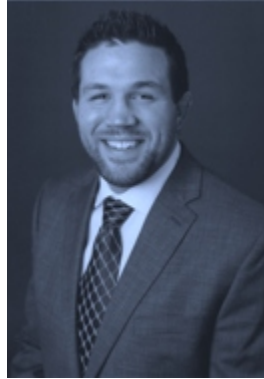


Inductee Biographies



Doug Umbehauer, Jr. (Class of 2017) Lenape Regional High School

A 2004 graduate, Umbehauer was a three-time District 27 Champion, a three-time Region 7 Champion and a three-time N.J.S.I.A.A. place winner (5th, 4th and 2nd). Umbehauer lost close decisions at 171 pounds in the quarterfinals in 2002 and in the semifinals in 2003, but succeeded in wrestling back to earn 5th place honors as a sophomore and 4th place honors as a junior. As a senior, Umbehauer moved up a weight class to 189 pounds where he reached the state finals via a bye, a fall in 3:43, a 7-1 decision in the quarterfinals and another 7-1 decision in the semifinals. In the finals, Umbehauer dropped a tough 8-5 decision to the defending state champion, Ryan Goodman of Absegami. Undeterred by this setback, Umbehauer went on to finish as the runner up in the prestigious Senior National Tournament where he concluded his high school career with a record of 128-16. Umbehauer moved on to Rider University where he won 100 matches, was a four-time CAA Conference finalist and a two time champion. In 2009, Umbehauer entered the Division I NCAA Tournament as the #7 seed at 184 pounds and earned All-American honors. He won decisions of 10-1 and 5-1 before defeating the #2 seed, Phil Keddy of Iowa in a come-from-behind 8-4 decision in double overtime. A 3-2 setback in the semifinals to the #3 seed, Mike Pucillo, of Ohio State put Umbehauer in the wrestlebacks where he won an exciting 13-11 overtime match over #9 seed, Joe LeBlanc of Wyoming. This win set up a rematch with Iowa's Phil Keddy for the consolation finals. Umbehauer won their second meeting 5-3 and claimed the bronze medal. Upon graduation from Rider in 2009, Umbehauer continued his wrestling career with the Nittany Lion Wrestling Club until 2012. During this time, he placed 2nd in University Nationals ('10), 3rd in the Sunkist Open ('10) and 3rd in the NYAC Open ('11). Upon completing his competitive career, Umbehauer remained active in the sport by serving as a clinician at several camps and wrestling clubs and is currently working with the Seneca Youth Wrestling Program. Umbehauer cites some of his most memorable moments as winning his first Region 7 Tournament, earning silver medals in both the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament and Senior National Tournament and winning his double overtime match against Phil Keddy in the NCAA Tournament to go on to earn the bronze medal. Umbehauer greatly attributes his opportunities in life to his faith and is active in his local church. Currently, Umbehauer works in his family's business, The Painting and Wallcovering Company, and lives in Shamong with his wife, Michelle and their five children: Baileigh (9), Dougie (6), Lilie (4), Grace (2) and Lucy (1).



Rick Ventura (Class of 2004)
Journalist, Courier-Post

A 1967 graduate of Merchantville High School, Ventura was the student team manager of the football, basketball and baseball teams for three years. Since 1973 Ventura has kept the Courier-Post wrestling records. He charts every individual's record from results called into the newspaper and has also kept all the team coaching records for the newspaper. His individual and team records appear each Saturday in the Varsity Section. He also keeps team and individual records in field hockey and baseball for the paper. Following graduation, he was the manager of the Maple Shade baseball teams in the Camden City League (1972-75) and in the Tri-County League (1976-78). He also was the manager of the Cherry Hill teams in the Tri-County League, winning two championships (Maple Shade, 1976, and Cherry Hill, 1981). He has been president of the Tri-County Baseball League since 1988.



Jerry J. Villecco (Class of 1983)
Deptford High School

A 1972 graduate, Jerry is one of the most fabled wrestlers ever to come out of South Jersey. Villecco is one of five wrestlers ever to win four individual district championships and is one of only four wrestlers from South Jersey ever to win the state championship twice ó at 157 pounds in 1971 and 168 pounds in 1972. Villecco finished with an 83-3-1 high school record under Coach Bob Exley and was undefeated in dual meet competition. Following high school, Jerry had an outstanding career at Penn State University. A four-time NCAA Eastern champion. Villecco was a three-time All American ó placing fourth in the country in 1974 and 1976, and sixth in 1975. He was a winner in the East-West meet 1974 and was voted the Outstanding Wrestler in the Eastern Wrestling League championships in 1976. He was honored as "College Wrestler of the Year" by the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association in 1976 after compiling a 74-11-1 record. In college, Jerry coached one year at West Deptford High School and five years at Temple University, where he compiled a 66-22-1 record.



John M Villecco (Class of 1984)
Deptford High School

A 1969 graduate, Villecco compiled a 46-7-1 record in three years of varsity competition. After a third-place finish in the districts as a sophomore, Villecco won two consecutive district and regional championships and was chosen the Region 4 Outstanding Wrestler in 1969. After a third-place finish in the state championships as a junior, Villecco capped a perfect senior season by winning the 157-pound state championship (Deptford's first state champion) under Coach Bob Exley. Villecco continued his wrestling career at Glassboro State College where he compiled a 41-9-1 record in three varsity seasons. Villecco was a three-time NAIA District 31 champion (twice chosen Most Outstanding Wrestler) and twice gained All-American honors after a fifth-place finish in 1970 and a sixth-place finish in 1971. He did not wrestle the 1972 season after sustaining serious injuries in a motorcycle accident. During his college career his 18 falls in a three-year career was a Glassboro State record.



John H. Vogeding Jr. (Class of 1988)
Journalist

A 1958 graduate of Paulsboro High School, Vogeding has worked both sides of the fence in wrestling, serving as a coach and a sportswriter during his career. After graduating from Glassboro State College in 1962, Vogeding returned to Paulsboro and was an assistant coach under the late Ed Pszwaro and then Sam Evangelista ó both future Hall of Famers. He later coached under 1987 Hall of Fame inductee Bob Fredrick. Those three coaches combined for nearly 650 victories. Vogeding left teaching in 1968 to become a sportswriter and later assistant sports editor for the Gloucester County Times, covering wrestling and staying until 1972, when he returned to teach and coach at Paulsboro. Vogeding then moved to the Courier-Post as assistant sports editor in 1974. During his tenure as a sportswriter, Vogeding made many contributions to the sport of wrestling through his journalistic efforts in South Jersey and throughout the state. Co-founder of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame with Sam Coursen, Vogeding covered the NCAA wrestling championships and was named the Sportswriter of the Year by Scholastic Wrestling USA magazine in 1980. He was also honored by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for his contribution and service to high school athletics and was recipient of a Special Award presented by the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association for his contribution to South Jersey wrestling. Vogeding served as a clerk and seeding chairman for numerous tournaments, including District 29 and Region 8, until additional duties at the Courier-Post forced him to give up those positions. Vogeding also served as the press coordinator at the state tournament for six years and served as vice chairman of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame for seven years. He has served as the assigner for the Southern Chapter of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association several years.



Joseph R Wade Jr. (Class of 2018)
Paulsboro High School

A 1978 graduate, Wade won two District 29 Championships, two Region 8 Championships and placed twice in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament (3rd and 1st). As a junior, Wade competed at 188 pounds in the state tournament at Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium. In his pre-quarter final match, he won a 5-0 decision over Ken Marks of Emerson, then followed that win with a 2-1 OT decision over Len Artigliere of Madison Boro. In the semi-finals, Wade lost a tough match to future NFL linebacker, Sam Mills of Long Branch, 3-2, but rebounded in his match for the bronze medal by defeating Steve Stolzenberg of Westwood. The following year Wade entered Jadwin Gym, where he emerged undefeated for the year (28-0). He began with a 20-9 pre-quarter final major decision over Hector Gonzalez of Pemberton, and followed with a 13-5 major decision over South Brunswick's George Fears and an 8-3 decision over Vic Della Torre of River Dell. Wade's remaining match was against Howie Lindstrom of Pascack Hills, whom he defeated 11-6 to claim the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championship at 188 pounds, and ended his high school career with a record of 66-5. Upon graduation, Wade matriculated to Bloomsburg University where he was a four-year varsity letter winner in wrestling and a two year varsity football letter winner. Wade was a PSAC champion in both '82 and '83 and was an EWL Champion in '82, which qualified him for the Division I NCAA Tournament. At NCAAs, Joe won his first match, then dropped a decision to eventual 3rd place finisher, Lehigh's, Colin Kilrain. He recalls the highlight of his career as going undefeated his senior year and winning the state title. Wade's most memorable moment came when his Paulsboro team lost for the first time after winning 88 consecutive dual meets. Joe has enjoyed a long, successful career in restaurant management. Joe lives in Reading, Pennsylvania with his wife, Bonita, and their four children, Joseph, Jr. and Yvonne, Bradley and Jared.



Darren Walsh (Class of 2026)

Collingswood High School

A 1978 graduate of Collingswood High School, Darren Walsh was a three-year starter under Hall of Fame coach Sam Coursen ('88) and Rock Riley. While his competitive career laid the foundation, it was his decades of service as a coach, official, and wrestling administrator that defined his lasting impact on the sport. Shortly after graduating, Walsh remained active in wrestling and was hired by Steve Smith ('03) to coach Washington Township Junior and Intermediate Youth Wrestling Programs. After four successful years, he worked with the coaching staff at Paul VI High School under Hall of Fame coach Gary Papa ('94). Eventually Coach Papa asked him to be an assistant at Camden Catholic, and Walsh said this was not only an honor, but also a defining moment in his coaching career. Walsh eventually became head coach at Paul VI in 2000, serving through 2007. During his tenure, he helped build a successful program and was recognized as the 2002 District Coach of the Year. While coaching, Walsh developed a passion for officiating. After stepping away from coaching, he joined the Southern Chapter of N.J. Wrestling Officials in 2009 under Cadet Supervisor Alan Maloney ('89), to whom Walsh contributed his officiating success. Under NJWOA State Assigner Vinnie Russo's mentorship he quickly earned a reputation as one of the state's most respected officials. Over the course of his officiating career he has worked 13 district and regional championship tournaments, officiated at 10 NJSIAA sectional tournaments—including six sectional finals—and been selected for the NJSIAA State Championships 12 times. His state tournament assignments included six medal-round appearances and three state championship finals, officiating both boys' and girls' championship matches. Walsh's dedication and professionalism have been recognized with the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association Contribution Award and selection as the 2023 South Jersey Official of the Year. Beyond the mat, he has been an active leader within the wrestling community, serving as Vice President of the SJWC&OA since 2024 and as a member of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame committee for more than 20 years. Among his most cherished memories in the sport were coaching his nephew—Tom Walsh ('08) and brothers, Ken ('05) and Steve Herishen—as they competed in the NJSIAA State Finals. Tom and Ken captured state championships, while Steve earned a state runner-up finish. Walsh also considers officiating the NJSIAA State Finals at Boardwalk Hall in 2024, with the unwavering support of his family and friends, to be the pinnacle of his officiating career. Now retired after a 38-year career with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Philadelphia, Walsh remains active as a wrestling official. He and his wife, Susette, reside in Haddon Township. They are the proud parents of three children, Jillian, Brooke, and Nicholas.



Taylor Walsh (Class of 2023) **Camden Catholic High School**

On his way to four trips to Atlantic City, this 2010 graduate was a four-time District 28 Champion and a one-time Region 7 Champion. As a freshman ('07) at 112 pounds, Walsh DNP in Atlantic City, but came back the next three years to find success. Coming off an early exit in '07, Walsh was on a mission in '08, reeling off decisions of 8-3 and 9-2 before securing a fall in 5:01 to cement a place in the finals, but a heart-breaking 9-7 OT loss to Vinnie Dellafave (Toms River East) forced him to settle for the silver. The following year at the state tournament at 135, Walsh once again reached the finals. He picked up a fall in 3:44, a 5-3 decision, and a semifinal fall in 2:29 to set up another finals appearance. Walsh thrilled the crowd at Boardwalk Hall, winning a hotly contested match over Kodie Silvestri of Wallkill Valley, 7-6. With work yet to do as a senior, Walsh began his pre -quarterfinal round by pinning Jason Kratsch of Caldwell in 5:00 and followed by decisioning P'burg's Oliver Brukhardt, 3-0. He won his semifinal match, knocking off Chris Burdge (Kittatinny) via a 7-2 verdict. In the final for the last time, Walsh dispatched Passiac Valley's Frank Crocco, 8-2 to win his second N.J.S.I.A.A. Championship. The three-time team captain who oversaw his Camden Catholic team win 4 Parochial State Titles, had completed his high school career with a record of 144-18 (99 wins by fall) and was off to Indiana University on a wrestling scholarship. His reputation as a pinner followed him as he set a D1 NCAA record with a career high 26 falls in one season. During his career at Indiana, Walsh would win several highly-acclaimed open tournaments, win Big Ten All Academic honors on two occasions, captain his team for two years, capture the team record for wins by fall (69) and earn four trips to the D1 NCAA Tournament. The culmination of his career would see him place 2nd in the nation at 165 pounds, while amassing a career record of 136-18. Walsh cites the most memorable moment of his career as avenging several losses to Issac Jordan of Wisconsin by defeating (4-3) him in the quarterfinals of the '15 NAAs, and goes on to say that winning his first State Title was a career highlight. Upon graduation in '15, Walsh was a grad assistant at Rutgers for two years. He continued to stay close to wrestling by co-founding The Prodigy Program, a non-profit organization helping inner-city youth achieve athletic and academic success. The CEO of his own real estate brokerage firm, Walsh is single and splits his time between NJ and Miami, Florida.



Thomas Walsh (Class of 2008)
Paul VI High School

A 1989 graduate, Walsh had a 92-19 career record as a four-year starter. After a runner-up finish in District 30 as a freshman for Washington Township, Walsh continued to excel as a three-year starter at Paul VI where he won three District 28 titles. A three-time Region 7 finalist, he twice finished second. A three-time qualifier for the state tournament at Princeton University, Walsh finished fourth as a junior and won the 125-pound championship as a senior, capping a 5-0 run with a 7-6 win over Victor Bernardino of Paulsboro. Walsh continued his wrestling career at Manhattan College where he had a 75-25-2 record. He was a 1991 Metro Conference champion and a three-time New England Conference finalist. Following graduation he was an assistant coach at Manhattan and NYU before becoming an assistant coach on the scholastic level.



Mike Waltz (Class of 2010)
Paul VI High School

A 1986 graduate, Waltz was a four-time Christmas Tournament Champion, a three-time District 28 Champion (winning by fall all three years) and a three-time Region 7 Champion (winning 2-1, 7-3 and by fall) at 188 pounds. Waltz lost in the first round of the state tournament as a sophomore, and lost in the state quarterfinals as a junior. In his senior year Waltz advanced to the state semifinals before losing to Rich Ceynowa of Clifton before rebounding with a 9-1 win over Delsea's Pat Daily for a third-place finish. Waltz went 71-7 his last three years as the varsity starter at 188 pounds. Waltz originally enrolled at Clemson but returned to New Jersey and competed at heavyweight one year for Rider University where he went 16-7 and finished second in the East Coast Conference Championships in 1990. He later attended Camden County College to earn his Associates Degree in 2003. Mike officated one year and was an assistant coach at Paul VI two years.



Bill Ward (Class of 2015)
St. Augustine High School

A 1985 graduate of St. Augustine, Ward was a one-time District 31 Champion ('83) and a two-time District 32 Champion ('84 and '85). During Ward's senior campaign, he took runner-up honors in Region 8 to earn a trip to the state tournament in the 149 pound weight class. He won his preliminary match 19-5 over Andy Iliff of Newton, then won by fall over Steve Crane of South Brunswick in 5:41 of the pre-quarter round before defeating Mark Sacco of South Plainfield by a 6-4 decision in the quarter-finals. His 13-8 victory over Jon Fredrick of Gateway in the semi-finals pitted him against the defending state champion, Enzo Cattulo of Summit, and though Ward lost by decision, he came away as the silver medalist, boasting an impressive career record of 106-9. Upon graduation from St. Augustine, Ward matriculated to Drexel University, where he won the Bloomsburg Invitational, the Trenton State Open, the Franklin and Marshal Open and was a two-time East Coast Conference finalist before being sidelined with a career-ending injury his senior year. Ward stuck with wrestling after graduating from Drexel in 1990 by becoming involved in coaching. He has served for twenty-four years, coaching at both the youth and high school levels. At Buena High School, Ward helped the team earn 4 South Jersey Group Sectional Championships as well as four State Group runner-up finishes. Since taking over as the head coaching job at his alma mater, Ward's St. Augustine teams have captured two South Jersey Sectional Championships. During his combined career at Buena and St. Augustine, he has aided in coaching numerous individual district and region champions, and in 2014, coached his first N.J.S.I.A.A. champion at St. Augustine, Jack Clark. Ward cites the highlight of his wrestling career as defeating a two-time Ohio State Champion in a dual meet between his alma mater and perennial powerhouse, St. Edward's of Ohio. He claims his most memorial moments in wrestling came while watching his son, Bill, Jr. win four District 32 Championships, four Region 8 Championships and third-place honors in the New Jersey State Championships. A sales representative for Entenmann's Bakeries, Ward lives in Vineland with his wife, Valerie. They have five children: Katie (23), Billy (20), Abby (14), Ty (10) and Luke (5).



Michael Wariwanchik (Class of 2023)

Pennsville High School

As a junior, wrestling at heavyweight, Wariwanchik's 2nd place finish in District 32 and 3rd place in Region 8 qualified him for a berth in the N.J.S.I.A.A Championships, but a 7-4 opening round loss to Joe Micela of Paul VI eliminated him from advancing. Undeterred by this setback, Wariwanchik began what can only be described as a Cinderella year as he won gold in the AAU Eastern Nationals prior to the start of his senior season and then during the season winning the District 32 Championship, and then defeating Paulsboro's Jermaine Ruffin by fall (5:31) to capture the Region 8 heavyweight crown. In Atlantic City, Wariwanchik opened with a 4-1 decision over Hamilton West's Kinte Holte. In the 1/4 final round, Wariwanchik won by fall in 0:51 to oust Boleslaw Jaskiewicz of Monroe. In the semifinals, Wariwanchik avenged an off-season loss to Sam Richardson of Cranford by earning an 8-6 decision. In his final match for Pennsville, Wariwanchik edged John Green of Pompton Lakes, 4-3 to win the gold. Wariwanchik completed his high school career with a record of 68-18, going 28-0 with 21 wins by fall during his senior year. Wariwanchik was named "South Jersey Wrestler of the Year" by Today's Sunbeam newspaper and was also touted as an All South Jersey defensive tackle in football. Wariwanchik cites his semifinal win over Sam Richardson of Cranford as a most memorable moment, adding that his state title was the highlight of his career. He goes on to say that the support of his family and friends throughout his wrestling career is something he will never forget. Upon graduation, Wariwanchik went to culinary school and honed the skills he learned there to enable him to become the operations manager of food nutrition for Christiana Hospital in Christiana, Delaware. Wariwanchik and wife, Stacey, live in Pennsville with their three daughters, Alyse (21), Emma (19) and Reagan (15).



Michael A. Weidenbush (Class of 2011)
Toms River South High School

A 1977 graduate of Toms River South, Weidenbush was a two-time District 25 and two-time Region 7 Champion at 101 pounds. He won his first two matches in the 1976 state tournament before losing back-to-back decisions in a fourth-place finish. In 1977 Weidenbush capped a 29-0-1 campaign by literally breezing through the state tournament. Decisions of 7-1, 10-6, and 8-1 preceded a 9-4 championship final win over Tony Simeca of Lodi. Mike's teammates Frank Major (115) and Jeff Parker (170) were also state champions for the Toms River South team and Coach John DeMarco that year. Mike, who also competed in gymnastics in high school closed out an 80-plus win career by winning 60 matches and losing three as a junior and senior. Weidenbush went on to wrestle at Seton Hall University. He was second in the Catholic National Tournament and first in the Rutgers Tournament while compiling a career record of 80-20.



Jack Welch (Class of 1986)
Moorestown High School

A 1953 graduate of Otto Township High School in Duke Center, Pa., and 1957 graduate of Lock Haven State College, Welch started two highly successful wrestling programs in South Jersey. He inaugurated the program at Williamstown High School in 1959 and spent six years guiding one of the most competitive teams in South Jersey before moving on to Moorestown to start that program. He became the ideal of South Jersey wrestling coaches at the end of last season with the completion of his 27th year as a head coach. During that time he has compiled a 246-128-5 record, third best on the all-time win list in South Jersey. Memories of nearly three decades as a coach include his 18-0 team at Moorestown in 1975 and his 11-0-1 team at Williamstown in 1965; his exciting meets with Pemberton while in the Burlington County Liberty Division and championship showdowns with Deiran in the Freedom Division; having seven district and three regional champions in 1975 and six district and four regional champions a year later on two of his most powerful Moorestown teams; and having coached his sons, Marty and Chris, at Moorestown. Burlington County Coach of the Year in 1974 and 1975 and Region 8 Coach of the Year in 1975, Welch is also active in the sport off the mat, where he has served as Secretary of the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Organization.



Gregzie L. White (Class of 1984)
Pennsville High School

A 1968 graduate, White compiled a three-year varsity record of 54-4-2 under Coach Jack Harford (1983 Hall of Fame inductee). He was a three-time District 31 champion, placed third in the regionals as a sophomore, second as a junior and capped an unbeaten senior year by winning the regional and state titles at 141 pounds to become Pennsville's first state champion. Also an outstanding pole vaulter in track, White vaulted 13-4 ^o to set meet and school records in winning the Tri-County championship in 1968. His exploits in high school earned White selection as an Outstanding Athlete in New Jersey by the House of Representatives his senior year. White continued his education at Lincoln (PA) University where he won the NAIA 158-pound national championship in 1971. White, who was listed in Who's Who of College Athletes, was captain of the team and compiled a 54-4 record in varsity competition at Lincoln where an injury the week of the nationals prevented him from competing in the 1972 championships. White also attended California State University in Dominguez Hills, Calif.



Ivan Angelo Wiggins, II (Class of 2017)

Sterling High School

A 2003 graduate, Wiggins amassed four district championships (1 in District 30 and 3 in District 28) and three Region 7 championships on his way to four NJSIAA state place finishes. As a freshman at 103 pounds, Wiggins advanced to the state finals via a fall in 1:11 and decisions of 10-6, 7-6 and 5-2 before losing the gold medal match to Matt Anderson of South Plainfield. After his silver medal finish in '01, Wiggins came back to the state tournament at the same weight, but dropped his semifinal match to C.J. Mays of Oakcrest to force him into the wrestlebacks, where he emerged with 5th place honors. In '02 Wiggins moved up to 112 pounds and had his best season. Wiggins opened his bid for a state title with a fall over Stephan Thompson of Winslow Twp, and then followed with a 16-5 major decision over Ryan Strobel of Pascack Hills in the quarterfinals and a 4-1 decision over Dan Hilt of Manalapan in the semifinals. Once again in the state finals, Wiggins didn't disappoint; he won an 8-4 decision over Zack Tanelli of Millburn to earn gold in the NJSIAA Championships. For his senior campaign, Wiggins wrestled up at 130 pounds seeking to defend his title, but had a heart-breaking decision in the semifinals in a tie-breaker to Ryan Bridge of Absegami. Once again in the wrestlebacks, Wiggins made quick work of grasping the bronze medal, pinning Rory O'Donnell of St. Joe's Montvale in 1:48. Not quite ready to finish his high school career, Wiggins traveled to Senior Nationals where he claimed silver medal honors and ended his high school career with a record of 128-15. Upon graduation, Wiggins attended the University of Northern Iowa, and while there he impressed, placing 3rd in the UNI Open, then followed with a 4th place finish in the Kaufman-Brand Open. Wiggins cites being coached by fellow inductee, Mike Ahern, in his state final win as one of the highlights of his career. Wiggins also states wrestling for Hall of Fame coach Dale Bonsall ('95) at Team Renegade and competing with the Voorhees Youth Program, where he was coached by Bob Stinson, Sr. and his father, Ivan, Sr. were very meaningful to him. The camaraderie Wiggins experienced with all those he competed during his youth wrestling career is something he claims is due to his father's selflessness in committing to his successes on the mat and in life, and he dedicates his Induction night to him. Wiggins worked with his father at Kraemer Gunite, Inc., prior to Ivan, Senior's passing in 2015. A bachelor, Wiggins lives in Somerdale, NJ.



Robert W. Wilkins (Class of 2008)
Rancocas Valley Regional High School

A 1974 graduate, Wilkins was a two-time District 26 champion and earned a trip to the state tournament his senior year (the first year first and second place finishers from each of the eight regions competed in the state championships) by winning Region 7. He reeled off three wins in the state tournament, including a 6-5 win over 23-1 Matt Reidel of Moorestown (a Region 8 runner-up) in the semifinals. Wilkins lost in the state finals to Woodbury's Howard Pendleton in a Region 7 rematch. Wilkins, 23-6 as a senior, compiled a 36-17-1 career at Rancocas Valley. He went on to Trenton State College and twice won Metropolitan Championships while posting a 60-15 record before graduating in 1978.



Charles E. (Chuck) Williamson Sr. (Class of 1989)
Gloucester County College

A 1960 graduate of Woodbury High School, Williamson played football for the Thundering Herd and at West Chester University. But his attention turned to wrestling in 1965 when he and Joe Folcarelli started the wrestling program at Gateway High School. Williamson spent the ensuing years building the Gateway program, capping his stint by sharing the Olympic Conference title with Edgewood in 1968. Williamson was then lured by athletic director Ed Creutzinger to Gloucester County College where he started its wrestling program. During a 16-year career at Gloucester CC, Williamson has developed a program that is respected nationally. He has compiled a gaudy 205-41-4 record at Gloucester CC, an .801 percentage, and has a combined career coaching record of 233-63-4. His 205 Junior College wins ranks him 11th nationally among active Junior College coaches. His Roadrunner teams have been ranked nationally 13 of 16 years and were ranked No. 1 in the nation heading into the 1971 national tournament. His 1973-74 team finished 17-0 and ended up ranked 11th nationally. His 1988 team finished fifth in the national tournament and last year's team lived up to its No. 4 national ranking with a fourth-place finish in the nationals with four individual All-Americans. Williamson has produced 43 Academic All-Americans, 34 Mid-Atlantic Zone Champions, 57 Garden State Conference first-team selections and 17 Junior College All-Americans. His teams have won eight Garden State Conference and four Mid-Atlantic zone titles. An inductee into the Gloucester County College Sports Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Hall of Fame in 1988, Williamson was inducted into the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame last March. Williamson, who also played a significant role in founding the Gloucester County Junior Wrestling League, coached both his sons, Chuck Jr. and Jim, at Gloucester CC and has had his son Chuck Jr. as associate head coach the last five years.



Ed Witzcak (Class of 1996)
Lenape High School

A 1965 graduate, Witzcak was twice a district champion ó at 106 in 1963 and 115 in 1965. He was Lenapeís first district champion and voted the teamís Outstanding Wrestler as a sophomore. His senior year he captained the team, won the Region 7 115-pound title and placed third in the state, losing by refereeís decision in the semifinals and winning by refereeís decision in the consolations. His 34-9-2 career record included 19 pins, including 13 in the first period. Ed, who also participated three years in football, was named Outstanding Senior Athlete at Lenape. He wrestled a year at Wilkes College, going 12-3, placing third in the MAC Tournament and earning a trip to the Nationals. He also attended Cumberland County where he played soccer and scored the first goal in that schoolís history, and graduated from Sam Houston State University, where he played intramural football, in 1970. Ed coached 10 years (1970-80) under Sam Evangelista at Lenape, coached five years in the midget ranks and has been a volunteer assistant the last seven years under Dave Chambers at Cherokee.



Randy Everett Worrell (Class of 1997)
Shawnee High School

A 1985 graduate, Worrell was a three-time District 26 champion 158 pounds in 1983 and 1984, 170 in 1985 and a three-time Region 7 champion under veteran coach Roger Pullen. In his three trips to the state tournament, Worrell went 1-1 and did not place in an injury-filled senior year. His high school career record was 89-6-0, and two of the six losses he had were avenged in subsequent rematches. Worrell continued his wrestling career at Delaware Valley College where he placed seventh in the NCAA Division III national tournament as a sophomore and first as a senior. He was the recipient of the Middle Atlantic Conference Tournament's Outstanding Wrestler Award in 1989. The two-time All-American finished his collegiate career with a 105-7-1 record. Worrell considers his most memorable moment in high school winning the Region 7 title in 1983; and his collegiate career highlight winning the national title in 1989.



James R. Wright (Class of 2004)
Woodbury High School

A 1962 graduate, Wright twice won the District 15 title (at 98 and 106 pounds). He placed second to Collingswood's Jim Robertson in Region 4 in 1961 and defeated Fred Makarow of Millville a year later to win the 106-pound title. Wright lost in the 106-pound state finals to Ken Carswell of Washington to culminate a 25-3 career over his last two years at Woodbury. Wright, who was co-captain of the cross country team as a senior and the team captain and No. 1 singles player in tennis his junior and senior years, went on to Brigham Young University on a wrestling scholarship. He wrestled one year of varsity (14-2) and placed third in the Western Athletic Conference in 1963 before a knee injury forced his retirement from the sport in 1964. Following graduation from BYU, Wright taught school in Utah, then at Woodbury (head wrestling coach 1968-70) and started an intramural wrestling program in the school that helped produce eventual state champion Howard Pendleton. Wright left teaching to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1971 and became a Special Agent for the FBI. He worked in New Haven, CT, San Francisco, CA (23 years) and Salt Lake City, Utah. Among his many high profile cases were the Patricia Hearst Kidnapping (1974-75), the Chowchilla, California kidnapping of a bus load of school children (1976), the Rev. Jim Jones Peoples' Temple mass suicide of 913 members (1978), the Walker/Whitworth espionage case where classified information was sold to the Soviet Union (1986); the Freeman Montana case (1996); and the Theodore John Kaczynski Unibomber case (1996).



Kyle Young (Class of 2017) Cherry Hill West High School

A 1992 graduate, Young was a three-time District 27 Champion, a two-time Region 7 Champion and a three-time state qualifier. As a sophomore, Young fell ill after qualifying in the region tournament and had to withdraw from the state tournament. The following year, Young moved up to 112 pounds but dropped his pre-quarterfinal match and his first wrestleback and did not place. As a senior at 119 pounds, Young had his best finish at the NJSIAA State Tournament. He began his run to the finals by winning by fall over Bernie Tennant of Absegami in 3:54 in the pre-quarterfinals, winning by fall over Washington Township's Mike Sandelier in 2:43 in the quarterfinals and then capped off the semifinals by once again winning by fall over Passaic Valley's Anthony Gencarelli in 5:42. Not quite able to overcome Doug Detrick of Warren Hills, in the finals, Young took the silver medal and completed his high school career with a 92-20 record. Upon graduation, Young enrolled in Southern Connecticut State College. Once again, Young demonstrated his mat prowess by winning the Coast Guard Tournament, the Old Bridge Collegiate bracket at 135 pounds and finished as a bronze medalist in the college's regional qualifier for the National Tournament in '94. Though Young did not earn All-American status, his desire to continue in the sport took shape in the form of coaching, where after college he aided by coaching wrestlers at his high school alma mater as a volunteer as his time permitted. A resident of Philadelphia, Young decided to try his hand coaching closer to his home, and in 2014 he agreed to coach for free at Roman Catholic Parochial High School. Facing a daunting challenge in the basketball mecca of Philadelphia, Young's team won only two matches during his first year, but improved each year after he began coaching there. In 2015, Young took over as the school's head coach. After only three years under Young's tutelage, Roman Catholic had the school's first individual Public Catholic League Champion who also won District 12 Championship honors. In 2017 his team made the playoffs for the first time since 2008 and qualified 8 wrestlers for the Region Tournament. The same team produced the first 2 wrestlers to ever qualify for the Pennsylvania State Tournament in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Young delights in seeing the improvement his team has made, and has enjoyed seeing the team, which won only 2 matches his first year, improve its record to a season which produced 15 victories in 2017. Young cites his success at Roman Catholic as a most memorable moment in his wrestling career. A personal highlight of Young's came during the semifinals of the '92 NJSIAA State Tournament; trailing 10-6 to Anthony Gencarelli (Passaic Valley), Young hit a throw which produced a victory by fall and propelled him into the state finals. Single, Young lives in Philadelphia and works there as an IT consultant for the Franklin Recruitment Group.



Todd P. Young (Class of 2003)
Haddon Township High School

A 1987 graduate, Young started wrestling competitively in the 8th grade. He went on to wrestle for Hall of Famer Miller Preston. Young was a two- time Haddon Township Christmas Tournament champion, and a four-time District 28 and two-time Region 7 champion. After a third-place finish in the state tournament as a junior, he capped a 33-0 senior season and a 96-9-1 career by winning the 129-pound state championship in 1987. His team went 19-2 his senior year and won the South Jersey Group 2 championship. Young said his most memorable moment in wrestling was in the 119-pound finals in the 1985 Haddon Township Christmas Tournament. Losing 11-0 to Eastern's Mark Kelly midway through the second period, Young battled back before losing 12-11 but said the experience taught him more in six minutes than any practice, camp or match - to believe in inner strength and confidence and never give up. Young wrestled a year at Rider University before concentrating on studies and moving into the business world. He recently moved back to the area after spending nine years in San Diego, Calif. He intends to get involved again in wrestling as a volunteer coach for Haddonfield High School under his cousin Chuck Klaus.



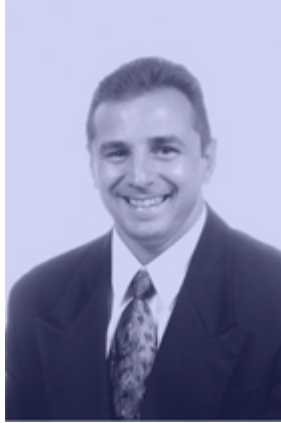
Michael Zechman (Class of 2016)
Woodbury High School

A 1997 graduate of Woodbury, Zechman won the Region 8 Championship as a freshman at 103 pounds, a feat which he considers one of the highlights in his wrestling career. At the state tournament that year ('94), Zechman dropped his first match to Aaron Taylor of Camden Catholic, then won his first wrestleback match by defeating Chris Biank of Governor Livingston, but bowed out of the tournament after suffering a second round setback to Brad Bauer of Lenape. Zechman's next trip to the state tournament came at 119 his junior year. After placing 2nd in both districts and regions to Jason Gardner of West Deptford, Zechman reeled off a 7-5 win over Steve Napolitano of Haddon Heights before dropping a close 1-0 decision to Aaron Taylor of Camden Catholic. Zechman entered the wrestlebacks, but lost a tough match to his South River opponent. After placing 3rd in both District 29 and Region 8, he found himself a state qualifier once again, and he made the most of it by winning by fall in 4:24 over Todd Trampe of Delsea, then following that win by decisions over Gary Mikolay of Lenape Valley (8-4) and Blair Tugman of Middletown (8-5). Having reached the finals after being the last-place qualifier in a very tough 119 pound weight class is another of Zechman's career highlights. Undaunted by his tough 9-8 state final loss to Russ Witt of Lacey, Zechman took his career record of 103-19 to TCNJ where he continued his success by winning the Nassau Open Tournament and the College of New Jersey Open Tournament. His collegiate career was cut short after accumulating a record of 27-9 due to a neck injury. Zechman left TCNJ to pursue a career in business, but made time to serve as an assistant coach before returning to college to earn BS and MS degrees from Wilmington University in 2012. Zechman's coaching career includes serving as an assistant at Sterling High School for two years, at Paul VI High School for four years and one year at Eastern High School before he began teaching and assisting at Cherokee High School. Still wanting the challenge wrestling had to offer in another area, Zechman became a varsity official in 2012 and is still active in officiating at several of the higher-end tournaments throughout South Jersey.



Alan E. Zellner (Class of 2005)
Williamstown High School

A 1968 graduate, Zellner compiled a 37-7-1 career record while winning two Highland Christmas Tournament titles and placing second in the state as a senior. Zellner was 3rd in District 30 as a sophomore and 2nd as a junior. As a senior, Zellner won the Outstanding Wrestler Award in District 30 and Region 4 on the way to winning the 148-pound title. After a 14-0 win in the district final and a first-period fall over Vineland's Dave Homiak in the regional final, Zellner won by fall in the state semifinal before losing by decision to Gary Markowski of Newton. A two-time All-Olympic Conference selection in wrestling who won 14 of his 20 matches by fall, Zellner scored a perfect 60 team points in dual meet competition. Zellner, his high school's "Underclassmen Athlete of the Year" in 1967, won seven varsity letters (two in football and baseball, three in wrestling). Zellner went on to Wilkes College where he compiled a 65-11 record and won three Middle Atlantic Conference championships (twice winning the Outstanding Wrestler Award). The 1972 Wilkes graduate was 4th in the NCAA College Division Nationals to gain All-American honors. He held the Wilkes record for most team points and most falls in a season, and most falls in a career, for 30 years. He was the head coach one year at Williamstown, five years at Kutztown University and at Wilkes from 1996 until retiring in 2003. A 32-year member of the National Wrestling Coaches Association, Zellner also served as a wrestling official from 1975-1984.



Andy Zuckerman (Class of 1993) Northern Burlington High School

A 1978 graduate, Zuckerman was a three-time district champion, a regional champion, a state champion in 1977 and a state runner-up in 1978. Zuckerman compiled an impressive 82-5-0 record in high school and later wrestled at Trenton State under Coach Dave Icenhower, where he had a modest 42-12 record. Zuckerman got his feet wet coaching in South Jersey at Pennsauken Tech before moving on to Pemberton Township High School. In seven years with Pemberton through 1993, Zuckerman coached 15 district, six sectional and one state champion. His teams have been ranked among the top 20 teams in South Jersey each year. He was selected District 25 Coach of the Year twice and had compiled a 74-43-2 coaching record through 1993. His most memorable moments in high school wrestling were winning the 1977 state championship and coaching his first state champ, Kemal Pegram in 1990. He coached Region 7 in the Garden State Games the summers of 1991 and 1992, where his team finished third and first, respectively.

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Comments and Suggestions to howieoba@yahoo.com or jomarinelli4@gmail.com