019)

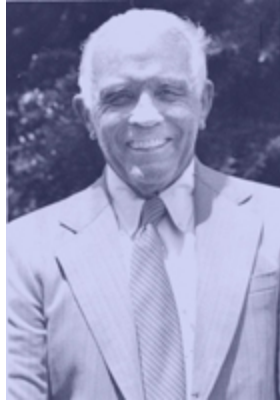
West Deptford High School

A 2001 graduate, Rollins was a two time District 29 Champion and a Region 8 Champion who placed 6th and 3rd in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Wrestling Tournament. Competing at 119 pounds in 2000, Rollins won his first match at states, defeating Frankie Page (Hamilton West) by a 6-4 decision. Rollins dropped his second round match, 4-2, to the eventual state champion, Clinton Hicks, of Eastern. In the wrestlebacks, Rollins won two decisions (7-6 and 6-5) before losing to Andrew Urlass of Bound Brook. In the match for 5th/6th, Rollins lost a wild 16-12 decision to Gary DeBrielle of Overbrook. Not satisfied with his finish in '00, Rollins returned to the state tournament at 125 pounds in '01 and set his sights on a better outcome. He began with a first round 6-1 decision over Paulsboro's Jeff Smith, then followed up with a fall in 3:03 over Chris Wilson of Hopatcong. Once again, Rollins met the eventual state champion, Ricky LaForge (Indian Hills) and was forced into the wrestlebacks. This time things turned out differently, as Rollins prevailed over Jeff Smith for the second time (10-0) and then won a tight 1-0 decision to Bobby Stinson of Camden Catholic to win the bronze medal. Rollins ended his high school career with a record of 93-10 and a state championship in Greco Roman wrestling. Upon graduation, Rollins enrolled at Gloucester County College where he became the school's only undefeated wrestler to win a National Junior College Championship (JUCO) at 125 pounds. Rollins took his unblemished record into his sophomore year, but a season-ending injury in the semi-finals of the national tournament forced him to settle with a 6th place finish. Rollins then enrolled at Dana College in Nebraska where he took 3rd place honors in the N.A.I.A. Tournament at 133 pounds as a junior. As a senior, Rollins became the school's first N.A.I.A. Champion (133 pounds) and compiled a career collegiate record of 114-9. Though Rollins gained notoriety on the mat, he seemed to thrive even more as a coach. He spent his first year coaching at Dana before moving to Iowa Lakes Community College and to Midland University before finally settling in as the head coach at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. To date, Rollins has coached 86 national qualifiers, 56 All-Americans, 18 national finalists and 5 National Champions. In 2019 Rollins's Lindenwood team took 7th place honors in the NCAA Division II National Tournament and his team's 125 pound wrestler won 1st place individual honors and was named the wrestler of the year in NCAA Division II. Most memorable moments in Rollins' career include his two state place finishes and seeing his West Deptford team win the State Group 3 Championship under Coach Ralph Ross, Jr. He adds that his individual National Championships and his seeing his Gloucester County College and Dana College team win the team title under Coach Mike Lamb and Coach Steve Costanzo rate as memories he will cherish. Rollins states that the relationships the sport has afforded him go far beyond championships and accolades: he believes that what is truly important are the interpersonal bonds he has formed with the wrestling community and the strong support of his family. Rollins and wife, Dena, live in St. Charles, Missouri with their two daughters, Scarlett (3) and Finley (1).



Ralph E. Ross (Class of 1990)
Highland Regional High School

A 1962 graduate of Trenton State College, Ross became head wrestling coach at Triton Red in 1963. His team went 4-5 that season ó his only losing campaign in 27 years. Ross moved to Highland when it opened. The rest is history. The winningest coach in South Jersey history with a 405-56-7 record, Ross is second only to Hunterdon Centralís Russ Riegel in state history. Along the way Ross coached seven individual state, 26 regional, 87 district and numerous Olympic Conference champions. His teams have won 14 Olympic Conference, 12 district, five Group IV and two Group III South Jersey sectional titles ó and won the overall state Group IV championship the first four years it was contested. Ross wrestled under the late Ken ãBullí Landis at Lower Camden County Regional. Ross continued his schooling and got his masterís degree in education in 1968 and in administration 1974. Among his career highlights are the wins over Phillipsburg, where he proudly remembers exposing North Jerseyís best to South Jersey and beating them before a packed house in the Highland gym and duplicating that success to win the state Group 1V championship. Ross also recalls the 1990 sectional Group III victory over Eastern, a team that on paper looked like a sure winner against Highland that reaffirmed the Ross philosophy that a team believing in itself can do what others think it canít if it tries. His teams also won 54 consecutive meets before losing to Washington Township on Dec. 22, 1976.



Cliff Rubicam (Class of 1982)
Collingswood High School

A native of South Jersey, Cliff attended Collingswood High School and Temple University where he participated and starred in several sports. His first teaching job in South Jersey was at Woodbury High School where he was wrestling coach in the early 40s. He coached state champions Herb Baptiste and Gil Hiliman, both Hall of Fame inductees. Shortly after moving on to Collingswood High School, Rubicam became South Jersey's first wrestling official and played a major role in developing the officials' association. Cliff officiated on all levels in South Jersey and the state from 1947 through 1954.



Kevin Rucci (Class of 2011)
Eastern Regional High School

Few wrestlers in South Jersey history can present a resume as impressive as the 1998 Eastern Regional graduate. The four-year starter (100 pounds, 103, 112, 119) won four Caldwell Tournament, four Haddon Township Christmas Tournament, four District 26 and four Region 7 Championships. The three-time state finalist, he was a four-time state place winner and was his school's first state champion. As a freshman he put wins of 11-4, 1:53 fall and 10-6 together before losing 7-5 to James LaValle of Hanover Park in the state finals. As a sophomore he had wins of 11-1, 6-5 and 4-2 before a 9-2 loss to Anthony Conte of Belleville in the finals. Rucci capped a 34-0 campaign as a 112-pound junior with wins of 6-0, 9-0 and 4-2 before a 7-5 decision over returning state champion Conte. Rucci seemed destined to repeat as a 119-pound senior before a 4-3 upset loss to eventual state champion Oliver Ruiz of Cliffside Park stopped his bid in the quarterfinals. A 17-5 win in the wrestle backs was followed by a medical forfeit, a 7th-8th place finish and a final career record of 125-4. Kevin also was a Cadet Freestyle All-American and a two-time Junior Freestyle Champion. He was recipient of the Dave Schultz Award as a senior and received the Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award. Rucci wrestled at the University of Pennsylvania until injuries ended his career his sophomore year.



Jermaine W. Ruffin (Class of 2010)
Paulsboro High School

A 1997 graduate, Ruffin established his identity as one of the best heavyweight wrestlers in the fabled Paulsboro program by stepping into the varsity lineup as a freshman. Affectionately known as "Pickle" before he entered high school, Ruffin was a four-time District 29 Champion, a three-time Region 8 finalist who won the title as a senior, and a two-time state heavyweight champion. In earning his two state titles, Ruffin had to endure a Region 8 rematch in both. He capped a 32-2 junior campaign with a 3-2 win over Highland's Dave Ritz, who he had lost to 10-5 a week earlier. As a senior Ruffin polished off a perfect 35-0 season with a win by fall against Absegami's Kirk Townsel, who he had decisively won 9-4 in the regional finals. Also a three-time Deep Creek Holiday Tournament champion in Virginia, Ruffin compiled a career record of 112-14, a total that had him 17th on Paulsboro's all-time win list through the 2010 season.



John P. Sanders (Class of 1993)
Eastern High School

A 1958 graduate of Neshaminy High School and 1962 graduate of Millersville University, Sanders began teaching at Eastern High School in 1965 - the same year he started both the cross country and wrestling programs. In 1993, after 28 years as wrestling coach, Sanders ranked third on the all-time South Jersey win list behind Hall of Famers Ralph Ross of Highland and Miller Preston of Haddon Township with a 297-168-6 record. His teams had compiled 15 consecutive winning seasons, had won six Olympic Conference National Division championships, three district and two South Jersey titles and placed third in the state in Group 3 in 1985. Twice a district coach of the year, Sanders produced 53 district and eight regional champions, and seven state place winners through 1993. His teams participated in the Haddon Township Christmas Tournament over two decades and won the team title five times, including three of the last four entering the 1993-94 season. Among his most memorable moments in wrestling were twice wrestling Lock Haven legend Gray Simmons, beating Brick Memorial for the S.J. Group 3 championship in 1983 and 1985 (his team was third in the state in 1985), beating Highland 45-27 in 1990 and watching sons John Jr. and Mark wrestle in the midgets and for Lenape High School. Mark was a 4-time district champ and 2-time regional champ in a 98-7 career and John Jr. was second in the regionals and fourth in the state.



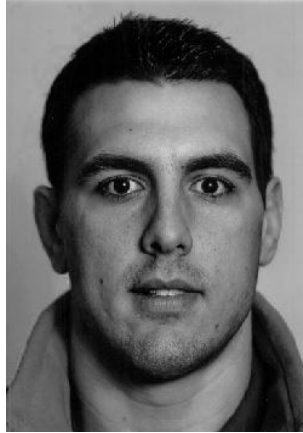
Mark D. Sanders (Class of 2001)
Lenape High School

A 1983 graduate, Sanders completed his career at Lenape as the winningest wrestler in the history of the school through 1983. He was a 3-time Christmas Tournament champion, a 4-time District 26 champion, a 2-time Region 7 champion and compiled a 98-7-1 record as a four-year starter under Coach Sam Evangelista, a former inductee into the S.J. Wrestling Hall of Fame. He was captain of the team in 1982-83 and received the Outstanding Wrestler Award (seniors only) and Lenape's overall Athlete of the Year Award (seniors only). He continued his wrestling career at West Virginia University where he compiled a varsity record of 56-49-1 before graduating in 1988. Sanders considers the highlight of his athletic career winning his second Region 7 championship title. Prior to high school he wrestled under the late Ray Jasper for Greentree Wrestling in Mt. Laurel and won numerous titles, including a Junior Olympics title. He is the son of Hall of Fame inductee and longtime Eastern High coach John Sanders.



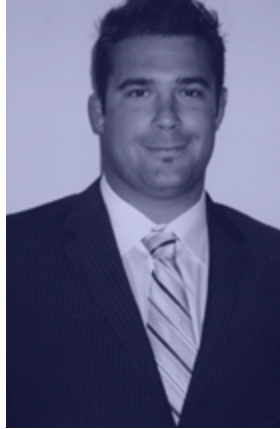
Erik V. Saunders (Class of 2001)
Overbrook Regional High School

A 1989 graduate, Saunders was a four-time Overbrook Christmas Tournament champion who finished third, second twice and first in four trips to District 30. He capped a brilliant senior year by winning the District 30, Region 8 and State Championships to culminate a 93-8-1 career. Winning a state championship in 1989 was Erik's career athletic highlight. Saunders went on to Seton Hall University where he compiled a 70-15 record in four varsity seasons. He was a three-time National Catholic Tournament champion, a three-time New England Conference champion, a U.S. Coast Guard Academy Tournament champion and a three-time NCAA Division I qualifier.



Greg Sawyer (Class of 2014)
Delsea High School

A 1998 graduate of Delsea High School, Sawyer was a two-time District 31 Champion and a Region 8 Champion. In three trips to the NJ State Tournament, Sawyer placed 5th at 189 pounds and 2nd at 215 pounds. During Sawyer's first trip to the State Tournament, he won his opening round by a 15-1 decision over Quarry Bey of Camden before dropping an 8-7 match to Walt Dull of Ocean City and a 20-10 loss in the first round of wrestlebacks. Sawyer's first bid to gain state honors in '97 resulted in his winning his first match 6-3 over Sean Hendricks of Deptford and was followed by a 9-3 win over Drew Peters of Emerson/Park/Ridge before dropping a 14-5 decision to the N.J.S.I.A.A. runner-up from the previous year, Damion Hahn of Lakewood. A wrestle-back loss to Rich Gildner of Southern put Sawyer on the podium with 5th place honors. In '98, wrestling at 215 pounds, Sawyer began his journey to the State Finals by winning by fall in 1:39 over Jim Robinson of Cinnaminson; this was followed by an 11-4 decision over Chris Gaskell of Lenape, an 8-6 decision over Pat Ekstrom of Cranford, and a 7-4 decision over Steve Kempinski of P'burg in the semi-finals. This set the stage for Sawyer to win the title, but he dropped the final bout of his high school career to Nick Lopez of Washington Twp, 5-3. It is notable that Sawyer entered the '98 State Tournament with a leg that had not completely healed from a break he had sustained only weeks earlier. Sawyer capped off his career with a record of 91-26 and began a career at Rider University upon graduation from Delsea in '98. At Rider, Sawyer distinguished himself by capturing 2nd place honors in the ECWA Conference Tournament in '00 and two 3rd place finishes in the CAA Conference Tournament in '02 and '03; these finishes qualified Sawyer to two trips to the Division I NCAA Tournament. Sawyer points to his run at the state title his senior year as the highlight of his career, and cites the looks on his coaches' faces as he came off the mat victoriously after his semi-final match in '98 as being one of his most memorable moments. Sawyer gives much of the credit for his success to assistant coach, Tom Maxwell, and head coach ('03 Hall of Famer), Steve Iles. Upon graduation from Rider, Sawyer began working at his alma mater as a Special Education teacher; and, as the school's head wrestling coach, Sawyer amassed impressive statistics, winning seven Tri-County Conference Championships, six SJ Group Championships and coaching eleven state place winners. Sawyer lives in Monroeville with his wife, Mandi, and their two children, Greg III (6), David (4) and Susanna (8 months).



Shawn Scannell (Class of 2009)
Absegami High School

Scannell was a four-time District 32 finalist and three-time champion. After winning a bronze medal in the Region 8 Tournament and finishing 5th in the state as a junior, Scannell capped a spectacular senior season and 107-13 career with a 31-0 campaign that included the 171-pound championship. Scannell's final win was over Lakewood's Damion Hahn, who finished the year 27-3 and went 103-0 over the next three years to win three state titles. Scannell moved on to Rider University where he was a four-year varsity performer and won the East Coast Wrestling Association championship in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Scannell earned All-America status in 2000 in the NCAA Division I Championships in St. Louis, finishing 8th at 184 pounds. He had a 102-27 career at Rider. Following college he became a teacher and coach at Absegami.



John Scavelli, Sr. (Class of 1985)
Vineland High School

A 1949 graduate of Clayton High School, Scavelli wrestled for Vineland High School in 1946-47 and 1947-48 before transferring to Clayton (where there was no wrestling program) his senior year. Scavelli won every match by fall his sophomore and junior years at Vineland against all South Jersey competition at 165 pounds with the exception of one match against Albert Mecholsky of Paulsboro, whom he lost to in overtime by injury default in 1946. He later avenged that loss with a fall over Mecholsky. He notes that he was the only winner in a 1947 dual meet for Vineland against Paulsboro. Twice the South Jersey Tournament champion at 165 pounds, Scavelli placed second in the state in 1946 and third in the state a year later. Scavelli attended Kutztown State on a football scholarship. He also served in the Navy where he wrestled representing the USS Yellowstone. He got back into the sport in South Jersey by starting the wrestling program at Clayton in 1964 and coached four years. He held the first mini wrestling tournaments in Clayton (1966-67) and organized the first wrestling clinic South Jersey by bringing in three-time national champion Mike Caruso from Lehigh and Syracuse coach Ed Carlin in 1966-67. He also coached the Franklin Township midgets in 1975-76. Scavelli was also active as an official, retiring from the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association in 1970 and from the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association in 1980.



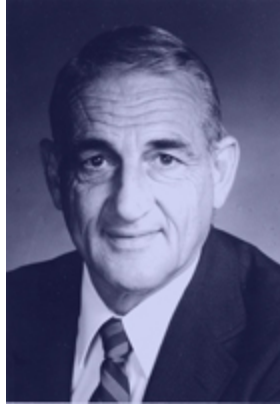
Peter M. Schantz (Class of 1997)
Haddonfield Memorial High School

A 1957 graduate, Schantz was a three-year varsity wrestler under Hall of Famer Bill Frantz. He capped his career his senior year by captaining the team, winning the South Jersey title and finishing third in the state. Schantz was an All-Group III quarterback on the undefeated HMHS football team as a senior and a three-year standout in track, excelling in the 440-yard and 880-yard runs. Schantz went to the University of Pennsylvania where he wrestled three years varsity, going 10-1 his senior year, when he was the team's co-captain. He finished fourth in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Tournament. He also played quarterback and halfback on the varsity football team, which won the Ivy League Championship in 1959. Schantz coached the Penn frosh wrestlers for two years while a student in the School of Veterinary Medicine. He also was a three-time Middle Atlantic AAU champion, wrestling at 167 and 177 pounds, and was named Outstanding Wrestler of that tournament in 1962. Among his most memorable moments were winning the South Jersey title in 1957 by beating defending champion William (Paycheck) Moore of Paulsboro in overtime, winning an AAU title a third time, and scoring two touchdowns against Princeton in a nationally televised game in 1959. He has practiced Tae Kwon do with his son Brendan the last seven years and earned a black belt in 1996.



Milt Schisler (Class of 1994)
Pemberton High School

A 1950 graduate, of Florence High School and 1955 graduate of Florida Southern University whose athletic participation was in basketball in high school and college, Schisler was one of the most colorful wrestling coaches of his time at Pemberton. Rivaling Paulsboro, Highland, Lenape, Moorestown, Rancocas Valley, Pennsville and other top programs of the day for the top spot in South Jersey, Schisler coached his teams to a 173-30-1 record ó which ranks him 19th on the all-time win list in South Jersey through the 1993-94 season. Schisler coached 56 individual district champions, 21 regional champions and had four state champs. His teams won nine district championships in addition to numerous Christmas tournament titles at Pennsville and Council Rock. When the Group championships were started in 1980, Schisler's team won the first Group 4 title. His team also was selected No. 1 in South Jersey in 1976. He is a past recipient of Coach of the Year awards in District 26 and region 7. His most memorable moment in wrestling was coaching his first state champion, Hall of Famer Daryll Burley (later a four-time national finalist and two-time NCAA champion for Lehigh University). He labels the highlight of his career as working with so many fine wrestlers at Pemberton.



Henry L. (Hank) Schnepf (Class of 1985)
Lenape High School

A 1946 graduate of Good Counsel High School in Newark, N.J., Schnepf served four years in the United States Marine Corps before attending the University of Delaware where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in 1956. Schnepf played two years on the unbeaten Quantico football team and also played football for Delaware. He arrived on the South Jersey scene in 1956 when he took a job as teacher and assistant football coach at Rancocas Valley High School. In 1978, he started the wrestling program at RV 66 the first school with that sport in Burlington County. Schnepf moved over to Lenape High School in 1961 and started the wrestling program at that school. Schnepf, who also coached baseball and cross-country, left coaching in 1970 after he received his Master's Degree in administration and became assistant principal at Lenape. He spent five years as an active wrestling official before devoting his time to running the entire athletic program at Lenape in 1975, where he hosted the District 26 Tournament. The University of Delaware graduate won more than a dozen championships in the Burlington County and Del-Val Leagues and the districts before retiring. He also produced 32 district, six regional and one state champion while compiling a 102-32-6 career record as coach. His state champion was Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Smith. The first wrestler from Burlington County to accomplish that feat.



F. Michael Schuld (Class of 2003)
Maple Shade High School

A 1965 graduate of Kailua (Hawaii) High School, Schuld was 14th and state 183-pound champion as a senior. A year before he compiled a 12-5 record in a first-year program at Santa Ana Valley (Calif.) High School. Schuld went on to post a 52-12 record in two years at Santa Ana Community College where he placed second in four tournaments, third in three and was third in the state Junior College qualifier. He was voted Most Inspirational Wrestler on the team in 1968. Schuld moved on to California State University at Fullerton where he compiled a 43-12 record, placing first in two tournaments, second in three and third in two. A team captain 1968-70, Schuld won the El Toro Marine Open Championship. His coaching career started as a graduate assistant at Fullerton 1970-72. He was a volunteer assistant at St. Joseph's Camden 1972-74 and head coach at Monsignor Donovan in Toms River three years (building program into two complete teams and posting the first two winning seasons in school history). He also coached a year at Ocean County College, served seven years as assistant at St. Joseph/Monsignor Donovan and was head coach at Maple Shade from 1985-2002. He compiled a coaching record of 200-166-9 and his teams at Maple Shade won six Burlington County League Freedom Division titles. He coached 42 district place winners and eight regional place winners. His most memorable moment coaching at Maple Shade was being in the corner in 1995 when James Ross advanced to the state's first 215 pound championship before finishing second. He was selected District Coach of the Year three times, Region 7 Coach once and Burlington County Coach of the Year once. His teams received three South Jersey Wrestling Officials Sportsmanship awards. He has served on the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame since 1987, including two terms as Vice-Chairman.



Darryl Martin Scott (Class of 2019)

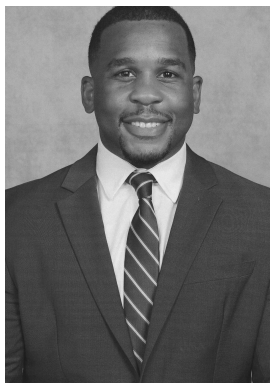
Overbrook Regional High School

A 1988 graduate, Scott followed in the footsteps of his three older brothers when he took to the mat for Hall of Fame coach, Paul Mauriello ('92). Though Scott had successful freshman and sophomore campaigns at 188 pounds, it was during his junior and senior years at heavyweight where he excelled. In both '87 and '88, Scott won both the District 30 and Region 8 Championships. As a junior, Scott entered the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament and won his first match before dropping his quarter-final match to the eventual state runner-up, Ives Viola (Colonia), and then was eliminated in the wrestlebacks by the bronze medalist, Mike Feroni of Union. Scott entered the state tournament the following year as the #4 seed. He won his pre-quarter-final match of Passaic Valley's Lou Fontana (17-0), then followed with a 13-9 decision over Tony Tucker of Hamilton West. Scott dropped his semi-final match to the eventual State Champion, Mike Feroni of Union, but came back strong, advancing over Kevin Arline (Franklin) via medical forfeit, setting up a rematch with Tony Tucker, whom he defeated by a 12-5 decision to capture the bronze medal and end his high school career with a record of 85-15-2. Upon graduation, Scott began his career in youth coaching at Highland High School's Junior Wrestling program. He remained at Highland for five years, but then left to coach at his alma mater with Bob Stinson and Elwood "Woody" Hines. With the exception of a brief departure to coach Eastern Regional's summer wrestling program, Scott has remained at Overbrook, where he continues to work with long-time friend, "Woody" Hines. During Scott's tenure as a youth coach, he has helped produce 32 age group State Champions, 7 age group National Champions and 8 N.J.S.I.A.A. State Champions. The wrestlers passing through Scott's wrestling room reads like an A list of Hollywood celebrities, including fellow inductee, Jordan Burroughs, a State Champion, an NCAA Champion and an Olympic and World Champion. Scott cites earning a bronze medal at the N.J.S.I.A.A. under the tutelage of "Coach Paul" (Mauriello) as a highlight in his career and adds that coaching with Woody Hines and Bob Stinson were most memorable moments in his career. Scott cites two things that were of major importance to him in his time on the mat; he is proud to say that he never had to lose one pound in order to compete, and that he was inspired by his number one fan, his mother, Maxine. Currently, still coaching at Overbrook's youth program, Scott is employed by Norris Sales as a dispatch manager. He and wife, Donna, live in Pine Hill, NJ. They have two children: Daymein (28) and Domenique (21) and two grandchildren, Riley (8) and King Darryl (2).



Thomas Scotton, Jr. (Class of 2024)
Willingboro High School

A 2006 graduate, Scotton won three District 26 titles and two Region 7 titles on his way to three state tournament appearances in Atlantic City. In '04 Scotton entered the N.J.S.I.A.A. tournament at 140 pounds where he dropped his first match, but then rattled off three straight wins and a chance to place 5th, which he did by defeating Absegami's Bobby Flegel via a 10-4 decision. Encouraged, though not satisfied with his appearance as a sophomore, Tom was back in '07 for his junior season at 145 pounds determined to improve his place on the podium. He began by reeling off decisions of 7-0, 5-3, 4-3 and 3-2 to earn a berth in the finals. Though Scotton came up short, he still walked away with the silver medal and another chance to compete for top honors during his senior season. In '08 at 152 pounds, Scotton opened with a 6-2 win over North Bergen's Rico Rodriguez and followed with a quarterfinal 6-3 ousting of Spencer Kent (Bergen Catholic). After suffering a setback in the semifinals, Scotton began his march through the wrestle backs for the bronze. Undeterred, Scotton defeated Chris Norrell of Phillipsburg, 7-4, and then besting Central Regional's Nick Weaver, 9-4 to ultimately capture the bronze. To conclude his high school career, Scotton also earned 5th place honors at the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) Senior Nationals tournament, was ranked as high as 9th in the country at his weight class by W.I.N. Magazine and named Burlington County Times Wrestler of the Year in '06 as he finished with a career record of 135-13. Upon graduating, Tom opted to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he won the Edinboro Open, the Hokie Open and the acclaimed Southern Scuffle. Additionally, Scotton was a three-time NCAA Division I tournament qualifier. Scotton closed out his college career with a record of 96-50 and graduated in 2011. Tom cites his most memorable moment as making the state finals, and adds that the highlight of his career was being able to travel the journey of wrestling with his family; and friends, who, along the way became family. Scotton also graduated from Rutgers University-Newark in 2018 with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. Scotton is employed by the United States Department of Transportation in Washington DC and resides in Landover, Md.



Tyler Scotton (Class of 2025)
Willingboro High School

A 2011 graduate, Tyler amassed three District 26 and two Region 7 championships, earning his way to four appearances in Atlantic City at the N.J.S.I.A.A. tournament. As a frosh at 119 pounds, Tyler went 1-2 and did not place. The following year proved more successful as he opened at 125 pounds with wins in the preliminary and pre-quarterfinal rounds. The quarterfinal round proved problematic as he dropped a tiebreaker (2-1) to Scott Festejo of Long Branch. In the wrestle backs, Tyler reeled off wins of 5-3, 11-6 and 4-2 before losing his bid for third place by a narrow 4-3 decision. As a junior, coming into the tournament at 130 pounds, Tyler won decisions of 9-4, 5-3 and 5-3 to advance to the finals, but bowed out to the returning state champion, Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace. Determined to continue his successes, Tyler was back as a 135 pound senior. He began his run at the gold with a decision in the preliminary round over Derek Zehnbaauer of Delaware Valley (11-4), then followed by edging Rutherford's John Boyle in the ultimate tiebreaker (3-2). In the quarterfinals, Tyler knocked off Kevin Birmingham of Timber Creek, 9-4 before notching a 3-1 overtime match over Seton Hall's Louis Mascola. The gold proved elusive once again as Tyler fell victim to Camden Catholic's T.J. Miller via a 4-1 match in the tiebreaker. Tyler ended his high school career with a record of 152-10 and boasting three straight state place finishes, two of which were silver medals. Scotton states that his two state final appearances were the highlights of his high school career and added that a memorable moment included being named Burlington County Wrestler of the Year. Tyler states being able to travel and compete all over the east coast and train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs were wrestling memories he'll never forget. Upon graduation in 2011, Tyler enrolled at Boston University where he was a place winner in the heralded E.I.W.A. Conference Tournament qualifying for the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships. As a redshirt senior, Tyler enrolled at American University where he was also a place winner at the E.I.W.A. Tournament and was named Academic All-American. He earned a master's degree from American University in accounting and works as a certified public accountant. Tyler currently lives in Washington D.C.



John Semar (Class of 2001)
Cherry Hill East & Cherry Hill West High Schools

A 1961 graduate of Fair Lawn (NJ) High School and a 1965 graduate of Springfield (Mass) College, Semar started his coaching career in Ellenville (NY) in 1967-68 and led his first team to a 10-3 record. He's also coached at Pennsauken (1968-69, 12-2), Matawan (1970-71, 4-10), Ridgewood (1971-75, 18-26), Cherry Hill East (1975-81, 70-26) and Cherry Hill West (1985-90, 65-34-2) for a combined 17-year varsity record of 179-101-2. The most exciting highlight in Semar's head coaching career was a January of 1987 meet that ended Highland's 46 dual meet and 93 Olympic Conference dual meet streaks. He also was an assistant coach in Ellenville (NY), Onteora (NY), Carusi Junior High in Cherry Hill (1991-97) and at Cherry Hill West (1983-84; 1997-present). Semar's teams won the D.U.S.O. (NY) League championship in 1968, South Jersey Conference North championships in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981, holiday tournament titles at Lenape (1979), Washington Township (1980), and Edgewood (1986, 1989) and a District 27 title in 1990. He was a Region 7 Coach of the Year in 1979, 1981 and 1987, a NJ State Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1987 and was inducted into the New Jersey State Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989. He is a past president of the NJ Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (1979-81), former Meet Director of Region 7, and twice served as Region 7 president.



Charles (Chick) Sherwood (Class of 1981)
Haddonfield High School

A 1956 graduate, Sherwood was unbeaten and won the 157-pound South Jersey and state championships in only his second year in the sport. He was talked into competing by wrestling coach Bill Frantz his junior year. Sherwood's first season ended with a 1-0 loss in the South Jersey finals. Following graduation, Sherwood had three outstanding seasons at West Virginia University. He won two Southern Conference titles and was deprived of a chance at a third title when he was sidelined with an injury late in his senior season. He started the wrestling program at Falls Church, Va., where he coached two years while earning his Master's Degree. In 1962 he moved to Central Michigan University as assistant coach in wrestling and track. Two years later he became head wrestling coach and led his team to 149 wins in 18 years. Last season his team placed eighth in the national championships.



Alex Silvestro (Class of 2021)

Paulsboro High School

A 2007 graduate, Silvestro was a four-time District 29 Champion and a one-time Region 8 Champion. As a frosh, Silvestro won the district title at 189 pounds, but did not qualify for the state tournament. This setback inspired Silvestro to qualify for the N.J.S.I.A.A. tournament for the next three years (all at 215 pounds). As a sophomore, Silvestro arrived in Atlantic City and reeled off three straight wins before dropping his semifinal match, but wrestled back to take sixth place honors. The following year, Silvestro improved his overall finish at Boardwalk Hall. Once again, Silvestro won his first three matches, but dropped a 5-3 decision to Lenape Valley's J.D. Russo. In the wrestle backs, Silvestro won his consolation semifinal match over Brearley's Jesse Boyden via fall in 1:21, then lost a close 1-0 match to Roy Dragon of Bridgewater to finish with fourth-place honors. In his senior year, Silvestro added a Region 8 crown to his resume, and once again advanced to the state tournament in Atlantic City. In his first match, Silvestro decisioned Chris Smith of High Point, 8-3, then won his quarterfinal match 8-2 over Hightstown's Kenny Amponsa. Silvestro overcame his nemesis round by downing Bergen Catholic's George Kocher in the semifinals via a 5-2 verdict. In his final high school match, Silvestro defeated Southern Regional standout, Glen Carson, 6-4 to win the gold medal and walked away from the sport with a career record of 137-15 and state places of 6th, 4th and 1st. Upon graduating, Silvestro accepted a football scholarship to Rutgers University where he was a four-year starter for the program at defensive end. At Rutgers, Silvestro was named to the Academic Big East team and earned 2nd team Big East honors. Silvestro's prowess as a defensive end at Rutgers opened the door to a three-year NFL career, which included time with the New England Patriots and the Super Bowl Champions, the Baltimore Ravens. Silvestro claims that winning the 215 pound N.J.S.I.A.A. Championship was the highlight of his career, but is quick to add that being a part of winning the New Jersey State Group title all four of his years at Paulsboro was also a most memorable moment. Silvestro goes on to add that having the support and dedication of the people of Paulsboro inspired him to want to be successful for them and is now an assistant wrestling coach at Paulsboro where he can continue to give back to them.



Dean R. Sizemore (Class of 2007)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

A 1973 graduate of Paulsboro High School, Sizemore compiled a record of 18-2-1. He won the District 28 championship with a 3-2 overtime win over Deptford's Bob MacMaster, finished 3rd in Region 7 and won the team's Tough Guy Award in his senior year. He was a three-time letter winner in football, a two-time letter winner in baseball and one-time letterman in track. Sizemore was selected Outstanding Male Athlete in his graduating class. He wrestled at Temple University and compiled a career record of 49-12-1. He won the Monmouth County Open and the NYAC Holiday Tournament in 1974 and was second two times at the Blue Hen Christmas tournament. A broken vertebra the first meet of his senior year ended his college career. He coached the Moorestown freshman team from 1977-1981 and compiled a 62-1-1 record. He also was the head baseball coach three years. Sizemore was a volunteer assistant at Camden Catholic 2004-2005 and at Paulsboro 2005-07. Through 2007, he had been a wrestling official for 26 years. Sizemore served as President of the Southern Chapter of New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association and state Vice President of the NJWOA. He officiated at midget, high school, and collegiate levels and was SJWCOA Wrestling Official of the Year for 1989-1990.



Dennis Smith (Class of 1983)
Lenape High School

A 1968 graduate, Smith never lost a dual meet in high school competition. He was 31-0 wrestling at 90 and 98 pounds in freshmen and jayvee competition won two district titles, one regional title and the 106-pound state championship for a 41-1 varsity record under Coach Hank Schnepf. His lone loss was in the semifinals of the regionals his junior year. After high school, Smith wrestled varsity at Rutgers University where he placed fourth in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association championships in 1970 and captained the team in 1972, winning the Wilfred E. Cann Award for contributions to Rutgers wrestling. Smith wrestled in numerous post-high school tournaments, won the South Jersey Open at Vineland four times and the East Stroudsburg Open. He was assistant coach at Trenton State in 1972-73 where he earned his Masters Degree. He was an assistant coach at Lenape 1973-75 and has been the head wrestling and cross-country coach at Delran High School since 1975. He has an eight-year coaching record of 84-54-2 (1-16 his first year after starting the program) and his teams have won three Burlco Freedom titles and last year won the District 27 championship.



Frank Smith (Class of 2010)
Pennsville Memorial High School

A 1982 graduate, Smith was a three-time District 31 champion and a two-time Region 8 finalist. In 1981 he lost in the regional finals and as a senior won the regional title. His junior year Smith went 1-1 and was eliminated from the State Tournament by eventual state champion Sal Lacorte of DePaul in a 24-2 campaign. In his senior year Smith carried a 31-0 record into the 115-pound state finals and had an 11-3 lead over two-time returning state champ John Barna of Phillipsburg with 58 seconds left when Barna rallied for a win by fall to complete his second straight 31-0 season and earn his second straight Outstanding Wrestler Award in Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium. Smith was a two-time AAU Mid-Atlantic Freestyle and Greco-Roman champion and in 1982 won the 123-pound North Eastern Zone Olympic 200 Trials in Freestyle. He compiled a 77-8 scholastic record. Smith coached the Pennsville Youth and Middle School programs. He also spent two years as assistant coach in the high school. He co-founded the "Screaming Eagles Wrestling Club" which was started to provide training for K-12 wrestlers in South Jersey.



Steve Smith (Class of 2003)

Paulsboro High School

A 1973 graduate of Washington Township High School, Smith compiled a 45-20-2 career record for the Minutemen winning a 98-pound district title in 1972 and finishing second in the district and region at 98 pounds in 1973. Smith went on to Delaware Valley College where he compiled a 46-18 record and twice qualified for the Nationals. Starting in December 1978, Smith ran the Washington Twp. Junior program for 22 years and served as an assistant coach at Washington Township when the team twice won the South Jersey Group 4 championship and finished 2nd and 3rd in the state. Products of his Junior Program in Washington Township won five state titles and over a dozen were state place winners. Smith was a member of the Gloucester County League 24 years and served as the league's treasurer three years and its president seven years. His team won the GCL title four times in succession. He has run approximately 75 tournaments (and counting), has literally raised "The Orchard" and Joey Melchiorre's "Sidewinders." Smith has hosted a half dozen foreign exchange clubs and helped take a group of wrestlers to Puerto Rico. He coached Team New Jersey in 2002 for the NHSCA and is its current coach. Smith also is New Jersey state chairman for the National High School Coaches Association for National Teams Duals. His most memorable moment in wrestling has been watching two of his sons wrestle in Region 8 finals.



John C. Stafford (Class of 2000)
Highland High School

A 1982 graduate, Stafford capped a 33-0 senior season by winning the District 30, Region 8 and State championships at 158 pounds. A district and regional runner-up as a junior, he completed his career with a 56-5-0 record. Stafford later wrestled at Rider University and won East Coast Conference championships in 1986 and 1987. He was undefeated in dual meets his senior season as he qualified for the NCAA Division I championships for the second consecutive year. He competed in Freestyle and Greco-Roman events after graduating from Highland. He won the National Junior Olympic freestyle championship at 178 pounds in 1982 and was the Greco-Roman Grand National Champion in 1982. He also won a gold medal at the 1982 National Sports Festival in Freestyle in Indianapolis and made the World Elite Team in Freestyle and Greco, opting to compete in Freestyle. He won the silver medal in the World Elite Freestyle Championships and placed fifth in the Junior Olympic Grand National Freestyle Championships. The highlight of his scholastic career was winning his state title, while the most memorable moment in his career was qualifying for both the World Elite Freestyle and Greco Roman teams and winning the silver medal in the world championships.



David W. Stanton (Class of 1999)
Haddonfield High School

A 1981 graduate, Stanton was a two-time district champion (after finishing 2nd as a sophomore), was a three-time regional finalist (winning twice) and finished third in the state as a junior and second as a senior. The three-time Lenape Christmas Tournament champion compiled a 77-6 record in his three varsity seasons. Stanton continued his education at James Madison University in Virginia, compiling a 94-31 record. An *Amateur Wrestling News* Freshman All-American in 1982, Stanton won the West Virginia Open in 1985 and was third in the East Regional in 1982-83-84. A JMU captain in 1985, he was a four-time Virginia Intercollegiate State Championships place winner and a two-time place winner in the Naval Academy Tournament. Stanton was a 1982 Junior Pan American Games gold medalist. He was selected Courier-Post heavyweight of the decade in the 1980s. The highlight of his wrestling career was receiving a scholarship to college - a goal he set while in junior high school. His most memorable moment was being part of a district championship team in 1980.



David Steiler (Class of 1986)
Collingwood High School

A 1961 graduate, Steiler was a three-year varsity starter for Coach Sam Coursen at Collingswood. Steiler capped a brilliant career by placing second in the state at 168 pounds his senior year. Another outstanding career was next at Temple University. Steiler, who captained the team his junior and senior years, never lost a dual meet and was a three-time Mid-Atlantic runner-up. Following his graduation from Temple in 1965, Steiler moved on to Springfield College to work on his Masters Degree. While doing graduate work Steiler got his first experience in coaching and guided Suffield (Conn.) Academy to a pair of unbeaten seasons. Steiler then coached Delaware Valley College to an 8-4 record and followed with a 45-9 record from 1969-73 at York (Pa.) College. Steiler returned to Temple University as head coach and compiled a 53-20-1 record in a five-year stay. While in the South Jersey area Steiler helped organize international meets involving local scholastic athletes against wrestlers from several foreign countries and was active in the South Jersey Wrestling Club. Steiler then turned to athletic administration and was athletic director at Cinnaminson High School before moving to Goshen, N.Y. and heading the athletic program in the Pine Bush Central School District.



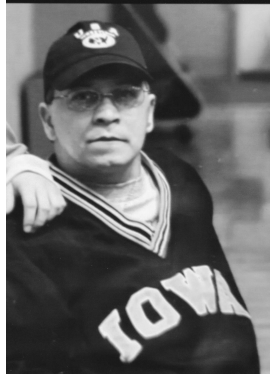
Bobby Ray Stinson (Class of 2015) **Camden Catholic High School**

A 2002 graduate of Camden Catholic, Stinson was a four-time District Champion (twice in District 27 and twice in District 28) and a four-time Region 7 Champion and placed four times in the state tournament as well as being the only wrestler to date to be named OW twice in the prestigious Virginia Duals. As a freshman, wrestling at 103 pounds in Atlantic City, Stinson advanced to the state finals before dropping a controversial 3-2 decision to Terrance Clendenin of Toms River North. The following year, competing at 112 pounds at the state tournament in the Meadowlands, Stinson lost a close decision in the semi-finals before rebounding in the wrestlebacks to capture third-place honors. His final two years found the state tournament back in Atlantic City where, as a junior, he found himself on the podium with a fourth-place medal. With only one year left to win gold, Stinson didn't disappoint. At 130 pounds, he advanced to the state finals, where he met the former State Champion ('00) and the previous year's runner up, Matt Anderson of South Plainfield. Stinson won a 6-3 decision over Anderson to come away as the 2002 N.J.S.I.A.A. Champion, and emerged as the state's record holder for wins with a career record of 144-6. After graduation from Camden Catholic, Stinson attended Rider University, where he was a Beast of the East Champion and a CAA conference winner and was named that conference's Rookie of the Year. He cites winning a state title and becoming a Division I NCAA Tournament qualifier as the highlights of his career. Stinson began his wrestling career under the tutelage of his father, Bob, Sr., which he considers one of his fondest memories, along with being able to coach his younger brother, Hank. At Eastern. In 2008, Stinson graduated from Wilmington University. He holds a Masters Degree in Special Education, and since graduating, he served as an assistant coach at Eastern High School for four years and has been Eastern's head coach since 2011. Currently, a special education teacher, Stinson lives in Blackwood with his wife, Heather and their daughter, Stella Ray.



Hank Stinson (Class of 2025) Eastern Regional High School

A 2010 graduate, Hank placed three times in the heralded Beast of the East Tournament and garnered two District 26 and three Region 7 titles on his way to making three appearances in Atlantic City at the N.J.S.I.A.A. Wrestling Championships. As a frosh at 125 pounds Hank advanced to the State Championships and finished with a 3-3 record earning a sixth place finish. The following year at 135 pounds, Hank rattled off a fall over John Donaleski of Southern (1:01), a quarterfinal 8-5 decision (Matt Spatero, Bergen Catholic) and a close 3-2 decision, edging John Renard (Kingsway) to face David Brearly's Joe Lospinoso, whom he pinned in 5:21 to emerge with his first state title. Hank's '09 campaign proved to be a rollercoaster ride as injury after injury finally forced him to withdraw from postseason competition. In his senior year, healthy and up at 140 pounds, Hank began his best of three postseason bouts with Willingboro standout, James Green. In the finals of District 26, Green bested Hank by a 7-3 decision, but a week later Hank evened the score, reversing the loss with a 6-1 decision. With both wrestlers advancing to Atlantic City, Hank began his journey with a pre-quarter major decision over Brick Township's Connor Brennan, 13-3, then followed by downing Conor Hayes of Old Bridge, 11-4. The semifinals proved to be a breeze as Hank decked Hammonton's Mike Bakuckas in 3:16 and prepared to face his nemesis in the finals. In the rubber match for the state title, Hank staged a dramatic crowd appreciative match as he pulled out a late come-from-behind win with an escape and a takedown with back points to edge Green (7-5), garnering him his second state title. Stinson ended his high school career with a record of 122-11 while amassing the most single season falls for his team (29). This standout wrestler applied his post high school skills at both Penn State and Delaware Valley College, but at both institutions the injury bug wouldn't stay away. With his personal wrestling career over, Hank served as an assistant coach at St. Augustine and Gloucester County College (Rowan) prior to leaving to work full time. Hank claims the highlight of his career is having two dramatic state final wins and adds that his most memorable moments in the sport came from wrestling with his brother, Hall of Fame member, Bob ('15) and wrestling for his dad's Voorhees Youth Wrestling club. Hank adds that being inducted with his dad, Bob, Sr. ('25), adds to the sweetness of his wrestling odyssey. Single, Hank works for Western Extrusion and lives in Berlin.



Robert Stinson, Sr.
Overbrook Regional High School, Contributor

A 1976 graduate of Overbrook Regional High School, Bob wrestled for Hall of Fame coach, Paul Mauriello ('92). Upon his graduation, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army and competed for their team until an auto accident forced him out of the sport as an active participant. Not willing to step away from wrestling, Bob immersed himself in wrestling, learning the nuances of coaching in the youth ranks. Ever the student of the sport, he gained five years of valuable experience coaching in the Highland youth program before spending two years with the Overbrook youth team. It was 1995 when Bob established himself and the Voorhees youth wrestling team. He enjoyed the fruits of his labors as his teams found success by winning the Virginia Duals at the junior high level on two separate occasions and capturing an AAU Championship title in Salisbury, Maryland. Among the many successes Bob recalls, he states that defeating Pascack Hills for the NJ Youth State Tournament as being very gratifying as well as during his tenure with Voorhees, in one season coaching thirteen individual NJ Kids' State Champs. He also coached several youth wrestlers who went on to see terrific success at the high school level. Of the wrestlers Bob mentored over the years, over sixty of them went on to be District Champs while more than thirty were Region Champs. Sixteen wrestlers, including his two sons, captured N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championships and three placed in Division 1 NCAAs. Bob always believed in his charges and always encouraged them to continue to strive for success on and off the mat. Bob stepped away from coaching in 2009, but stated that watching his son, Bobby Ray, capture a State Championship in 2002 and his son, Hank, win state titles in 2008 and 2010 as being the most memorable moments in his career. Bob and his wife, Peg, lived in Berlin where they raised four children, Bobby Ray, Casey, Hank and Caitlin.



Jason C. Suter (Class of 1999)
Paulsboro High School

A 1986 graduate, Suter finished his high school career as the winningest wrestler in school history. A four-year starter, Suter compiled a 113-12-1 record, the first Paulsboro wrestler to earn 100 career wins. A two-year captain, Suter won the Caldwell and Deep Creek tournaments three times. He won two District 29 and two Region 8 titles. A three-time state finalist, he capped an unbeaten season by winning the state title at 158 pounds and was selected the Outstanding Wrestler in the state tournament as a senior. He also won Outstanding Wrestler awards at the Caldwell, Deep Creek and Region 8 tournaments. His team never lost a dual meet or tournament team title during his four varsity seasons and was ranked No. 1 in the state in 1985. He continued his career at Penn State University where he was a four-year varsity starter, won over 100 matches and was twice an All-American, finishing eighth in 1990 and fifth in 1991. Suter considers winning a state title as a senior in high school and becoming an All-American at Penn State as highlights of his athletic career. His most memorable moments included the state finals as a junior when he got pinned in 36 seconds; the state finals his senior year, when he won and saw the faces of his parents as they ran to him from the stands; and the goose bumps he got his freshman year when he put on a Paulsboro uniform on for the first time.



Matthew W. Suter (Class of 2006)
Paulsboro High School

A 1993 graduate, Suter was a four-time District 29 champion who became the first four-time Region 8 champion with consecutive wins over Ed Lutz of Overbrook (11-5), Brian Lewis of Highland (10-9), Kip Covington of Overbrook (6-3) and Jason Brown of Oakcrest (technical fall). In four trips to the state championships where he was a four-time state semifinalist, Suter finished 6th, 1st, 2nd and 1st in the state in a 138-7-1 career. Suter defeated Mike Francesca of Union 8-5 for his first state title, lost 6-1 to Covington in a Region 8 rematch as a junior in the state finals and capped his career with a 14-7 win over North Hunterdon's Chris Vidak. A 1993 Asics Tiger Junior National Champion, Suter established a state record for wins (138) in his career. And as a sophomore he established a state record for victories in a season (37). A 1991 Cadet World bronze medalist, Suter was selected Paulsboro's Most Valuable Wrestler four times. He went on to wrestle for Arizona State University where he compiled 107 victories, twice won a PAC 10 title, twice finished 3rd in the Midlands and made the Round of 12 all four trips to the NCAA Tournament. He earned All-America honors in 1997 with an 8th-place finish. He had the most pins for ASU in 1995 as a freshman.



Albert G. Sye (Class of 2000)
Glassboro High School

A 1969 Delsea High School graduate, Sye was a two-time District 31 and Christmas Tournament champion who placed third and second in two trips to the regional tournament. Sye went onto Gloucester County College where he compiled a 44-2-1 record, twice winning Region 19 championships and twice earning All-America honors with second place finishes in the Junior College Nationals. The first All-American athlete in the history of GCC, he was the school's wrestling MVP in 1970 and 1971. Sye earned a wrestling scholarship to the University of Arizona (1971-73) where he started two years, compiling a 58-9 record. He was twice a Western Athletic Conference champion and was fourth in the country for another All-America honor. He was ranked No. 3 in the mid-season NCAA All-American selections in 1973. Sye taught and coached at Catalina/Saharo and Vuma high schools in Arizona, and Pitman and Glassboro high schools in South Jersey for a combined 150-34-2 record. His teams won four Olympic Conference titles at Glassboro and five Christmas tournament titles. He coached 17 district champions and had six regional champions and one state champion. Sye has been inducted into the Gloucester County College Hall of Fame (1978) and the National Junior College Hall of Fame (1984). He was Founder/Past President of the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in Tucson, Arizona, 1989-91 and was a Gloucester County College Alumni Silver Anniversary Circle of Success Award recipient in 1992. Sye, who earned his bachelor's and masters degrees in secondary education at the University of Arizona, moved out of the classroom and into administration as the Associate Principal in Dover, Del. (1991-93) and spent 1993-2000 as Associate Principal and later Assistant Superintendent in the Oak Park/River Forest High School in Oak Park, Ill.



Aaron Taylor (Class of 2013)
Camden Catholic High School

Taylor was a four-time District 27 Champion and a two-time Region 7 Champion wrestling under Hall of Famer, Gary Papa, and who finished his scholastic career with a 121-9 record. In his state tournament appearances, Taylor placed 5th as a sophomore in '94 at 103 pounds, 4th as a junior in '95 at 112 pounds, while earning 3rd place honors in '96, his senior year. Though a state title eluded Taylor, he never lost a dual meet in high school, which he considers one of his proudest accomplishments. Upon graduation from Camden Catholic, Taylor enrolled at Cornell University, where he continued his success on the mat wrestling under the legendary Rob Koll. Taylor earned prestigious E.I.W.A. honors, placing 3rd, 3rd and 5th. He finished his wrestling career for the "Big Red" with a record of 96-48. Along the way to these honors, Taylor was also named to the All Ivy Team on two occasions. He not only succeeded on the mat, but in the classroom as well, graduating "Cum Laude with Distinction in Research" as well as earning a membership to the Sphinx Head Honor Society. Upon his graduation from Cornell, Taylor continued his love of wrestling by becoming involved in club wrestling, serving as head coach of both Team Intensity and Team Intensity's travelling team. Looking back on his cherished memories of wrestling, Taylor considers being part of the wrestling's fraternity the very best one. He claims the sport of wrestling permitted him to wrestle in front of thousands of loyal Cornell fans, to establish literally thousands of "wrestling family" friends and to stay active in the very unique sport of wrestling where every meeting with an old friend brings back so many fond memories. A team man from the beginning, Taylor continues to give of himself for the sport he loves so much.



Douglas R. Taylor (Class of 2002)
Millville High School

A 1982 graduate, Taylor was a four-time District 32 and three-time Christmas Tournament and Region 8 champion. In three trips to the state championships, Taylor finished third in 1980, second in 1981 (losing 2-0 to Glenn Hall of Voorhees) and first in 1982 (6-3 win over Hall in a repeat state final). He compiled a 102-5-2 record in his four-year varsity career. Taylor considers being on the mat with his father in his corner the most memorable moment of his career and fondly remembers the friendships made through wrestling throughout his travels from state to state, from camps to tournaments.



Rob Taylor (Class of 2002)
Millville High School

A 1955 graduate, Taylor culminated his high school career by winning the South Jersey championship and finishing second by a score of 5-4 to Warren Dixon of Union in the 1955 state tournament in the Elizabeth Armory. He went on to Oklahoma A&M (known today as Oklahoma State University) and finished second in the NCAA Tournament for a national championship team at the nationals in Laramie, Wyoming, as a sophomore in 1958 (freshmen were not eligible to compete in varsity sports so Taylor could only watch his first year at A&M). Taylor finished third in the NCAA Tournament for national champion Oklahoma State in Iowa City in 1959. In 1961 Taylor was offered a assistant's job under Rutgers University wrestling Coach Dick Voliva. But a growing family convinced Taylor to move back home with steady employment. In 1973 he founded the Millville Junior Wrestling Program.



Doug TenBrook (Class of 2013)

Millville High School

A 1987 graduate, TenBrook won 3 District 31 Championships in four finals appearances; TenBrook also made 3 appearances in the Region 8 finals, winning the Region 8 Title twice. In TenBrook's Region 8 Championship match in 1986, he defeated Hall of Famer, Joe Hollywood of Deptford, who became the State Champion that year. The following year in 1987, TenBrook defeated Hall of Famer, Sam Laspatha of Glassboro in the Region 8 finals to win his 2nd Region 8 Title. In three trips to the State Championships, he did not place, each year dropping close decisions to either the eventual State Champion or a place winner. In Doug's freshman year in 1984, he dropped an opening round decision to Tony Malba of Hunterdon Central, the wrestler who went on to be that year's state runner-up. In Doug's junior year, he lost a criteria decision in overtime to Madison Central's Jim McCauley who went on to place 4th. In TenBrook's final appearance at the State Tournament, he won his first-round match 8-2 over Walt Toto of East Brunswick before bowing out via a 5-2 decision to Joe Mocco of Fair Lawn, thus completing his high school career with a record of 101-10. Other accomplishments of TenBrook's were becoming a State Champion in Greco Roman wrestling in 1986, qualifying him for a trip to the prestigious National Championships in Fargo, N.D.; and becoming a member of the Sea Gull Wrestling Club which toured southern California in 1986, where he compiled a 4-0 record. Upon graduation from Millville, TenBrook went on to attend American University and Thomas Edison State College, from which he graduated. After graduation, TenBrook served as an assistant coach one year at West Deptford and four years at Millville, before becoming Millville's head coach. At Millville, TenBrook compiled a 67-25-3 record, captured the Cape Atlantic American Division Championship in 1996 and was named District 31 Coach of the Year. He prides himself with having coached 13 District 31 Champions, 3 Region 8 Champions and State Champion, Mark Saul. Highlights of Doug's wrestling career include being coached by his father, John TenBrook, throughout his youth career, his association with Hall of Famers, Bobby Hogan and Will Goodwin and his affiliation with the entire Millville wrestling community.



James John TenBrook (Class of 1998)
Millville High School

A 1980 graduate, TenBrook was a four-year varsity starter for coaches Dave Neder and Rusty Corson. His varsity debut was in a tough 115-pound weight class, where he went 5-12-1. By the time he concluded his varsity career, TenBrook had compiled a 79-16-1 record. He capped his senior year by winning District 32, Region 8 and New Jersey State championships. Also an accomplished freestyle wrestler, TenBrook placed 2nd out of 144 in the largest International High School Freestyle Tournament in the world, the 1979 Joliet International Tournament in Chicago. In 1980 he was a Project 200 Inductee at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado. TenBrook placed 3rd in the 1980 North East Region U.S. Olympic Trials. TenBrook also was the quarterback and captain of the 1979 Millville football team and received the prestigious Brooks-Irvine Memorial Football Club's Offensive Back of the Year award. TenBrook continued his wrestling at Bucknell University, where he was a 1981 East Coast Conference champion and NCAA Division I qualifier as a freshman, TenBrook graduated from Gettysburg College in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in biology, and in 1989 received a Doctorate in Dental Medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina. In 1992 he received a masters in medical sciences and a degree in orthodontics from Harvard University.



John C. Tettis (Class of 1985)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

A 1946 graduate of St. Leo's High School in Ridgeway, Pa., Tettis played basketball in high school. After two years in the service, he enrolled at Lock Haven State where he wrestled four years. After graduation in 1954, Tettis accepted a teaching position in Pemberton and four years later moved over to Rancocas Valley. He was an assistant wrestling coach for five years and then became actively involved as a wrestling official where he excelled for over two decades. He has officiated at all levels in the state and did the state finals 13 straight years. He has been an Eastern Intercollegiate official since 1967 and has worked the junior college nationals four times and received an assignment to work the 1986 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III national championships. He was president of the Southern Chapter of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association for 12 years and was the first official from South Jersey to be elected president (two-year term) of the state association (after serving as state vice-president). He also served as vice-president of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association, was the first wrestling coach at Burlington County College and served on the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame Organization.



Hedley “Sandy” Thame (Class of 2014) Camden High School

A 1970 graduate of Bridgeton High School, Thame participated in football, wrestling and track before enrolling at Trenton State College, now known as TCNJ, where he wrestled for Coach Mike Curry. Upon graduating from Trenton State in 1974, Thame's true calling began at Camden High School where he taught courses in the sciences and became the school's head wrestling coach after one year as Ken Dodd's assistant. Though the great successes eluded Thame's teams, Camden still produced some good teams and individuals. As a coach, Thame was named District 28 COY and Region 7 COY, as well as receiving a sportsmanship award from the NJWOA Southern Chapter, though due to his total commitment to his wrestlers, he is only able to recall that these accolades came in the decade of the 90s. Thame credits his late wife, Sharon, and his current wife of fifteen years, Gracelynn Johnson, for supporting his efforts to promote wrestling in a town which has been steeped in basketball tradition for decades. Thame also recognizes the efforts of his daughter, Morgan, for aiding him in doing anything he asked of her to promote Camden wrestling. Aside from his family, Thame cites his assistant coaches, both past and present, as being an integral and memorable part of his coaching career. Sandy's most memorable moment came at the 2014 N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament in Atlantic City. With the "final-call" warning in effect, Thame and his wrestler, Andrew Stevens, literally had to run to his semi-final match before it was declared a forfeit. Thame got Stevens to the mat on time, and Stevens was able to secure a 3-1 win in sudden victory over his opponent, Kevin Wilkins of St. Joe's Montvale. That victory propelled Stevens to the championship match with Robbinsville's Tyler Gildner, where Stevens was victorious via a 3-0 decision, making him Coach Thame's first State Champion as well as the first State Champion from Camden High School, a feat which was richly applauded by the entire Atlantic City Convention Center. Retired, but still coaching, Thame lives in Pennsauken with his wife, Graceland Johnson.



Robert (Bobby) Thomas (Class of 1982)
Woodbury High School

A 1957 graduate, Thomas was a 3-year varsity performer in high school. Twice Thomas won a South Jersey championship and twice was a bronze medalist in the state championships, at 115 and 123 pounds, respectively. He finished with a high school record of 32-3-1. Thomas became acquainted with the sport at an early age in a three-year program in Kingston, Pa. When his family moved to Woodbury in 1954, he found the school had dropped the program some years earlier. Thomas and Clark Donlin, a Woodbury teacher who hailed from Kingston, urged Athletic Director Cap Paine to restart the program. For three years, Thomas not only wrestled varsity but helped coach his teammates. In 1961 Thomas became a wrestling official and helped form the Southern Chapter of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association in 1966. He has served as Secretary-Treasurer since then. He was Vice-President of the NJWOA from 1968 to 1980. He received the Outstanding Official Award by the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association in 1979 and in 1980-81 organized the Officials Evaluation Program and the NJWOA/NJCOA Grievance Committee.



David Tomasette (Class of 2016)
Washington Township High School

A 2003 graduate, Tomasette captured 3 District 30 Championships and 2 Region 8 Championships before going on to place 3rd in the state in '01 and '02. His senior year ('03) he went on to win the N.J.S.I.A.A. Championship, and after his #1 finish in the State Tournament, Tomasette was named Wrestler of the Year by The Philadelphia *Inquirer* and named Gloucester County's Wrestler of the Year as well. Tomasette's post season found him competing in Atlantic City: as a sophomore at 103 pounds, Tomasette dropped his quarter final match before coming back to garner 3rd place honors by winning by major decision over Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic. The following year, again at 103 pounds, Tomasette won his first two state matches before losing in the semi-finals to the eventual State Champion, but roared back to take the bronze medal by pinning Manalapan's Nick Manochio in 3:23. At 112 pounds his senior year, Tomasette capped off an undefeated season of 34-0 (career record 135-10-0) by posting wins of 13-4, a fall in 5:07 and a 9-1 decision to set up a match in the finals with Bergen Catholic's Bryan Nunziato, his opponent in the consolation finals in '01; this time Tomasette responded with a fall over Nunziato in 0:58, one of the fastest falls ever recorded in the history of the state finals. Upon graduation, Tomasette enrolled at Hofstra University where he compiled a career record of 88-40 at 125 pounds. He won 2 CAA Championships and qualified for Division I NCAAAs on four occasions. Tomasette earned a BS in social science in '08 which he put to use working with behaviorally challenged students while employed by Gloucester County Special Services. While serving as the assistant, then as the head coach at Clearview High School, Tomasette's teams won back-to-back District 29 Championships in '15 and '16. He also coached Clearview to a Group III State Championship in '13. Tomasette cites becoming a State Champion in '03 as the highlight of his wrestling career, along with qualifying for Division I NCAAAs four times. He states coaching an individual State Champion (Zack Firestone in '16) and being affiliated with the successes of the Clearview wrestling family as some of his most memorable moments in his coaching career.



Anthony Trongone (Class of 2021)

Camden Catholic High School

A 2007 graduate of Camden Catholic, Trongone was a three-time District 28 Champion, a two-time Region 7 Champion and a three-time state qualifier. As a sophomore at 171 pounds, Trongone won his first two matches in Atlantic City, one of which came over the top-seeded wrestler (Frank Dugan - Passaic Valley) via a 7-3 decision. Returning at the same weight as a junior, Trongone again knocked off the top seed and nationally ranked Tom Spellman (Kittatinny) in his weight and reeled off three decisions to reach the finals in Atlantic City, where he was edged in the finals, 3-2. In Trongone's senior year, he again wrestled at 171 pounds at the NJSIAA state tournament. In his first match, he won by medical default over Olajuan Bell (Newark), then followed with a 13-4 major decision over Eddie Ebewo (Old Bridge). Trongone's semifinal match was against the same wrestler he had defeated in the previous year's semifinals, and this year proved to be no different as he decisioned his future Virginia Tech teammate, Tom Spellman, 6-0. Trongone capped off the day by prevailing over top seeded Ocean's Kyle Kiss in the state finals by a 4-2 decision and walking away with the gold and a career high school record of 109-14. Upon graduation in 2007, Trongone was awarded a scholarship to Virginia Tech, where he competed at 174 pounds. During his tenure there, he captured titles at the Hokie Open and North Carolina State Open. He placed 2nd at the East Stroudsburg Open and 3rd at the Navy Classic and Penn State Open. In 2009, he placed second in the ACC Championships. This feat earned him All-ACC honors and an invitation to the Division 1 NCAA National Championships. He also earned NCAA D-1 All-Rookie Team honors as well as Most Tenacious Wrestler for the Hokies. With his career at VT completed, Trongone was not content to step away from the sport, so he contributed his time to various junior wrestling clubs. Trongone then assisted his high school coach, Hall of Famer, Gary Papa (class of '94) at the Top Cat Wrestling Club. He is currently coaching at the Underground Wrestling Club. Trongone cites spending quality time with his dad while participating in the sport of wrestling as the most memorable time in his wrestling career. He adds that wrestling in his basement's mat-covered floor with his brother, Nicolo Trongone, and his cousin, Frank Coratolo, along with his Northern Burlington friends were some of his favorite memories. Trongone goes on to state that winning the NJSIAA State Championship as a moment he will cherish forever. He adds that being a starter on the Camden Catholic team which defeated Absegami in 2005 to claim the #1 overall team in New Jersey and capturing the Parochial Group A State Championship team title all four years as team highlights.