

Inductee Biographies



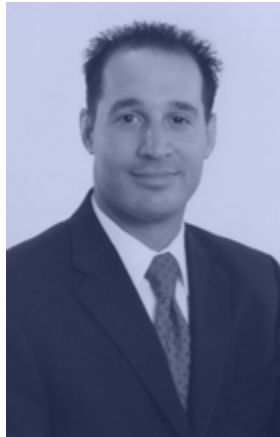
Michael Ahern (Class of 2017)
Paul VI High School

A 1989 graduate, Ahern won three District 28 Championships, three Region 7 Championships and was named the outstanding wrestler in Region 7 in '89. Ahern made three state tournament appearances with a 7th place finish in '88 and 6th place at 119 pounds in '89 being his best finish. Ahern graduated with a high school career record of 101-25 before enrolling in Elizabethtown College, where he went on to excel. Among his many achievements at the college level include winning numerous tournaments, including three Middle Atlantic Conference championships, the last of which earned him the conference's outstanding wrestler award. A four-time Division III qualifier, Ahern concluded his college career with a record of 122-16, the all-time school wins total which still stands today. In '93, Ahern was named Male Athlete of the Year at Elizabethtown, and his credentials there earned him induction into their hall of fame in 2013. His college career over, Ahern dedicated himself to coaching where he continued to excel. His coaching career began at Penns Grove High School in '95, where, under his tutelage, the team captured the Tri-County Classic Conference Championship, and he was named District 31 and Tri-County Coach of the Year. Ahern took over as head coach at Sterling High School from 1996-2002. He was named as the District 30 Coach of the Year in '98, and his teams captured Group II South Jersey Championships in '01 and '02. Ahern moved on to take over as head coach at Haddon Heights for a period of five years. His combined coaching career wins total was 120-133. Along this successful journey, Ahern coached 22 district champions, 9 region champions and 3 state champions. Ahern is very proud of starting the Camden County Tournament with fellow Hall of Fame coaches, Chuck Klaus ('11) and Chris Ormsby ('15). He also takes pride in starting the George Maier Invitational Tournament, which is hosted at Haddon Heights High School. Ahern cites his career highlights as being named the outstanding wrestler for his Region 7 title win over Chee Santone in '89. Ahern adds that being in the corner for his three state champions (Mark Manchio, Ivan Wiggins and Alex Thompson) were memorable moments in his career. Currently, a social studies teacher at Clayton High School, Ahern lives in Blackwood where he shares time with his daughter, Aubrey (8) and spends time with long-time girlfriend, Kim Mannino.



Al Aires (Class of 2011)
Jackson Memorial High School

A 1980 graduate of Central Regional High School, Aires was a two-time District 25 and two-time Region 7 champion. In his junior year he won his first two matches in the state tournament 13-4 and 10-7 before losing a criteria decision in overtime in the semifinals to eventual state champion Keith Alston of Neptune. Aires lost his third-place bout 3-1 and finished the season 26-3. As a senior he carried a 25-0-1 record into the state tournament and was seeded No. 1. Aires was upset 7-4 in overtime to eventual state runner-up Phil Gotlick of Westfield. Aires finished with a career record of 89-9-1. A two-time high school All-American in baseball, Aires finished with nine varsity letters competing in football, wrestling and baseball. He went on to Gloucester County College where he earned All-American honors and compiled an 83-4 record. He graduated from Temple University in 1985 and was 50-15 competing for the Owls. As a coach at Jackson Memorial, he was a five-time District 24 Coach of the Year and the Region 6 Coach of the Year in 2000. He compiled a career coaching record of 159-58-1 and had 55 District and 15 Region 6 champions. He had 15 state placewinners, including three state champions. His teams won seven District 24 and two Divisional Championships and one overall Shore Conference title. He previously was inducted into the Region 6 Hall of Fame along with the Central Regional Hall of Fame.



Joe Alexander (Class of 2012)
Delsea Regional High School

A 1999 graduate, Joe distinguished himself by winning four District 31 titles, a Region 8 title, and two state titles. After qualifying for the state tournament at 103 pounds as a freshman, success seemed in the future for this young wrestler. He did not disappoint, winning a Region 8 title as a sophomore, and capping off a 33-1 1997 campaign by earning decisions against his state tournament opponents of 3-0, 10-4, and 7-3 before scoring a 7-4 victory over Bob Piccone of Phillipsburg in the state final at 103 pounds. This was followed by another outstanding year that saw Alexander compiling state tournament wins of 12-1, a fall in 3:54, a 5-1 decision, a 5-0 decision, and culminated with a 4-2 decision over highly-regarded Mark Manchio of Sterling to earn his second state crown at 112 pounds. In 1999, Alexander once again reached the state finals with decisions of 6-3, 5-0, and 8-2 before dropping his state final match by a point to the wrestler he defeated for his second title the year before, thus capping an outstanding high school career with a 126-11 record. Along the way Alexander garnered high school All-American status in freestyle four times as a state runner-up and a three-time champion. His fondest memories from his high school career include recalling how he jumped into the arms of Hall of Fame coach, Steve Iles after his state finals victory in 1997, and shaking his father's hand after his victory in the state tournament in 1998. He credits Delsea's coaching staff, faculty and administration for their unyielding support which led to his success. Upon graduation from Delsea Regional, Alexander moved on to the University of Virginia, where he was a two-time runner-up in the ACC Tournament in 2001 and 2003, and an ACC Tournament champion in 2002. Joe was injured a lot in college. He had three knee surgeries within a year and half, slipped a disk in his neck along with a host of other injuries.



Doug Arena (Class of 2011)
Paul VI High School

The 1987 Paul VI graduate had a memorable 33-0 senior campaign on the way to a 58-8-1 career record. In his senior year Doug was a District 28, Region 7 and, ultimately, a state champion at heavyweight. After opening the state tournament with a 7-6 decision and 3:56 fall, Arena defeated top-seeded and 26-0 Robert Coward of Newton in the semifinals 6-4. He completed his undefeated season with an 8-8, 1-1 overtime win decided on criteria No. 5 (Doug's escape in overtime out-weighed his opponent's stalling point with seconds remaining) to decision Ives Viola of Colonia. The win over Viola capped a season that also featured Arena battling returning state runner-up Deron Dobzanski of Paulsboro in late January in a match-up of unbeaten heavyweights and unbeaten teams. After nearly pinning Dobzanski in the second period, Arena won his bout 12-5 as Paul VI lost a thrilling 23-22 dual meet. Doug went on to wrestle at East Stroudsburg University, finishing with a 25-18 record that included a semifinal match with Kurt Angle of Clarion (a three-time NCAA finalist and a national champion in 1990 and 1992) in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Tournament. Arena served as assistant coach for Camden Catholic (1993-1995) and Paul VI (2008-2011).



Steve Anuszewski (Class of 2013)
Paulsboro High School

Anuszewski, a 1976 graduate of Paulsboro High School, was a two-year varsity starter and was a District 29 runner-up before being sidelined with an injury his senior year. Upon graduation Anuszewski attended and competed for Western Maryland College, and earning a 6th place finish in the MACs before he graduated in 1980 where he assumed an assistant coaching position at his college alma mater for one year. Although, his wrestling career as a competitor over, Anuszewski began his service to the sport of wrestling. Anuszewski served as an assistant coach at Woodbury for four years and has been a volunteer assistant coach at Paulsboro from 1986 to the present. Anuszewski has been the clerk and announcer at District 29 from 1988-1999 and has served as the Region 8 Ranking Chairman and Region 8 Seeding Committee Clerk from 1991 to the present, and from 2000 to the present, he has been the District 29 Tournament Director. In 2000 Anuszewski chaired the NJSIAA District Realignment Committee. Anuszewski has been a member of the NJSIAA State Team Wrestling Championship's Seeding Committee since 1999, and from 2002 has been the Tournament Clerk of the NJSIAA Wrestling Championships. He has also served as the site manager of the state's hydration testing from 2006 to 2011. From 2008 Anuszewski has been the Director of the Border Battle/Vogeding Tournament. Anuszewski helped take the lead working with Escape Sports and the NWCA and Track Wrestling to improve wrestling through technology. He has worked to help develop the NJSIAA Tournament into its present-day format. In 2007-08, Anuszewski served the National Wrestling Coaches Association as a NJ State Representative, and has served as Intermat's N.J. State Representative from 2003-08. A most memorable moment in Anuszewski's career came when Paulsboro's 1999 team defeated Phillipsburg 28-27 in their infamous "Pit." Another highlight came when, in 1991-92 Anuszewski witnessed Matt Suter and Larry DeVault win State Championships. Steve was instrumental in founding the Paulsboro Sports Hall of Fame in 1994. Overall, Anuszewski has been involved with wrestling for over forty years.



John P. Atkinson (Class of 2017)
Rahway High School

A 1953 graduate, Atkinson wrestled three years at the varsity level for Rahway before moving on to compete for Rutgers University, but was drafted into the Army Security Agency (ASA) shortly after entering college. Atkinson, a Korean War vet, proudly served his country in the ASA as a decoder of classified information. Upon completing his tour, 1953 – 1956, in the ASA, Atkinson attended Springfield College for a year before going into business with his father, then working for Delta Airlines in Florida for ten years. It was after his tenure with Delta that Atkinson moved to Woodbury, NJ, where his wrestling odyssey began. Over the past 41 years Atkinson has dedicated himself as a youth coach in both baseball and wrestling and as a scorekeeper and timer at all levels of high school wrestling. Aside from watching his sons compete in wrestling for Woodbury, Atkinson recalls his little league baseball team winning 53 straight regular season games as highlights of his sports career. He also served as a soccer, baseball and softball official for 10 years. As a result of his many years of scorekeeping at Woodbury, Atkinson became a household name, which led to his working as a scorer at the junior college level at Gloucester County College for two years and as a multi-year District 29 scorer as well as the scorer for the South Jersey Group Championships. Not content to stop volunteering at the local level, Atkinson moved on to serve as a timekeeper at the NJ State Group Championships held at the Pinebelt Arena and the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Individual Championships where he acted as the tournament's announcer, registration clerk and as a timekeeper. Indeed, Atkinson's prowess in these capacities at the various levels led to well over fifteen years of service to the state of NJ at the highest levels. Atkinson complemented his volunteer work by serving as a tireless worker for the Woodbury Booster Club for over 20 years and as a Platinum Club member of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame, serving on the organization's executive committee for another dozen years. His countless hours of volunteer work on numerous wrestling fronts has distinguished Atkinson as the gold standard for the word, "contributor." Participating on Rahway's 1953 runner-up team in the NJ State Team Championships stands out as a most memorable moment in Atkinson's wrestling career and also being recognized by the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association for his contributions to the sport of wrestling. Retired as a salesman from Simonik, an agent of Allied Van Lines, Atkinson lives in West Deptford with Marjorie, his wife of 59 years. They have five children: John (55), Jeff (53), Steven (52) and twins, Tracey and Janet (45).



Gregory Austin (Class of 2017)
Ocean City High School

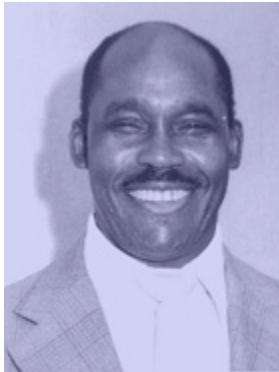
A 1999 graduate, Austin captured three District 32 Championships, one Region 8 Championship and earned two trips to the NJSIAA Tournament. In 1998, wrestling at 125 pounds, Austin won a 10-3 decision over Bill Heverly of Camden Catholic, before dropping a 3-0 decision to Jason Mercado of Pitman. This loss put Austin in the wrestlebacks, where he won by forfeit over Josh Tresslar of Belvidere. The ensuing match resulted in a narrow 4-2 loss to Gary Mickolay of Lenape Valley, but earned Austin 7th place honors. Up two weight classes the following year (135), Austin reeled off a pre-quarterfinal technical fall over Ray Weed of Absegami, 18-2 (4:32), and then followed with a quarterfinal 11-3 major decision over Ken Rodriguez of Bound Brook. In the semifinals, a 7-4 victory over Dave Miller of Lenape earned Austin a berth in the finals. Austin lost a heart-breaking 11-7 match to Chris Bitetto of Hackensack to come away as the silver medalist and a career record of 105-14. Austin continued his education and wrestling career at Rutgers University. Once again, Austin demonstrated prowess on the mat, placing all four varsity years in the prestigious E.I.W.A. Tournament, but it was his two fourth place finishes in '02 and '03 that qualified him for the Division I NCAA Tournament at 149 pounds. Though Austin did not place in the tournament, he finished his collegiate career with an impressive record of 106-44. Unable to step away from wrestling, Austin has been volunteering as an assistant at Ocean City High School as often as his job permits. Austin cites winning a Region 8 Championship and finishing as the state's silver medalist in '99 as highlights of his wrestling career. He is also very proud of his two trips to the Division I NCAA Tournament. Many of Austin's memorable moments in the sport come from what he has learned from competing at the Division I level, and he recalls how two losses at the hands of NCAA Champions, Michael Lightner of Oklahoma and Jared Lawrence of Minnesota have helped him in his perspective of how to succeed in life through perseverance. Austin is employed by the State of New Jersey. He lives in Upper Township, NJ with his wife, Kristen, and their two children, daughter, Blake (4) and son, Carter (2).



Anthony Baldosaro (Class of 2025)

Eastern Regional High School

During his high school career, Anthony not only excelled at the N.J.I.A.A. championships, but distinguished himself in both the pre and post wrestling seasons. Anthony was a three-time Beast of the East medalist, placing second in '08 and '10 and winning this highly esteemed tournament in '09 and added a Fargo freestyle title as a cadet in '08, prior to his junior year in high school. As a high school standout, Anthony won two District 31 and two Region 8 titles, competing for Delsea, then added a pair of District 26 and Region 7 titles after transferring to Eastern. As a frosh, competing at 135 pounds, Anthony went 5-2 and came away with fourth place honors at the state tournament in Atlantic City. The following year at 140 pounds and still competing for Delsea, Anthony opened at Boardwalk Hall with a fall over Ramon Santiago (Sayerville) in 4:35, then won a 6-4 decision, upending Passaic Valley's Ryan Dunphy before besting Troy Hernandez (Kittatinny) in the semifinals via a 5-3 verdict. Anthony met Trevor Melde, the defending state champion from DePaul, in the finals and defeated him (6-0) to earn his first state title. His junior year, competing for Eastern, Anthony entered the state tournament at 140 pounds and began his bid for a second title. He got things rolling with two major decisions, knocking off Oliver Brukart (Phillipsburg), 8-0 and Wall Township's Mike Tancredi, 14-3. In the semifinals, Anthony outpointed his quarterfinal opponent from the year before, Ryan Dunphy (Passaic Valley) by a 9-3 decision. This set up a chance for a second state title, which Anthony got by downing Bishop Ahr's Joe McAuley, 7-3. As a senior, again at 140, Anthony suffered a pair of unexpected losses that ended his run for a third title, but not before he established a career record of 149-11 and being named the Philadelphia Inquirer's Wrestler of the Year ('08 and '09). Upon graduating, Anthony enrolled at the University of Iowa, but left to be closer to his family in NJ. Prior to serving four years in the United States Marine Corp as a cyber network specialist, he coached at Bishop Eustace ('11-'13). His military training led to his career in the field of IT. Currently employed by Enterprise Computing Solutions as a senior systems engineer, Anthony lives in Mission Viejo, California with his wife, Tyler.



Herb Baptiste (Class of 1980)
Woodbury High School

A 1943 graduate, Baptiste was unbeaten in two years of varsity competition in 1942 and 1943 under Coach Cliff Rubicam. Baptiste became South Jersey's first two-time state champion, winning by fall as a junior and 9-3 his senior year. In addition to his success in wrestling, Baptiste was considered one of the finest football players of his time. After serving in the Armed Forces, Baptiste attended Virginia State for two years before settling down in Woodbury and joining the work force.



Anthony (Butch) Barber (Class of 1988)
Paulsboro High School

After losing in the District 7 tournament as a junior, Anthony (Butch) Barber capped an impressive career by winning the state heavyweight championship in 1961. Along the way to winning the state title, Barber was able to avenge his only loss during his senior season with a victory over Pennsville's Olaf Drozdov in the South Jersey Championships. During the dual meet season, Drozdov beat Barber, 4-3. Barber, a 197-pounder who also played football and baseball, then reeled off 10 consecutive pins, won the District 15 title and beat Drozdov 7-2 in the Region 4 finals in the first year of regional competition in the state. Barber won his state semifinal in the Rutgers University gymnasium by fall before winning by decision over John Illengwarth of Roselle Park, 1-1, 3-0 in overtime in the state finals. Barber sustained just two losses in the last two years of his three-year varsity career. Coached by Ed Pszwaro, a member of the first class of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame, Barber continued his wrestling career in AAIJ competition during the summer of 1961 following his graduation from Paulsboro. He went on to defeat all comers, including college wrestlers, to win the Middle-Atlantic States heavyweight championship.



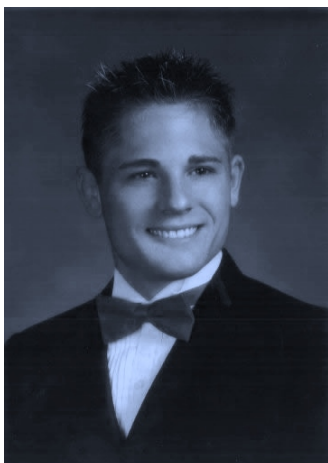
Gene Barber (Class of 1997)
Absegami High School

A 1969 graduate of Paulsboro High School, Barber compiled a 36-5-1 varsity record under Hall of Famer Sam Evangelista. He won a District 29 title (and received the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler Award) and placed third in Region 4 as a senior. Barber went on to Camden County College under coach Dennis Hurley (a Hall of Fame inductee in 1990) and compiled a 53-5 record in two seasons, twice winning Region XIX championships and placing second in the Junior College Nationals as a sophomore. Barber continued his wrestling at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) where he compiled an 80-5-0 record in two seasons. He finished third in the NCAA Division III nationals and second in the NCAA Division I nationals his senior year. He was a four-time All-America recipient (for Camden CC in 1971, for a third-place finish in NCAA Division III in 1972 and for his NCAA College Division and NCAA University Division placements in 1973). In 20 years as a head coach at Absegami through the 1997 season, Barber's teams compiled a record of 276-84-3 and won six district titles and seven Cape-Atlantic League titles. Barber's Braves won the South Jersey Group 3 title and finished third in the state in 1997. The Braves were selected the No. 1 team in South Jersey and recipient of the Courier-Post Cup.



Robert G. (Scoobie) Baylor (Class of 1991)
Paulsboro High School

A 1965 graduate, Baylor became as dominant a heavyweight on the South Jersey scene as Hall of Fame inductees Herb Baptiste of Woodbury, a 2-time state champ, and state champions Stanley "Bones" Howard and Anthony "Butchie" Barber of Paulsboro. Baylor lost one varsity dual meet in three years and was a three-time District 15 champion on the way to a 40-5-1 record. Baylor started as a sophomore for Ed Pszwaro, won Region 4 and was second in the state. The following year Baylor, a standout in football (All-South Jersey Group 3) and track (South Jersey record 58-81/2 with the 12-pound shot put, which stood until 1971), lost in the Region 4 semifinals. Coach Sam Evangelista got his big guy ready in Baylor's senior year and Baylor again won Region 4 and advanced to the state finals. There he lost to returning state champ Pete Jilleba of Madison 7-3. Baylor went to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and was a 4-year starter in football and was a team co-captain and All-conference (CIAA) in 1969.



Brandon Becker (Class of 2016)

Kingsway Regional High School

A 2003 graduate of Kingsway, Becker was a four-time District 31 Champion, a two-time Region 8 Champion, a winner of the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament and a four-time state place winner. Entering the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament at 130 pounds at the Meadowlands as a freshman, Becker lost to the defending State Champion in his first match, but wrestled back to claim 5th place honors. Competing his sophomore year in the State Tournament in Atlantic City at 140 pounds, Becker advanced to the semi-final round before dropping a decision to the eventual State Champion but once again, wrestled back to earn the bronze medal. Becker's junior campaign at 145 pounds, again, wrestling in Atlantic City, Becker had his best finish. He won by fall in 5:35, won a 9-4 decision, won again by fall (5:42) then defeated Ocean City's Joe Galante via an 8-2 decision to capture the elusive gold medal. In Becker's final trip to Atlantic in '03, he was upset by the eventual State Champion in the quarter-final round, and once again, he wrestled back to earn the bronze for the second time by besting Justin Koehler of Phillipsburg, 3-0 in the consolation finals. Becker graduated in '03 and closed out his high school career with a record of 143-12 before moving on to Indiana University, where he wrestled in the Big 10 Conference, arguably the toughest conference in the nation. At Indiana, Becker was a 4th place finisher in the Midlands Tournament in '07 before earning runner-up honors in both the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational and the Big 10 Tournament in '08. Becker's college career record was 119-36 with all matches being wrestled at 157 pounds. Included in these victories were 3 Division I All-American finishes. Becker's All-American finishes included 5th place in '05, 7th place in '06 and 4th place in '08, a feat achieved by only an elite few in South Jersey. Becker says his successes were unforgettable, but states that the most memorable things he took from the sport were the bonds he formed with his competitors, coaches and teammates, the lasting friendships he made and the opportunities he was afforded through the sport. Becker does consider earning a Beast of the East title, his State Championship and his 3 All-American finishes as career highlights. After graduating in '08 with a degree in General Studies, Becker served as a coach on the staff at Rutgers University for two years before spending two more years at his college alma mater.



Troy Bennett (Class of 2014)
Paulsboro High School

A 2000 graduate of Paulsboro High School, Bennett was a four-time District 29 Champion and a three-time Region 8 Champion. During Bennett's sophomore campaign at the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament in '98, he earned 5th place honors at 189 pounds. Bennett defeated Camden's Kendalle Gibson, 9-6 and Delaware Valley's Bob Brunner, 5-1, before dropping his semi-final match to the defending State Champion, Damion Hahn of Lakewood. Unfortunately, Bennett lost a rematch to Kendalle Gibson in the wrestle backs, 7-5, but he rebounded by pinning Almeen Swint of Irvington in 2:27, to earn a 5th place medal. The following year, again at 189 pounds, Bennett ran off decisions of 13-1, 6-1 and 7-0 before losing to his nemesis, Damion Hahn, of Lakewood in the State Finals. The year 2000 saw Bennett move up to 215 pounds, and once again, N.J.S.I.A.A. honors were destined for him as he reeled off a 7-3 decision, followed by an :18 fall and a 5-1 decision before losing his State Final match to Hunterdon Central's Mike Carr, 5-2. Bennett finished his high school career with a record of 126-12. Bennett was always proud of his N.J.S.I.A.A. achievements; however, always a team player, he cites his Paulsboro team's back-to-back #1 finishes in the state in '99 and '00 as the highlights of his career. Bennett credits his team's victory over Phillipsburg in '99 in their gym, infamously dubbed "The Pit," as being his most memorable moment in his wrestling career. Upon graduating from Paulsboro, Bennett accepted a football scholarship to Temple University where he played four years. Bennett finished at Temple in 2004. Troy lives in Deptford, and serves as a law enforcement officer in Logan Township.



Victor Bernardino (Class of 2011)
Paulsboro High School

A 1989 graduate, Bernardino was a three-year varsity starter and three-time All-Colonial Conference selection. He was a two-time District 29 champion (at 103 and 125 pounds) and a Region 8 runner-up in 1989 after finishing third in 1988. Bernardino, the team captain, culminated a 33-3 campaign in 1989 with a second-place finish in the state tournament. After wins of 12-2, 11-6, 4-3 and 7-6, Bernardino lost 4-3 to Tom Walsh of Paul VI in the state final to finish up an 83-16 career. He continued his wrestling at Franklin & Marshall College and had a career record of 82-21-3 before graduating in 1994. He was a two-year team captain and was ranked 15th in the country by Amateur Wrestling News his junior year and 11th as a senior. Among his tournament wins were the Millersville Invitational two times, Central Jersey Open twice and the Bloomsburg Invitational. Bernardino also finished sixth, fourth, and first in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) Championships. He represented the USA in the Rackozy Cup in Budapest, Bulgaria, and finished third. He was F&M's Male Athlete of the Year in 1994 and Co-Wrestler of the Year by the SJWCOA.



Raamiah Bethea (Class of 2026)
Trenton Central High School

A member of the Trenton Central High School Class of 2012, Ramaaiah Bethea established himself as one of the most accomplished wrestlers in Mercer County history. A four-time District 25 Champion and Region 7 Champion, Bethea became Mercer County's first four-time NJSIAA State Tournament qualifier and forever etched his name into Trenton Central history as the school's first New Jersey State Champion. Bethea's journey to the top was marked by determination and steady progression. As a junior competing at 145 pounds in 2011, he earned a sixth-place finish in the NJSIAA State Championships after advancing to the quarterfinals and battling through the wrestlebacks with grit and resilience. One year later, wrestling at 152 pounds, Bethea authored a championship run for the ages. He opened with a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Joshua Ugalde of Bound Brook before defeating Dan Ressler of Pascack Valley, 5-0, in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, he upset Dillon Artiglieri of Roxbury to earn a berth in the state finals. There, Bethea captured the ultimate prize, pinning Sal Mastriani of Don Bosco in 5:22 to claim the state championship while avenging a defeat from earlier in his career. He concluded his remarkable high school career with a 132-11 record and a place among New Jersey's wrestling elite. Bethea continued his outstanding career at the University of Pennsylvania, where he became a respected leader and accomplished competitor. A team captain, he earned Second Team All-Ivy League honors, placed sixth at the EIWA Championships, and compiled a collegiate record of 48-27. He completed his competitive career at the University of Virginia while pursuing his master's degree, posting a 23-13 record for the Cavaliers and earning a third-place finish at the ACC Championships. Reflecting on his career, Bethea considers becoming Trenton Central's first state champion to be his most cherished wrestling accomplishment. He also takes great pride in the opportunities and successes he experienced at both the high school and collegiate levels. Today, Bethea continues to give back to the sport and his community as Director of Operations for the Trenton Wrestling and Learning Center (TYWLC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities and inspiring the next generation of Trenton's youth. His legacy extends far beyond the mat, embodying excellence, leadership, and a lasting commitment to service.



Ron Biglin (Class of 1988)
Haddonfield High School

Biglin made the most of just one year of scholastic wrestling when he capped his senior season at Haddonfield in 1957 by winning the 168-pound state championship. Ironically, Biglin, who was coached by Hall of Famer Bill Frantz, lost his first match of the season wrestling at 183 pounds. He would not lose again, winning his next three matches at 183, before dropping down to 168. Biglin beat Fred Shortman of Fair Lawn by referee's decision in the state semifinals, then won the state title with a 3-2 overtime decision over Charles Welsch of Bound Brook. Biglin served a hitch in the Marine Corps and then entered the work field. He started his own company in the construction field.



Jerry Bisignano (Class of 1987)
Lenape High School

A 1966 graduate of Lenape High School, Bisignano was a two-time district and regional champion under Hall of Famer Hank Schnepf. The amazing Bisignano was just one of many outstanding wrestlers to come out of the Lenape program. A four-year letter winner, Bisignano won 41 straight dual meet matches, losing only as a freshman. He recorded 31 pins in his career, including 11 in the first period while producing a sparkling 66-7 career mark. Twice Bisignano, a 130-pounder, advanced to the state semifinals and twice he lost to the eventual state champion. He lost to Passaic's David Pruzanski, 10-2, during his junior year and then to East Brunswick's Leonard Cassidy, 3-1, his senior year. Bisignano continued wrestling at the University of Arizona for a year and a half before a knee injury ended his career. He graduated from Arizona in 1970. Bisignano later turned to coaching, helping with his community's midget wrestling program starting in 1984.



Labe Black (Class of 2013) **Absegami High School**

Black was a four-time District 32 Champion and a four-time Region 8 Champion on his way to amassing a career high school career record of 142-3. Black won a State Title as a freshman in 1997, and then earned a 145 pound 3rd place finish in the State Tournament in 1998 before winning two more N.J. State Titles in 1999 and 2000. Labe claims his first State Title as a freshman, wrestling at 140 pounds, was one of his most memorable moments during his high school career. On his way to that first place finish, Black earned an 8-4 pre-quarter decision over Mike Davidson of Highland, a 7-2 quarter final decision over Jeff Cies of Pope John, a 5-4 semi-final decision over Nick Harrington of Hunterdon Central, then capped off his run with a 7-6 decision over Nick Pellegrino of Point Pleasant Boro in the Finals. Black's final two State Championships both came at 152 pounds. In the state-final matches, Black won by decision over Ralph DeNisco of St. John's 7-3 in 1999 and 3-2 over Nick Roy of Wall Township in 2000. Upon graduation from Absegami in 2000, Black wrestled four years of varsity between the University at Buffalo, SUNY, and Rider University before graduating in 2006. More of Black's most memorable moments from his wrestling career include wrestling as a youth for the Galloway Recreation Wrestling Club; Team Hammer, coached by the late Miles Hahn; Team Foxcatcher, and Renegade, coached by Hall of Famer, Dale Bonsall. Coaches Miles Hahn, Dale Bonsall and his Absegami High School coaches, including Hall of Famer Gene Barber, were an integral part of Black's success. Black singles out Bob Booth, as well as his father, Ed Black as inspirations for him to continue to stay involved in the sport and he credits his long-time workout partner, Mtume Goodrum, for making him a better wrestler. Labe is very proud of Absegami's dominance from 2002 through 2004, and is humbled to have the privilege to participate in the inception of such an era..



Thomas J. Blaszczyk (Class of 2000)
Washington Township High School

A 1974 graduate, Blaszczyk was a District 30 and Region 8 champion in 1973 and 1974. His senior year he culminated a 47-16-2 varsity career with a second- place finish in the state at 129 pounds. Blaszczyk continued his wrestling career at Camden County College where he compiled a 63-6 record and won the Garden State Conference, Mid-Atlantic and Region XIX titles in 1976 to qualify for the junior college nationals. An All-South Jersey selection as a senior in high school, Blaszczyk was a junior college honorable mention All-American in 1976 at 134 pounds. He later continued his education at Millersville University, earning his bachelor's degree in 1994. The MVP at Washington Twp. in 1974 and Camden CC in 1976, Blaszczyk became a history teacher at Lancaster Catholic High School in Lancaster Pa. He was an assistant wrestling coach at Penn Manor H.S. in Millersville, Pa. from 1993-95 and became the head wrestling coach at Lancaster Catholic in 1996. He served as vice-president of the Lancaster-Lebanon League Wrestling Coaches Association. Blaszczyk considers winning the regional the first time (1973) by scoring five points with 14 seconds remaining, and making the state finals his senior year among his most memorable scholastic moments. He says he could not have accomplished what he did as a schoolboy wrestler without Jim Gorman and his coaching staff at Washington Township. He also credits Coach Larry Fanellj for his success at Camden County College and his achievements on the scholastic and college level from the support of his parents, William iChieff Blaszczyk and his mother Dorothy.



Jerry Boland (Class of 2016)

Camden Catholic High School

A 1994 graduate, Boland amassed a career record of 128-15-4, won 3 district titles, 2 regional titles and qualified for the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Tournament 4 times. Boland's greatest success came his senior year when he placed 4th in the state at 112 pounds. As the # 12 seed that year, Boland bested Bo Carlson of Washington Twp, 14-4, before upending two unbeaten wrestlers, the # 5 seed, Joe LaMalfa of Highland, 12-6, and the # 4 seed, Jason Silverstein of Ramsey, 4-3, before suffering a 16-12 loss to the # 1 seed and defending State Champion, Pete Poretta of Phillipsburg in the semi-finals. Wrestling back, Boland avenged his region final loss by defeating the # 8 seed, James Butera of Hamilton West, 4-3, then suffered a loss in the consolations for 3rd place honors to Dave Esposito of JFK Iselin. Upon graduating in '94, Boland had success on the mat at Lycoming College, where at 118 pounds, he was a three-time MAC finalist, a two-time finalist in the East Regional Tournament and was an NCAA Division III All-American. He totaled a collegiate career record of 98-34 before graduating from Lycoming in '98 with a BA in Psychology & Elementary Education and later added a MA degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. Boland served as an assistant coach for 6 years at Camden Catholic and Shawnee before becoming head coach at Cinnaminson for 4 years before returning as head coach at his alma mater for 3 years. His combined head coaching record was 146-36. During his coaching career, Boland coached multiple individual State Champions and place winners and won 3 Parochial Group State Championships. One of Boland's most memorable moments was serving as Lycoming's team captain the year they went undefeated, won the Division III National Duals and earned the # 3 ranking in the country. Boland cites coaching alongside his brothers, Jim and Brian, during his head coaching tenure and watching his sons wrestle their first matches as moments he treasures. After stepping away from high school coaching, Boland has stayed involved by serving as a youth coach in the Marlton Rec Council, coaching at the Wrecking Crew Wrestling Academy and serving as a varsity official since 2013-14.



Dale Bonsall (Class of 1995)
Collingswood, West Chester & Foxcatcher

A 1957 graduate of Collingswood where he compiled a modest 39-16-2 record and finished third in South Jersey his senior year under Hall of Famer Sam Coursen, Bonsall went to West Chester University where he was 38-14-1 and fourth in the Pennsylvania State College Conference championships his senior year. Bonsall, who was co-captain of his senior teams in high school and college, has been involved in wrestling for over 40 years. Following graduation from WCU in 1961, Bonsall coached seven years in the Haverford (PA) School District, with five of those seven teams undefeated. He was an assistant coach at West Chester University for 17 years, helping produce one All-American and three East Coast Conference championships. He was head coach at West Chester in 1987 before the university dropped the sport. While an Associate Professor at West Chester, Bonsall was director of the Foxcatcher Junior Program (ages 7 to 23) in Newtown Square, PA starting in 1987. His teams won two national AAU championships and numerous scholastic freestyle championships. His 1993-94 Team Renegade produced five Eastern AAU champions and won three team titles in scholastic competition. Bonsall, an avid rowing enthusiast, competed for the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol, won a variety of prestigious lifeguard rowing races and was inducted into the South Jersey Rowing Hall of Fame in Ventnor.



Michael J. Booth (Class of 2013) Camden Catholic High School

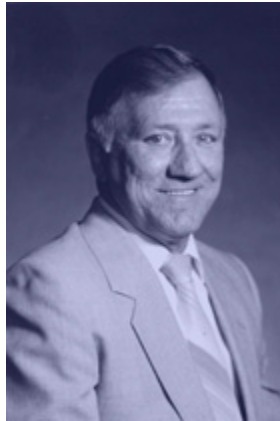
A 2000 graduate of Camden Catholic High School, Booth was a four-time District 27 Champion, a four-time Region 7 Champion and a four-time New Jersey state place winner while wrestling for Hall of Fame coach, Gary Papa. Booth began his succession of school boy accomplishments with a 7/8 finish his freshman year at 103 pounds. This was followed by earning runner-up status his sophomore year at the same weight. He advanced to the finals before bowing out to Tom Noto of South River via a 6-2 verdict. Moving up two weight classes to 119 pounds his junior year, Booth dropped his pre-quarter final match to the eventual runner-up, but wrestled back to take 4th place honors. Competing at 130 pounds his senior year proved to be the best year of Booth's career. At the State Tournament, he won a 5-1 decision over Jordan Hicks of Willingboro, a 9-6 decision over Dennis McSweeney of Lyndhurst, a 9-8 semi-final decision over Frank Edgar of Toms River East, then capped off his 126-8 high school career with a 10-1 decision over the defending State Champion, Dave Cordoba of Kearny to claim the N.J. State Title. Upon graduation from Camden Catholic, Booth went on to wrestle at the University of North Carolina, where he compiled a record of 33-39 and garnered runner-up honors in the ACC before graduating in 2005. He considers winning a N.J. State Title in 2000 as the highlight of his wrestling career. Other memorable moments in his wrestling career were wrestling for Hall of Famers, Dale Bonsall, Gary Papa, as well as his college coach, C.D. Mock. Booth sites being able to compete on the same high school team with his older brother, Rob a very memorable experience, along with receiving the family support he received from his father and mother, his sisters, his grandparents and his aunt and uncle. Of the many memories Booth cherishes is being able to sit down and have dinner with the late, former wrestling legend, Dave Schultz, after a team practice at Team Foxcatcher.



Robert Booth (Class of 2025)
Camden Catholic High School

A 1997 graduate, Booth captured three District 27 and two Region 7 titles and made two appearances in Atlantic City at the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Wrestling Championships. Rob made his first state appearance at 145 pounds after upending Wayne Franzee of Lenape by fall (5:17) in the Region 7 finals. The following week in the pre-quarterfinals of the State Championships in Atlantic City, he won by a major decision over Audubon's Mike Loeffler (14-5), but dropped his next match to the returning state champion, Don Pritzlaff of Lyndenhurst. Forced into the wrestle backs, a narrow 5-3 decision eliminated Rob from the competition. After grabbing his second Region 7 title (a 1:43 fall over Rancocas Valley's John Carson) in '97, Rob was back in Atlantic City determined to make the podium.

In his first match, he started by knocking off Brad Nace of Lenape (5-2), then downed Dan Deegan by North Hunterdon via pin in 5:13 in the quarter-finals. The semifinal match with Roselle Park's Eric Swick proved to be a barn burner that saw Rob prevail in a 12-10 overtime match. Poised for the finals, Rob unfortunately was not able to overcome Justin Colaluca (Warren Hills), but considers his silver medal effort as a highlight in the sport. This milestone launched a 17-year streak of Fighting Irish wrestlers competing in the state final match. Though his high school career was over, Rob finished with a total record of 96-16 and was named 1st team All South Jersey. He also aided Camden Catholic High School in winning three Olympic Conference titles, the school's first Parochial A State Championship and two District 27 team championships under the tutelage of Hall of Famer, Gary Papa ('94). Upon graduation, Rob attended the University of Maryland on a wrestling scholarship, where he continued his wrestling prowess by earning the silver medal at the 2000 ACC Championships and qualified for the Division 1 NCAA Tournament. Reflecting on his career, Rob shares that competing alongside his brother Mike, sharing the experience with his father and receiving the unwavering support of his family remain the most meaningful moments of his wrestling journey. After graduating from Maryland in 2001, Rob was able to continue in wrestling, officiating the sport for three years and finding time to help coach at Cherokee High School. Beyond the mat, Rob finds his greatest fulfillment in the love and laughter he shares with his wife Lauren and their children Annabel (8), Jack (6) and Emma (4).



Warren J. Bowne, Jr. (Class of 1987)
Collingswood High School, Camden Catholic & Bishop Eustace

A 1957 graduate of Collingswood High School, Bowne had spent over a quarter of a century in wrestling by his induction date. At Collingswood Bowne was a three-year member of the varsity team, finishing third in 1956 state championships at 103 pounds. He continued wrestling in AAU competition after high school and served as Coach Sam Coursen's (unofficial assistant) at Collingswood for many years. He won the First Colonies wrestling championship at 123 pounds in 1964 and was the Baltimore YMCA champion at 114.5 pounds the same year. Bowne accepted his first coaching assignment at Camden Catholic High School and was the head man there 15 years. After stepping down as coach for two years, Bowne took over a struggling program at Bishop Eustace Prep, turning in a 9-10 mark in his first year after the school was 12-25 in the two previous years. Bowne compiled a sparkling 186-89-4 record in his first 18 years of coaching, 10th on the all-time win list among South Jersey coaches. He had just two losing seasons in that span. His teams won five South Jersey North Conference championships and finished runner-up four times and won five Christmas tournament titles, finishing second three times. He led Camden Catholic to the first state Parochial A championship in 1980 and his Bishop Eustace team won the South Jersey Parochial B title in 1987. He coached 26 district and five regional champions in his first 18 years. Bowne, the 1974 Region 8 Coach of the Year and an inductee in the Camden Catholic Hall of Fame in 1984, served as a member of the Executive Committee of Region 7 and 8, was elected Secretary of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame Organization at its inception in 1980.



Peter Brandt (Class of 2018)
Paulsboro High School

A 1987 graduate, Brandt was a two-time District 29 Champion and a two-time Region 8 silver medalist, thus qualifying him twice for the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championships in Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium. Brandt's first appearance in Jadwin Gym in '86 proved to be his best finish as he captured runner-up honors at 170 pounds. On his way to the finals in '86, he won an 18-4 major decision over Randy Wertz of Cedar Ridge, a 10-5 decision over Lamont Jackson of Elizabeth, a fall (3:54) over Phillipsburg's Tom Miers and an 11-8 decision over Rich Green of Burlington. In the match for the gold, Brandt fell to Bob Martin of Brick Memorial. Encouraged by his success, Brandt earned his way back to Jadwin the following year, again at 170 pounds. He won his first match via a 9-3 decision, but then lost a tough 5-2 decision to Darin Farrell of Madison Central. In the wrestlebacks, Brandt reeled off two decisions (18-6 and 5-4) and a fall (4:27) before losing for the second time to his Madison Central nemesis, thus finishing a very respectable 5th and amassing a career high school record of 69-11-2. Upon graduation, Brandt entered Kean University to continue his education. During his years at Kean, Brandt wrestled and was a New Jersey Athletic Conference Champion winning his qualifier in 1990 and had a career college record of 57-17. After graduating in 1991, Brandt began his career as a special education teacher. He continued his love of the sport of wrestling by serving as an assistant coach, where his coaching odyssey took him to West Deptford for one year, to Burlington Twp for six years, and to Eastern Regional High School for six years. He had to step away from coaching when he accepted a position as an assistant principal in the Egg Harbor Township School District. Pete then moved on to become the principal of Lindenwold High School in 2009, a job in which he remains today. Brandt considers wrestling in the state finals at Jadwin Gymnasium as one of his career highlights, but adds that seeing his entire '86 team in the District 29 individual championships was also a defining moment for him. He recalled avenging a previous year's loss to Vineland's Rich Scarpa by pinning him in front of a capacity crowd at home and seeing his team defeat Paul VI High School in front of a packed house as being most memorable. Brandt remains as principal at Lindenwold High School, but remains involved with the sport as an N.J.S.I.A.A. official, where he has seen action at the district, region and state levels. He also serves as the cadet supervisor for new officials. Brandt and his wife, Denise, live in Sicklerville with their two daughters, Cara (12) and Avery (7).



Nicholas Bridge (Class of 2018)
Absegami High School

A 2004 graduate, Bridge was a two-time District 32 Champion and a two-time Region 8 Champion. Bridge qualified for the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Wrestling Championships four times and placed on three of those four occasions (5th, 3rd and 1st). As a sophomore, Bridge won his first two matches before dropping a 5-3 OT decision to C.J. Mays of Oakcrest. In the wrestlebacks, Bridge lost his bid to finish 3rd, but won by fall in 2:55 over Sal Irrizary of Don Bosco to take home 5th place honors at 112 pounds. The following year, wrestling at 119 pounds, Bridge advanced to the semi-final round by recording a 0:58 fall and an 8-7 decision. In the semis, Bridge lost a close 3-1 decision to Joe Bubenheimer of Woodbridge, but came roaring back, winning a 14-3 major decision over Patrick Berger of Rumson-Fairhaven for the bronze medal. He rounded out his junior year by earning the silver medal at the FILA Cadet Nationals in Freestyle. As a senior, he moved up to 125 pounds and once again sought the elusive gold medal. Bridge received a bye in the first round of wrestling in Atlantic City before winning by a 9-1 major decision over Cinnaminson's James Saxon and by a 17-2 technical decision (4:47) over Paul Galipeau of Parsippany. In the semi-final round, Bridge won a 6-3 decision over a tough Matt Rizzo of Lakewood. Bridge came away as the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Champion by winning in the finals over Derek Francavilla of Scotch Plains, by a 9-5 OT decision. Bridge finished his schoolboy wrestling career with a record of 131-25. Upon graduation in 2004, Bridge entered Cornell University where he pursued his education and his career on the mat, accumulating a record of 34-33 in the always tough E.I.W.A. Conference. In 2008, Bridge graduated from Cornell and pursued a career as an attorney. Bridge cites finishing his four-year varsity career at Absegami with an undefeated team (90-0-1) and winning four consecutive State Group Championships as highlights of his wrestling career. He also states that being on the Absegami team which defeated Easton, Pennsylvania's team, which at the time was ranked as the #1 team in Pennsylvania, was a truly memorable moment. Currently an attorney for Compass Group USA, Bridge lives in Philadelphia.



Ryan Bridge (Class of 2017)

Absegami High School

A 2003 graduate, Bridge was a four-time District 32 Champion, a three-time Region 8 Champion and a three-time NJSIAA state place winner, finishing 3rd, 1st and 1st. As a sophomore ('01), Bridge impressed at 119 pounds winning a 5-4 decision over Anthony Leardi of Butler for the bronze medal. In '02, Bridge began his season by winning the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament at 125 lbs. He followed that success at the NJSIAA State Tournament in Atlantic City by winning the opening round by fall in 0:59 then won the following round by fall in 2:37, before winning via an 18-3 technical fall in the semifinals. This semifinal win pitted Bridge against his bronze medal opponent from '01, Anthony Leardi (Butler), whom he defeated by a 4-3 decision. Bridge capped an undefeated season with his first NJSIAA State Championship. At 130 pounds in '03, Bridge opened in Atlantic City with a pair of falls (3:09 and 3:11) and in the semifinals brought Boardwalk Hall to its feet by winning in ultimate ride out over fellow inductee, Ivan Wiggins of Sterling. In the finals, Bridge avenged a Region 8 setback (a 12-6 decision) to Jarred Mercado by winning a 3-2 decision, earning his second NJSIAA State Championship and completing his high school career with a record of 136-11. Bridge attended Cornell University prior to entering the Marine Corps, where, while serving, became a member of the All Marine Corps Wrestling Team and won an Armed Forces Championship in '09. With his military service completed, Bridge finished his college career at Stevens Institute of Technology, where once again, he was a standout wrestler, winning All-American honors on two separate occasions and being named to the school's President's List. He finished out his collegiate career with a record of 32-7. Bridge cites going undefeated his junior year and winning his first state title as the highlight of his career. He goes on to state that his high school team's victory over the country's #1 ranked team, Easton High School (Pennsylvania) at the University of Delaware was one of his most memorable moments of his career. After graduation, Bridge served as an assistant coach at Morris Hills High School, but plans to move on to assist at Delbarton for the upcoming 2017-2018 season. Currently, a business analyst at Jeffries, LLC in Jersey City, NJ, Bridge was recently married and resides in Denville, NJ with his bride, Kristy.



John Browning (Class of 2002) Cherry Hill West High School

A 1980 graduate, Browning was a two-time Highland Christmas Tournament champion and three-time finalist and two-time District 27 champ and Outstanding Wrestler recipient in the districts. A two-time All-South Jersey selection (108 pounds as a junior, 115 pounds as a senior), Browning placed 3rd, 2nd and 1st in Region 7 competition. He was 3rd and 2nd in two trips to the state tournament during a 74-14 career (including a 30-1 senior season that included a 7-6 loss to Kevin Jacoutot of Madison Central). He was captain of his team his last two years. In 1983 Browning joined the staff at Cherry Hill East as freshman coach and guided the team through an unbeaten season. A year later he moved up to the JV level with the kids and his team went unbeaten once more. He spent three more years on the staff before business and family commitments consumed more of his time. Among his most memorable moments were the intense matches he had with Riverside's Dana Whitehouse in consecutive district and regional finals. Browning considers his career highlight the state semifinal his senior year when he trailed 5-3 with 30 seconds remaining before he took his opponent down and pinned him to advance to the state finals.



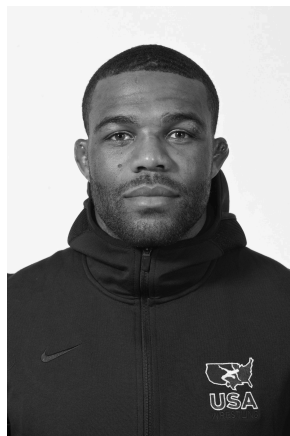
Joe Burke (Class of 2015)
Buena High School

A 1990 graduate of Buena High School, Burke was a two-time District 31 runner-up and a 3rd place finisher in Region 8 before hitting his stride at the collegiate level. Burke began his college career at Wagner College in New York, where, as a true freshman, he won the New England Conference Championships and qualified for the Division I NCAA Tournament. In his first trip to the NCAA Tournament, he dropped a pigtail bout to Nick Garone of Old Dominion. Due to Garone's failure to win his next match, Burke was not qualified to advance. The next year (92) Burke transferred to Seton Hall and again winning the New England's qualified him for the NCAAs. He lost an opening round match to Troy Sunderland of Penn State, 7-4 and during his first consolation match Burke was called defensively pinned, while leading by a score of 10-0. The following year ('93), Burke again won the New England Championships qualifying him for the NCAAs. This time Burke made a statement by defeating #3 seeded Torrae Jackson of the host school, Iowa State by a 1-0 decision, setting the stage for Burke to earn 4th place All-American honors at 150 pounds. After taking a red shirt year in '94, Burke came back at 158 pounds in '95, and again qualified for the NCAAs by winning the Big Northeast Conference Championships. This time Burke was the #1 seed in the weight class largely in part to his having earned All-American honors in '93. Burke ran off decisions of 8-4 and 7-3 over Wyoming's Brandon Alderman and Clark Conover of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, respectively, before yielding a heart-breaking, one-point loss on a takedown at the buzzer to Ohio State's Eric Smith. Not discouraged, Burke came roaring back to take 3rd place honors, making him a two-time All-American and Seton Hall's most decorated wrestler. Burke concluded his college career with a total record of 148-20-1. Burke cites his two-time All-American status as the highlights of his career; but, as the tournament's #12 seed in '93, he points to his upset victory over #3 seeded Torrae Jackson of Iowa State as his most memorable moment in the sport, because not only did it help earn him the #1 seed for the following year, but reinforced his belief that anything is possible through dedication and hard work. Burke graduated from Seton Hall in '95. He currently works for the Action Environmental Group, which has offices in New York City and in New Jersey. Burke lives in Park Ridge, NJ with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children, Francesca (7) and Joey (5).



Darryl Anthony Burley (Class of 1984) Pemberton High School

A 1978 graduate, Burley compiled an 86-5-1 record under Coach Milt Schisler at Pemberton. He won three district and two regional titles, was third in the state his junior year and defeated returning state champion Peter Schuyler of Bound Brook to win the state title in 1978. He was recipient of the state's Outstanding Wrestler Award in his senior year. Burley matriculated to Lehigh University where he compiled a 94-5-1 record as a four-year varsity starter. Burley was a four-time Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association champion; a three-time winner of the William Sheridan Invitational at Lehigh and was Midlands Champion and Outstanding Wrestler Award recipient of that tournament in 1982. A four-time National Collegiate Athletic Association finalist, Burley won national titles in 1979 and 1983. He was selected Amateur Wrestler of the Year in 1983 and was among the final four wrestlers in the 1984 Olympic freestyle trials.



Jordan Burroughs (Class of 2019)

Winslow Township High School

A 2006 graduate, Burroughs was a three-time District 30 Champion, a two-time Region 8 Champion and a three-time state qualifier. As a sophomore, Burroughs entered the state tournament at 112 pounds. He opened with a fall (3:27) over Paul Gerbino of Glen Ridge, but lost his next match to John Mangini of Hillsborough. In the wrestlebacks, Burroughs went 1-1, but did not place. At the state tournament Burroughs' junior year (125 pounds) he won a first round major decision and followed that with a close 3-2 win over Chris Notte of Holy Cross. In the semi-finals, Burroughs avenged a loss from the previous year's wrestlebacks to Will Livingston of Kittatinny by edging him 2-1 in a tie-breaker. Burroughs missed his bid to capture a state title, losing to Southern's Frank Molinaro, 2-1 in sudden victory. Success reared its head the following year as Burroughs won a first-round decision over Del Val's Nick LaFevre, 16-9, then followed with a major decision and an 8-7 decision to put him in the 135 pound state finals against Dave Greenwald of St. Mary's, whom he defeated, 9-8. Burroughs captured his first N.J.S.I.A.A. title and ended his high school career with a record of 118-20. After graduation, Burroughs enrolled at the University of Nebraska where he eclipsed his high school feats with ease. Jordan was a 3 time Big 12 Champion and a 3 time NCAA All-American. At 149 pounds in '08 Burroughs qualified for the Division 1 tournament and reeled off three victories before falling to Brent Metcalf of Iowa in the semi-finals. In the wrestlebacks, Burroughs stormed back with a 3-1 victory to put him in the bronze medal match with Josh Churella of Michigan, whom he defeated via a 4-2 decision. In '09 Burroughs captured an NCAA Championship at 157 pounds by defeating Mike Poeta of Illinois, 5-1. In '11, Burroughs won his second NCAA crown, triumphing over Tyler Caldwell of Oklahoma by an 11-3 major decision and was the recipient of the Hodge Trophy, given to the year's most outstanding collegiate wrestler. Upon graduation from Nebraska, Burroughs jumped into the world freestyle scene almost immediately, winning the U.S. Open wrestling tournament at 74 kilograms (163 pounds) just three weeks after his last college match. He kept the winning streak going, earning his first of 9 U.S. World Team berths and first of 4 World Championships on September 8, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. With that victory Jordan became only the fourth wrestler ever to win an NCAA and World Championship in the same year. On August 12, 2012 Burroughs reached the pinnacle of the sport of wrestling. He was crowned the 74kg Olympic Champion. Burroughs added World Championships in 2013, 2015 and in 2017 to his resume and continues to wrestle on the International Freestyle stage. His excellence on the mat has set the gold standard for USA wrestling today. Burroughs' notes that he has many memorable moments in the sport, but states that they are second to his faith and the love of his family. A professional athlete, Burroughs lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with his wife, Lauren, and their two children, Beacon (5) and Ora (3).



Thomas A. Cabal (Class of 1988)
Woodbury High School

A 1961 graduate of Woodbury High School, Cabal was a two-time state runner-up at 106 and 115 pounds, respectively, while wrestling under coach Bill Morro. Cabal, a three-year letter winner at Woodbury, was also a two-time district champion and the first 115-pound Region 4 winner in 1961. Cabal qualified for the state tournament in 1960 with a 4-2 win over Collingswood's Gary Townsend. He then won two 3-0 decisions upstate before losing 2-0 to Newton's Roy Terranova in the 106-pound finals. During his senior year at Woodbury, he went through the season undefeated and unscored upon before postseason competition. Cabal decisioned Howard Pomroy of Triton 3-0 in the District 15 finals, decisioned Vineland's Art Wolinsky 4-1 in the Region 4 finals, and won his first bout via a 5:23 fall in the state semifinals before losing 6-0 to Somerville's Frank Arcidiacono in the state finals. Cabal accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He attended the Academy for a year, getting a medical discharge after passing his final exams that year. An outstanding student, Cabal continued his wrestling career at Navy before he was stricken with cancer. Cabal attended night classes at the University of Pennsylvania the following year while working at the Camden Shipyard during the day. A year later he attended Brown University before succumbing to cancer in 1964.



Orlando X. Caceres (Class of 1993)
Pemberton High School

A 1980 graduate, Caceres compiled a fantastic three-year career under coach Milt Schisler. Caceres won three district, two regional and two state titles in a memorable 78-3-1 varsity career. He punctuated his scholastic career by pinning defending state champion Joe Duca of Paulsboro in 1980 for his second consecutive state title. For his effort in that bout, Caceres was recipient of the state's Outstanding Wrestler Award. Caceres went on to the University of Arizona where he wrestled for one year before the sport was dropped. He then wrestled three years at Trenton State College under coach Dave Icenhower. His best finish was second in the national Division III Tournament where, while winning on points, he was disqualified for an illegal slam with 20 seconds remaining. After graduating from Trenton State with a Bachelor of Science degree, Caceres wrestled freestyle with the New York AC and was a member of the Puerto Rico National Team. He was a silver medalist in the 1982 Central America Games in Cuba and a bronze medalist in the 1983 Pan American Games in Venezuela. He also competed for Puerto Rico, placing fourth, in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Caceres also coached for two years at Peddie School and for one year at Northern Burlington High School.



Michael Caiazza (Class of 2012)
Egg Harbor Township High School

A 1978 graduate of Oakcrest High School, Mike posted a 49-21 career record on his way to a second-place finish in District 32 his senior year. Upon graduation from Oakcrest, Mike moved on to West Chester University where he competed on the varsity squad and placed 3rd in the East Coast Wrestling Championships in 1980, which stands out as one of Mike's most treasured moments in his personal wrestling career. He finished his collegiate career with a 32-16 record. This experience provided Mike with a solid foundation for what would be his true calling: coaching. After graduating from West Chester in 1983, Caiazza began his career as a physical education teacher at Egg Harbor Township High School. In his 29 years as an educator, Caiazza served as an assistant wrestling coach at Oakcrest's sister school, Absegami, for two years before continuing his coaching at Egg Harbor Township where he has been the head wrestling coach for the past 26 years. Along with his wrestling coaching, Caiazza also served as cross country coach for 17 years and spring track coach for 15 years. Added in with these coaching jobs, Mike served 25 years as a Southern Shore Chapter wrestling official. During his coaching career he has had 21 District 32 Champions, 5 Region 8 Champions, and had 4 state place winners. Along with his teams' successes, Caiazza has been named Coach of the Year five times in District 32, with one of his proudest moments coming in 2000 when his Egg Harbor Township team won the Group III Section, defeating Delsea 42-34. During Mike's tenure as a wrestling coach at Egg Harbor Township, he has compiled an overall record of 274-268-4 through 2012. Caiazza continues to improve his teams every year.



Daniel Calhoun (Class of 2017)
Washington Township High School

A 1995 graduate, Calhoun was a three-time District 30 Champion, a Region 8 Champion and a two-time state qualifier. Wrestling at 152 pounds at the NJSIAA Tournament in '94, Calhoun won his first match *against Andre Dixon of Eastern, 10-3, and then followed that win with a 5-3 decision over Jason Brown of Oakcrest* before dropping his quarterfinal match by a 3-0 decision to Jefferson's #1 seeded, Jeremy Bailer. This loss put Calhoun in the wrestleback round, where he was eliminated by Ken Olive of Mahwah. Up two weight classes in '95, Calhoun began his run at states by winning an 11-5 decision over Eddie Ramos of Millville and added a 10-2 major decision over Rutherford Pasteur of Essex Catholic before losing to Oakcrest's Cory Bird in the semifinals, 6-3. Once again back in the wrestlebacks, Calhoun succeeded, winning decisions over Joe Piela (Bergen Catholic) 5-2 and Greg Grigelski (Pequannock) 8-2 to come away with the bronze medal and a career record of 94-14-1. Upon graduation, Calhoun attended Gloucester County, where in '96 his team finished in 3rd place in the JUCO National Tournament and where he went on to become a two-time JUCO All-American. As a graduate of GCC, Calhoun enrolled at the University of North Carolina where he continued his success by winning the East Stroudsburg Open and the Sunshine Open in '98 and finishing in third place twice in the Atlantic Coast Conference to qualify for the Division 1 NCAA Tournament. He also saw his team succeed in winning the ACC Championship title in both '98 and '99 before ending his collegiate career with a combined record (GCC and UNC) of 117-27. Not prepared to step away from wrestling, Calhoun successfully coached as an assistant at Delsea, and at Williamstown before taking over the head coaching job for seven years. While at Williamstown, Calhoun was named the Coach of the Year in District 30 and the Region 8 Coach of the Year both in 2004 and 2006. Calhoun took over as head coach of Gloucester County College, where he added being named Region 19 Man of the Year in 2010 and saw four of his GCC wrestlers become JUCO All-Americans. Calhoun has served as a clinician at the Patriot Wrestling Club as well as the Sunkist Kids Wrestling Club. Calhoun states that finishing as the state's bronze medalist, earning All-American honors at GCC and two bronze medal finishes in the ACC as highlights of his career. His most memorable moments include coaching his team at GCC to third-place national JUCO honors in 2010, wrestling for Team Foxcatcher for three years, representing the University of North Carolina, and seeing his UNC team win the ACC on two separate occasions. Calhoun is currently employed as a health and physical education teacher at the Ocean City Primary School and is an assistant coach at the high school. A single parent, Calhoun lives in Ocean City with his children, Chase (12), Sienna (11) and Colt (10).



Gene Caporaletti (Class of 1988)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

A 1956 graduate of Philadelphia's West Catholic High School and 1961 graduate of Temple University, where he wrestled varsity three years, Caporaletti became well-known on the South Jersey wrestling scene. He was a member of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association before he became president of the NJWOA Southern Chapter. Though most of his career was centered around officiating, he was also active in coaching during his early years after graduating from Temple. He was an assistant coach at West Deptford High School for two years, which included coaching state champion Frank Pulio, and at Rutgers-Camden under Hall of Famer Alex Neiman for two more. He also started the wrestling program for the Alden (Pa.) Boys Club and was the head coach for six years. He became a member of the executive committee of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association and was a recipient of the Region 7-8 Outstanding Officials Award. He officiated district tournaments for 21 years, regional tournaments for 20 and officiated at all levels of the state tournament, including the finals, before retiring from on-mat duties. He was instrumental in initiating new programs which have benefited both officials and scholastic wrestling in South Jersey. Caporaletti was still active in wrestling in 1988 as a member of the executive committee of the S.J. Wrestling Hall of Fame (chairman of the scholarship committee) and the Region 7-8 Coaches and Officials Association. He also served as chairman of the coaches and officials grievance committee. In 1986 he received the National Federation of Scholastic Officials Outstanding Wrestling Officials Award for New Jersey.



Tony Caravella (Class of 2002)
Brick Township High School

A 1974 graduate of Brick High School, Caravella was a District 25 and Region 7 champion who placed fourth in the state as a senior to complete a 50-15-1 record. He went on to Bloomsburg (PA) State College where he compiled a 123-33-2 record before graduating in 1980. He was a three-time Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference champion, two-time Eastern Wrestling League champion and finished 7th in the NCAA Division I championships to gain All-America honors. Caravella was the first head coach at Brick Memorial when it opened in 1980 and following the 2001-2002 season had compiled a 335-63-5 career record. His teams won five state Group 3 championships, 10 South Jersey Group 3 sectional titles, and 12 Shore Conference championships. A three-time winner of the Caldwell Tournament, Caravella's team won the Beast of the East Tournament in 1993. He was selected a New Jersey Coach of the Year four times by his peers and the New Jersey Wrestling Coach of the Decade by the Star-Ledger for the 1990s. His teams were selected No. 1 in the state in 1986 and 1994. His most memorable moment as a head coach was in 1994 when his team beat Phillipsburg 37-28 in the state finals with the clinching points coming by fall at heavyweight. Caravella lauded his assistant coaches, including former head coaches Denny DiAndrea (Manalapan) and John DeMarco (Toms River South, Monsignor Donovan). He served as president of Region VI 1985-88 and Vice President of Region VI 1988-94. He was an inductee in the New Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Jersey Shore Hall of Fame in 1996.



Gregory Casamento (Class of 2001)
Cherry Hill East High School

A 1988 graduate, Casamento was a three-time Washington Township Christmas Tournament champion, a District 27 runner-up in 1986 and District 27 champion in 1987 and 1988; a Region 7 runner-up in 1987; and Region 7 and state champion at 188 pounds in 1988. Casamento compiled a 33-0 record as a senior to complete a 77-21-0 career under the late Frank McAleer. He earned back-to-back All-South Jersey honors in football (a Brooks-Irvine Scholar-Athlete as a senior) and wrestling. He established Cherry Hill East school records for most pins in a single season and career; most wins in a single season and a career; and most team points in a single season and career. Winning the state title in overtime in Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium was Greg's most memorable athletic highlight. Casamento went on to Boston University where he compiled a 101-26-2 career record under Coach Carl Adams. A team captain for two years and the team MVP in 1991, he won the New England Conference 177-pound title in 1991 and 1992 and earned the Homer Barr Award for most team points in a four-year career at Boston University. Greg qualified for the NCAA Division I Tournament twice. Greg went to Law School at Boston University and then joined the United States Navy as a Judge Advocate from 1996-2000 receiving a Navy Achievement Medal and a Navy Commendation Medal for his two tours while earning a diploma from the Naval War College.



Chad Cassidy (Class of 2026)

Highland Regional High School

One of the most accomplished wrestlers in Highland Regional history, Chad Cassidy concluded an outstanding high school career as the 1989 NJSIAA State Champion at 140 pounds. A three-time District 30 Champion, two-time Region 8 Champion, and three-time New Jersey state place-winner, Cassidy established himself among the state's elite competitors during one of the toughest eras in New Jersey wrestling. As a sophomore in 1987, Cassidy, competing at 136 pounds, rattled off two decisions and a fall before a semifinal loss dropped him into the consolation final. Unfortunately, he fell short earning fourth place honors. The following season, after moving down to 130 pounds, he advanced to the state finals, following victories of 15-6, 11-6, and a 4:51 fall before dropping a decision to Armando Nardone of Bellville, earning the state runner-up title. Entering his senior season determined to reach the top of the podium, Cassidy dominated the 140-pound bracket, winning his first three state tournament matches by scores of 10-1, 17-6, and 12-4 before defeating Brendan Ferriter of Bergenfield, 13-2, in the championship match to claim the 1989 state title. Cassidy finished his remarkable Highland career with an outstanding record of 88-8, cementing his legacy as one of the school's all-time wrestling greats. He continued his wrestling career at Rider University before ultimately entering the workforce. Reflecting on his athletic career, Cassidy considers winning the New Jersey State Championship his greatest accomplishment, while competing in the prestigious Pittsburgh Classic remains one of his most memorable wrestling experiences. Today, Chad is a machine operator with International Paper. He and his wife, Erica, reside in Sicklerville and are proud parents of Louis and Felicia and grandparents to Gabriel, Sage, and Cairo.



Doug Castellari (Class of 2016)
Buena High School

A 1980 graduate, Castellari reeled off three District 31 Championships, one Region 8 Championship and a 3rd place finish in the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Wrestling Tournament. Competing at 122 pounds in Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium, Castellari started his bid for a state title by winning a decision over Voorhees' Jim Holthaus, 18-5. He followed that by pinning Pascack Hills' Jim Worthington in 2:34 before dropping a decision to the returning State Champion from Pemberton, Orlando Caceres. In the wrestlebacks, Castellari defeated Millburn's Roger Serruto 5-3 to garner the bronze medal and finish his high school career with a record of 91-5-1. Upon graduating in 1980, Castellari matriculated at Temple University where he compiled a record of 109-16-0 and was a Division I All-American in 1984. During his junior campaign, Castellari entered the NCAA Tournament, which was held in the Meadowlands, at 134 pounds. He lost his first match to the eventual NCAA Champion, Scott Lynch of Penn State University by a decision before storming back in his next two wrestleback matches, winning 14-7 over Virginia's John Parr and 9-4 over Shippensburg's Terry Lauren, thus ensuring himself All-American honors. Castellari graduated from Temple in 1985 with a BS in physical education, but rather than teach, he went into his family's business. Through all his accomplishments as a wrestler, it may be that his crowning achievements came as a coach. As the head coach at his alma mater, Castellari's teams won 14 CAL Conference titles, 5 South Jersey Group titles and earned runner-up honors in the State Group Tournament 3 times. Castellari was named Coach of the Year in District 31 on 10 occasions and was named as the Region 8 Coach of the Year 3 times. He coached 60 individual district champions, 15 region champions and 15 state place winners. Castellari's most memorable moments in wrestling include coaching Buena to its first South Jersey Group title, being inducted into the N.J.S.I.A.A. Hall of Fame and earning Division I All-American honors.



David T. Chambers (Class of 2009)
Cherokee High School

A 1966 graduate of Triton High School, he was a 3-year letter winner in wrestling and was 115-pound captain his senior year. He graduated from Marshall University in 1973 and was an assistant coach at Audubon from 1979 to 1982. In 1983 he became the wrestling coach at Cherokee. During 21 years as a head coach he had a record of 238-166-5. He coached 36 District Champs, 10 Regional Champs and one State Champion (215-pounder Doug Easlick in 1999). He was Courier-Post Coach of the Year in 1985 after a 14-1-1 campaign, winning the Burlington County League Liberty Division and District 27 titles. He was a District Coach of the Year 3 times, Region 7 Coach of the Year twice and Burlington County Coach of the Year 3 times. He was Region 7 President 1992-1998, served on the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Executive Committee 23 years and served on the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame.



George Chew (Class of 2007)

Cumberland Regional High School

A 1987 graduate, Chew was able to put the Seabrook, N.J. school on the map by establishing every school record during his four years as a Colt. Chew culminated an 89-11-1 career by going undefeated and winning District 31, Region 8 and State Championships as a senior. A three-time District 31 champion, Chew won district titles at 101, 108 and 115 with successive decisions over Pennsville's Greg Griffin, Marc Smith and John Doran. Chew was in the Region 8 finals three times, winning twice. Chew defeated Griffin (who went on to win a state title) as a sophomore, lost to Williamstown's Brett DiNovi as a junior and defeated DiNovi as a senior. His junior year Chew lost in the state semifinals to eventual champion Adam Derengowski of Paul VI and won his third-place state medal match over DiNovi in a Region 8 finals rematch. He capped his unbeaten senior campaign by beating unbeaten returning state champion Sam Cole of Long Branch, 6-5. He also was a 1987 National Freestyle Espoir champion and was third in the Junior Freestyle Nationals. Chew continued wrestling at Indiana University where he earned varsity letters in 1988 and 1989, finishing fifth in the Big Ten Championships in 1988. In 1989 Chew was medically released from his scholarship due to a dislocated shoulder prior to the Big Ten Championships. A distinguished military graduate in Indiana's ROTC program, Chew went on to a career in the service and at the time of his induction was still active as a Major Aviation Officer, United States Army.



Eric Childs (Class of 2002)
Rancocas Valley Regional High School

A 1988 graduate, Childs culminated a 66-13-2 career and a spot on the All-South Jersey team by winning the District 26, Region 7 and State 119-pound championships as a senior. His state final was a memorable 13-2 domination of Mike Indorato of Paramus. Childs, who never stepped on a mat until his sophomore year in high school, also won the Region 7 title as a junior. He went on to Rider University where he compiled a 70-17 record before graduating in 1993. He won the prestigious East Stroudsburg Tournament and was an East Coast Wrestling Association champion. Twice he competed in the NCAA Tournament at Maryland and Iowa. Warming up as a senior in college, he looked around and saw such wrestling luminaries as Bobby Douglas, Nate Carr, Gene Mills, John Smith and Dan Gable. He finally realized he had reached the highest level of collegiate competition. Throughout his scholastic and collegiate career, Childs was never pinned and never lost by technical fall. After finishing his career at Rider, Childs took a substitute teaching job at Rancocas Valley and helped out as an assistant wrestling coach. He also gave his time back to the sport by coaching at the Wrecking Crew wrestling facility in Mount Holly in the summer.



Robert Ciarrocki (Class of 1989)
Oakcrest High School

A 1970 graduate of Oakcrest, Ciarrocki is the last state champion of the 1960s to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ciarrocki capped a brilliant junior year by beating Millville's Neal Robinson 11-3 to win the District 32 title, topping Collingswood's Kevin Scarborough 6-3 for Region 4 honors defeating Renard Haskins of Morristown 8-3 and then Jack Shawde of JP Stevens 6-5 on the way to winning the state 115-pound championship under coach Art Marinelli, also a South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee. Ciarrocki, who finished with a 40-3-1 career record, never had a chance to defend his state title, losing to Atlantic City's Martin Cheatham 10-8 in the District 32 finals his senior year. Cheatham won the Region 4 title before finishing third in the state. Ciarrocki was twice named Oakcrest's outstanding wrestler and was team captain during his senior year. He continued his wrestling career at Rutgers University with great success. In 1974 he finished third in the EIWA championships at 134 pounds and qualified for the NCAA Division I championships. The team captain for Rutgers during his senior year, he also won the Wilfred E. Cann Award for the outstanding wrestler at Rutgers.



Gregory Coolahan (Class of 2016) **Cherry Hill East High School**

An '81 graduate Coolahan amassed almost identical records in high school and in junior college, going 45-7 at Cherry Hill East and 45-9 at Joliet Junior College. Coolahan won several early-season tournaments before achieving his ultimate goal of placing in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament. His senior year, Coolahan earned runner-up honors in both the district and region tournaments and qualified for the state tournament in Princeton's Jadwin Gym. Competing at 170 pounds, Coolahan advanced through the pre-quarter round by defeating previously unbeaten Tracy Miller of Rahway, 11-6. He followed that win with an 11-2 major decision over Fairlawn's Matt Rotella before dropping a narrow 8-6 decision to the former State Champion at 141 lbs in '79 and runner-up at 158 lbs in the '80 state tournament, Hunterdon Central's, Tom Gible. Coolahan lost his consolation "back and forth battle" to Phillipsburg's Mike Margeson, 13-10 to take 4th place honors. Upon graduation in '81, Coolahan enrolled in Joliet Junior College, where wrestling at 167 and 177 pounds, won several JUCO tournaments, including the Illinois Open, the Grand Rapids Open, the Harper Invitational, the St. Louis Open and the Wisconsin White Water Open. Earning runner-up honors in the state qualifying tournament guaranteed Coolahan a spot in the Junior College National Tournament. After graduation from Joliet, Coolahan kept up his dedication to the sport by spending a year as the head coach at Bishop Eustace Prep. From there, he coached at Cherry Hill East for six years as an assistant before taking over as head coach at cross-town rival, Cherry Hill West for eleven years. Coolahan's combined record at Bishop Eustace and West was 160-123-1. He coached his '01 team to the Conestoga Team Duals championship, had ten consecutive winning seasons competing in the Olympic Conference and coached 14 district champions, 5 region champions (3 of whom won the OW award) and six state place winners, including two-time State Champion, Ryan Cunningham. Coolahan states that placing 4th in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament was his personal career highlight and adds that coaching the school's first State Champion was one of the most memorable moments in his coaching career. Coolahan briefly stepped away from wrestling before returning to West, where he still serves as an assistant coach.



Adam Cooney (Class of 2016)
Holy Cross High School

A 2003 graduate of Holy Cross, Cooney was a four-time District 26 Champion, a four-time Region 7 Champion and a four-time N.J.S.I.A.A. place winner. As a freshman, wrestling at 189 pounds, Cooney advanced to the quarter-finals before dropping a match putting him in the consolations, where he wrestled back to earn 6th place honors. His sophomore campaign at 215 pounds proved to be more successful as he won three matches at the State Tournament before losing a 5-4 decision in the finals. Again, competing at 215 pounds, Cooney entered the State Tournament as a junior, and reeled off four victories, including a 3-2 decision over Paulsboro's Mike Mendenhall in the finals, to win his first State Championship. His final campaign at heavyweight proved to be another standout year at the State Tournament, where he opened with a 5-3 victory over Jason Hatchell of Clearview, then won his quarter-final match via fall in 3:23 over Brian Butler of Piscataway, his semi-final match by a 4-1 decision over Diego Crespo of Garfield and his final match by a fall over Devin Perez of Pope John in 3:27. Cooney finished his high school wrestling career as a two-time State Champion with a record of 139-8-0. To add to the two gold medals Cooney won in New Jersey, he won the 2003 Senior Nationals, which is a moment he considers his most memorable accomplishments on the mat. Upon graduation in '03, Cooney enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania where he wrestled at heavyweight before his career was sidelined. After graduating from Penn in '07, Cooney worked in business for a few years before he entered the field of education as an instructor of special education. Still wanting to contribute to wrestling, Cooney became involved in coaching, and has served as the head coach at Holy Cross for the past five years. While employed by Rancocas Valley High School in the field of special education, Cooney's teams at Holy Cross managed to win 3 consecutive Burlington County Freedom Division Championships and a South Jersey Parochial B Championship. During his brief career, Cooney has coached 10 individual district champions, 7 regional champions and 6 state place winners, one a State Champion. Cooney cites winning his first State Title in '02 as the highlight of his career and adds that his team's South Jersey Parochial B Championship win in '14 is a most memorable moment.



Joe Corbett (Class of 2012)
Rancocas Valley Regional High School

Corbett graduated from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in 1978, where he wrestled successfully for Hall of Famer Tony Petrillo (f85). Corbett was a two-time District 26 Champion with 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place finishes in Region 7. In his junior year Corbett compiled state tournament victories of 8-3, 2-1 and 13-9 before dropping an 11-3 decision to Tim Catalfo of Pascack Hills in the state finals. Corbett concluded his high school career with a record of 70-7-1 and was later inducted into the Rancocas Valley Regional High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Corbett went on to be a standout wrestler at George Washington University where he completed a four-year varsity career with a 123-17-4 record. He finished 4th, 3rd, and was runner-up twice in the Eastern Regionals and was a Division 1 qualifier in 1982 at 150 pounds. Corbett's success earned him the distinction of being the 80th member, but the first wrestler, to be inducted into the George Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. Corbett's fondest wrestling moment came on February 14, 1976 when his Rancocas Valley team defeated Paulsboro, thus ending the Red Raider's 84 match win streak. Corbett recalls that prior to that victory over Paulsboro, it was Rancocas Valley that had beaten Paulsboro almost exactly five years earlier, which became the start of Paulsboro's 84 match streak. Corbett marvels that so many members of both teams had so many wrestlers and coaches who later became Hall of Famers. He also remembers that the official the night his f76 team's victory was Hall of Famer Jim Horner (89). After graduation from George Washington University in 1982, Corbett eventually made his way back to his roots in wrestling while living in Maryland. He served as an assistant coach and has run a free open-mat clinic, which is available to all interested wrestlers, and as a youth team coach.



Jack Corcoran (Class of 2021)
St. Joe's High School Hammonton

A 2006 graduate, Corcoran was a two-time District 31 Champion and a two-time Region 8 Champion. In 2005, Corcoran made his first appearance at the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Wrestling Championships at 215 pounds. In his pre-quarterfinal match, he decisively defeated Marquies Johnson of Hudson Catholic (8-6), and followed that with a 7-2 victory over Kevin Matast of Manchester. The semifinal round proved problematic for Corcoran as he dropped a close 5-4 decision to the eventual state champion, Dave Zabriskie (High Point). In the consolation semifinals, Corcoran defeated his region final opponent, Alex Silvestro of Paulsboro, via a 6-5 decision. In the consolation finals, Corcoran was outpointed (2-1) by Lodi's Keith Dobish and finished with fourth place honors. The following year, once again in the state championships in Atlantic City, Corcoran set about his quest for the gold by winning his first match by a 13-4 major decision over Justin Brancaccio of Morris Knolls. The quarterfinal match belonged to Corcoran as he upended Brearley's Jesse Boyden, 9-4, and in the semifinals Corcoran defeated Roy Dragon (Bridgewater) 6-4. Corcoran's hard-fought win over D.J. Russo of Lenape Valley in the finals gave him the gold medal and a high school career record of 87 wins against only 7 defeats. Prior to graduating in 2006, Corcoran was recognized by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his "exceptional achievement" and was selected as an Asics Dream Team 1st Team All American. Upon graduation, Corcoran accepted a football scholarship to Rutgers University, where he was a three year starter. His outstanding play at Rutgers enabled Corcoran to enjoy a three year career in the NFL with three different teams. Looking back on his high school wrestling career, Corcoran states that his most memorable moment came when he captured the gold medal in the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championships in his home town of Atlantic City. Corcoran continues to step in and help his uncle and head coach (Tim Mancuso) with the Atlantic City High School team as often as he is able.



Frank Cornely (Class of 2021)
Camden Catholic High School

A 2000 graduate, Cornely had an outstanding senior year. He won the District 27 Championship, the Region 7 Championship (171 pounds), and went on to claim silver medal honors at the Meadowlands in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Championships. In Cornely's first match, he won a 10-7 decision over Collingswood's Mark McGaurn, then followed that by defeating Ardian Ramani of Garfield, 9-7. In the semifinals, Cornely won a narrow 8-6 overtime match with Brian Brittingham (Washington Twp.), a match he recalls as one of his most memorable moments in the sport. Cornely's run came to an end in the finals, but prior to enrolling at Duke University, he had one more tournament to wrestle, and he didn't disappoint. He and teammate Mike Booth became the only two Camden Catholic wrestlers to reach the finals of the prestigious Senior National Tournament, which constituted another memorable moment for Cornely. While at Duke, Cornely amassed over 100 Division I wins and won two ACC titles (184 pounds) to become only the 6th wrestler in Duke's 80 + year history to accomplish this feat. Cornely qualified twice for the Division I NCAA Tournament. During his career at Duke, he spent three semesters wrestling at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, where he wrestled with members of the United States Olympic Team and competed in six different countries in freestyle wrestling. This experience greatly aided him in his success at Duke in the ACC Tournament for two years running, and it was an experience Cornely says he will never forget. He completed his college career by becoming Duke's 1st wrestler ever to place in the highly regarded University Freestyle Nationals. With his college career behind him, Cornely graduated and used his investment prowess to cofound a Duke alumni support group which managed to raise over \$500,000 from 2006-2010 to aid the university in hiring more seasoned coaches and meet growing budgetary concerns. Cornely has also managed to mentor several Duke Graduates to develop the necessary skills to gain placement in jobs upon graduation. Cornely continues to serve as an aid in Duke's alumni fundraising events. Never a man to forget his roots, Cornely also is an active donor to his alma mater, Camden Catholic, and has secured corporate funding to help defray the rising costs of the Irish wrestling team. Today he remains an active supporter of both programs. During his many years of being involved with the sport, some of his best memories include his silver medals in the State & Senior National Tournaments, his two ACC gold medals, and his opportunity to train at the Olympic Training Center.



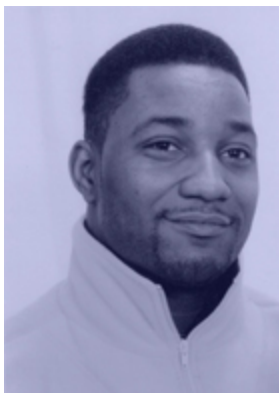
Lou Coursen (Class of 1984)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

Lou participated in football, wrestling and track at Forty Fort, Pa., High School. He also wrestled on a championship team at West Chester State Teachers College. After two years in the service, Lou moved to the South Jersey area and became an active wrestling official. After officiating on all levels of state competition, Lou retired from active on-mat participation but remained very active in the wrestling officials association and became director of the cadet classes. He also served on the state committee for wrestling. Lou was the first recipient of the Officials Award presented by the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association at its annual regional wrestling dinner. In 1983 he became a member of the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame Organization, Inc.



Samuel Coursen (Class of 1988) Collingswood High School

A 1949 graduate of Forty Fort (Pa.) High School, Coursen was a four-time district champion in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley and four-time state finalist for Forty Fort. He is the only four-year varsity wrestler never to lose a dual meet in Wyoming Valley, a record still intact through 1988. Coursen then went on to Springfield (Mass.) College where he continued his outstanding career. He was a four-time all-conference first team, four-time New England champion and four-time All-New England first team. He was captain at Springfield for two years, never lost a dual meet in conference competition and was named the Outstanding Wrestler in New England in 1952. Later that year, Coursen was chosen for the U.S. Olympic team and went to the Helsinki Olympics. Coursen began his coaching career at Collingswood in 1958 and remained as head coach until 1971, compiling an impressive 135-34-4 mark while his teams won eight conference and six district team titles. He had undefeated teams in 1960, 62, 63 and 67. Coursen coached 49 district, 12 regional and two individual state champions. After giving up the high school job, Coursen moved into the junior high for seven years, compiling 102-28 record. Coursen has served on just about every wrestling committee throughout the state and along with John Vogeding was a co-founder of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame and served as the organization's president for seven years. He has run numerous clinics throughout the country and also helped in running district and regional tournaments at Collingswood. Coursen also joined Princeton University's John Johnson and East Stroudsburg's Red Witman as partners of the Pocono Sports Camp, a venture that provided thousands of male and female athletes with instruction in sports of all kinds, including wrestling, for 22 years until the facility fell victim to arson in 1985. He was a member of the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association Executive Committee for 16 years, serving as secretary and treasurer, and was on the state executive committee for eight years representing South Jersey. Coursen was also a co-founder of the region 7 and 8 Coaches and Officials Association, and served as its first president. Coursen was honored by the South Jersey Coaches and Officials Association in 1975 for his contributions to wrestling and inducted into the Pennsylvania Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977. He was recipient of the Harry E. Lake Memorial Award at the New Jersey state wrestling tournament in 1980, was inducted into the Springfield College Hall of Fame in 1986 and into the New Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame in 1988. Coursen also coached championship cross country teams at Collingswood, compiling a 111-48 mark. Former Coursen wrestlers Warren Bowne, Jim Ingles, Dale Bonsall, Dave Steiler and Gary Papa all became successful wrestling coaches.



Damien E. Covington (Class of 2009)
Overbrook High School

He compiled a career record of 80-7 wrestling for Edgewood and Overbrook high schools. He was a 2-time District 30 and 2-time Region 8 champ. As a junior competing for Edgewood, he won the 189-pound Region 8 Championship and finished 4th in the state. As a senior he decisioned Ocean City's Patrick Lynch 8-4 in the Region 8 finals, ending Lynch's 99-match winning streak and denying him a 4th consecutive regional title. A week later Covington defeated 2-time returning state champion Lynch 5-3 to end the season 31-0 and claim the Outstanding Wrestler Award for a second consecutive week. He played football at North Carolina State and was twice an All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection and was honorable mention All-America as a senior. Covington was a third-round pick (95th player chosen overall) by the Buffalo Bills in 1995 and played three seasons in the NFL before a severe injury ended his pro career. Damien died when he was 33-years old.



Wayne B. Croce (Class of 1990)
Paulsboro High School

A 1955 graduate who wrestled under the late Ed Pszwaro, Croce is one of four South Jersey athletes ó all from Paulsboro High School ó to win three South Jersey championships. The late Tony Donofrio, 1949-50-51; Dave Frisby, 1952-53-54; and Stanley iBonesî Howard, heavyweight champ in 1954-55-56, also won three titles each in the days when the South Jersey tournament decided who would wrestle upstate. Croce finished third in the state as a sophomore 123-pounder in 1953, was fourth at 130 pounds a year later and capped a career that included more than 40 victories by placing second at 130 pounds after a 4-3 loss to Ray Bailey of Springfield Regional n 1955. Paulsboro teams went 9-0, 10-0 and 7-0, respectively, and finished 3rd, 2nd and 6th in the state championships at the Elizabeth Armory in 1953-54-55. Croce, who got his first varsity bout as a freshman, officiated for a couple years and was briefly involved in the community program before he followed his retirement from Eastern Airlines, after working with them for 23 years, by moving out West.



Michael L. Cunningham (Class of 2000)
Triton High School & SJWHFO

A 1965 graduate of Wyoming Seminary (after three years at Washington High School, now Warren Hills Regional), Cunningham was a district champion in 1962 and a district runner-up the following year. In prep school, he was a national runner-up at 168 pounds before winning the national prep school 183 I pound championship in 1965. Cunningham wrestled at Bloomsburg State College, winning the U.S. Military Academy Plebe Tournament as a freshman and later won a Region I AAU Tournament. A knee injury ended his competitive career before graduating from Bloomsburg in 1969. An assistant coach at Bristol, Pa. one year and two years at J.F. Kennedy in Willingboro, Cunningham was the varsity coach at Triton for seven years. His 58-54-1 record included a highlight 26-21 win over powerhouse Highland in 1978. He also was an assistant track and field and an assistant golf coach for six years, and the head swimming coach six years. Cunningham left the high school coaching ranks to help two years in Cherry Hill's youth wrestling program before he moved on to assist Hall of Famer Jack Damico for four years in Triton's youth program. He helped coach his four sons in youth wrestling. A member of the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame Organization, Inc. since its inception in 1980, Cunningham has served as the organization's corresponding secretary and recording secretary. He has been involved in some way with wrestling since he was in sixth grade, a time period spanning more than 40 years. Among his career highlights as a wrestler were winning a district title and competing in the state's second regional tournament in 1962; competing for the legendary John Goles at Washington (1960-63); and winning a national prep school title (1965).



Ryan Cunningham (Class of 2015) **Cherry Hill West High School**

A 2002 graduate of Cherry Hill West, Cunningham won four District 27 Championships, three Region 7 Championships, placed four times in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament and was a NJ State Freestyle Champion. In his first state appearance in '99 in Atlantic City at 140 pounds, he came away with sixth place honors. The following year, wrestling at the Meadowlands at 145 pounds, he dropped his state final match to Eric Norgaard of St. Joe's, Montvale, 5-3. On his way to the state final match, Cunningham avenged an earlier dual meet loss to Eric Ring of Washington Twp, defeating Ring 5-4 in the semi-final round. Wrestling in Atlantic City in '01 at 152 pounds, Cunningham reeled off three consecutive wins to earn his second state final appearance where he defeated Chris Ressa of Lenape Valley, 5-4 to earn his first state title. In his senior year, competing in Atlantic City at 160 pounds, Cunningham advanced to his third finals appearance with victories of 15-5, 9-2 and 8-6. He won via a 5-4 decision over Vinnie Salek of Toms River East to garner his second state title. Upon graduation in '02, Cunningham attended Rider University where he was a three year varsity starter and served as team captain for one year. Early in his career at Rider, he received the Fred Henson Memorial Award, presented to the wrestler demonstrating hard work, leadership and a positive attitude on and off the mat. Cunningham also earned a 6th place finish at the Keystone Open and a 3rd place finish in the CAA Conference Tournament. Cunningham cites becoming Cherry Hill West's first state champion in wrestling as the highlight of his career and states that some memorable moments came from competing for Hall of Famer, Jack Damico ('87) as a youth wrestler and for wrestling for Hall of Fame club coach, Dale Bonsall ('95) and Bruce Kennett at Team Renegade. Cunningham cites another memorable moment stemmed from being able to compete at the youth and high school levels with his brothers, Andrew, Sean and Tom. Upon graduation from Rider in '07, Cunningham has remained involved in the sport, serving as a coach at The Wrecking Crew Wrestling Academy and as a varsity wrestling official for the past three years. Employed by the State of NJ, Cunningham lives in Bellmawr with his wife, Ali, and their two sons, Cayden (6) and Logan (4).



Thomas C. Curl (Class of 2015)
Paulsboro High School

A 2002 graduate of Paulsboro High School and a three sport letter winner in wrestling, football and track, Curl distinguished himself as a heavyweight wrestler. He was a four-time District 29 Champion a four-time Region 8 Champion and a four-time state place winner who finished his career with a record of 141-6. Curl made his first state tournament appearance in Atlantic City in '99. After winning his first three matches, he dropped a 5-3 decision in the semi-finals, then lost by fall in the wrestlebacks before winning his match for fifth place honors. In '00, wrestling at the Meadowlands, Curl won two matches before losing a 7-6 decision to Chris Knapp of Bound Brook in the quarter-finals, but he rebounded by winning three wrestleback matches by fall to set up a third-place consolation match, which he won via a 5-0 decision. Wrestling in Atlantic City in '01, Curl avenged his loss the previous year to Chris Knapp by defeating him in the state final match by an 11-6 decision giving Curl his first N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championship title. During his senior campaign in Atlantic City, Curl won two matches by fall and one match by a major decision, before pinning his state final opponent, Mike Davidowich, of Eastern in just 0:27 to make him the state leader of wins by fall with a total of 94. A win by fall in the last match of his high school career in the finals of Senior Nationals is the thing Curl cites as the highlight of his career. After graduation from Paulsboro, Curl attended S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo where he won the Northeast Regional Freestyle Tournament before transferring to Lehigh University where he continued his wrestling career. Curl cites his long-time Paulsboro friend and teammate, Ryan O'Hara and his high school workout partner, Mike Mendenhall, along with his coach, Hall of Famer ('96), Paul Morina, as being positive forces in his success in wrestling and in life. He points to Paulsboro's win over Phillipsburg in the infamous "Pit" to garner the number 1 ranking for his team in '99 as the most memorable moment of his career. Currently, a police officer in Westville, NJ, Curl lives in Paulsboro with his wife, Lisa and their two daughters, Ayden (4) and Morgan (2).



Timothy M. Curry (Class of 1998)
Paul VI High School

A 1982 graduate, Curry culminated a 95-11-2 career by winning the 188-pound state championship. Curry, a two-time district and regional champion who finished second in the state at 158 Pounds as a junior, was a three-time All-Olympic Conference selection and twice an All-South Jersey selection. His three losses his junior year were to state place winners Rob Kuzy of Holy Cross (a state champ at 148), Greg Coolihan of Cherry Hill East (fourth in the state) and to John Monaco of Nutley in the state finals. A participant in football along with Wrestling at Paul VI, Curry continued his wrestling career at the Naval Academy where he compiled a 92-12 record. Curry twice won the Sunshine Open in Florida and won the Thanksgiving Invitational three times. He was third in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) in 1984 and second in the EIWA in 1986. Curry was an assistant coach at the Naval Academy for 8 months. After leaving the Academy he became an F-18 pilot, was a flight instructor 1994-96 and flew 40 combat missions in Desert Storm where he earned two combat decorations.



Jack Damico (Class of 1987)
Triton High School

A three-year varsity performer at Triton High School under Al Paolone, Damico compiled an impressive 39-1-5 career record, winning back-to-back district championships in 1960 and 1961. He capped a brilliant senior year with a 21-1-0 record, finishing third in the state at 106 pounds. He graduated in 1961 and went on to Rutgers University where he continued his wrestling career. An 8th place finish in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association championships in 1963 was his top effort at Rutgers where a recurrent shoulder injury slowed him down. Damico graduated from Rutgers in 1965 and went back to his old high school as a U.S. History teacher. He was an assistant coach at Triton for six years and coached the only undefeated jayvee team in the school's history. Damico became very active in the midget wrestling program in Runnemede where he coached for 14 years through 1987.



Rick Dellagatta(Class of 1995)
Buena Regional High School

A 1977 graduate, Dellagatta was a three-time district champion, a two-time regional champion and twice advanced to the state 115 pound quarterfinals before losing in a 77-6 career. But Dellagatta's best wrestling was still ahead. He went on to the University of Kentucky where he compiled a record of 124 wins and 20 losses. He was a three-time All-American, finishing fourth once and third twice in three NCAA appearances. He continued wrestling on the freestyle level following college and was a three-time USA National Wrestling Freestyle Champion (1980, '83, '84). He was an alternate for the 1980 Olympic team and a member of the 1984 team. Dellagatta's most memorable moment in wrestling was pinning three-time Russian Olympic champion Sergei Beloglov in a USA vs. Russia meet in Atlantic City. His career highlight: winning the 1983 USA National Freestyle Championship by defeating the Canadian National champion and four former NCAA champions, including Lee Roy Smith 15-4 in the finals and being voted unanimously Outstanding Wrestler and the best at his 136.5 weight class in the country. A one-time AAU National Champion, Dellagatta was assistant coach one year at Kentucky and a volunteer assistant at Hunter College (1983-86) and Manhattan (1994- 95).



John DeMarco (Class of 1995)
Toms River South High School

De Marco compiled a 49-10-2 varsity record at Brick Township H.S. where he won district and regional titles before finishing 4th in the state in 1965. De Marco went to West Chester State College where he compiled a 58-1 1-3 record. He won the Middle Atlantic Conference title and placed 3rd in the NCAA College Division championships at 145 pounds in 1968. As a coach, De Marco compiled a 175-73-5 record from 1973 through 1987 at Toms River South. His teams won seven Shore Conference Southern Division and four overall Shore Conference titles, and five district team titles. The most memorable moment in his coaching career was March 12, 1977 when three of his Toms River South wrestlers ó Mike Weidenbush, 101; Frank Major 115; and Jeff Parker, 170 ó won state titles. Overall, DeMarco had five state champs, five other state place winners, 26 regional champs and 54 individual district champs. He has held positions in the National Wrestling Coaches Association, NJ Wrestling Officials Association (Shore Chapter) and U.S. Wrestling Officials and Coaches Association.



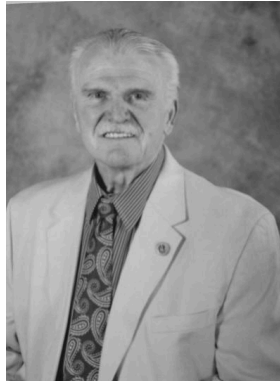
Larry DeVault (Class of 2009)
Paulsboro High School

With a career record of 122-10, he was a 3-time Caldwell Tournament champion and 2-time Deep Creek, Va. Champion. a 4-time District 29 and 2-time Region 8 Champion. He also finished 3rd in Region 8 in 1990 and 4th in 1989. As a junior, he capped a 37-0 campaign by winning the 152-pound state championship. The following year, in the 152-pound state finals with unbeaten Ferman Crisco of Perth Amboy, DeVault lost by fall after leading 5-0 to end an illustrious career of successive seasons of 26-6, 26-3, 37-0 and 33-1. During his four years as a starter for the Red Raiders he helped the team compile an overall 82-2-1 record with two Caldwell Tournament and four Colonial Conference, four South Jersey Group I, four State Group I and four District 29 Championships. He wrestled one season at Gloucester County College, going 26-6 and winning a 1994 NJCAA Zone Championship when he was selected as the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler.



Adam Derengowski (Class of 1999)
Paul VI High School

A 1986 graduate, Derengowski capped a magical senior season and a 50-7-2 career by winning the District 28, Region 7 and State championships at 108 pounds. Derengowski was introduced to wrestling as a freshman and never won a match his first year. He was 21-1 on the jayvee level as a sophomore and started varsity as a junior. A first-round loss in the districts his junior year prompted an intensive off-season program of running, lifting and wrestling. A loss to two-time state champion Dave Boncher of Phillipsburg in a Christmas Tournament marred the start of a senior season that culminated with a state title that included a win over Boncher in the state finals. Derengowski blossomed as a collegiate wrestler at Rider University where he compiled a 107-24 record, including a third-place NCAA Tournament finish as a senior in 1991. He considers the highlight of his athletic career taking 3rd place at the NCAAs to become a Division I All-American as a senior. His most memorable moment was being selected to and winning his match in the National Wrestling Coaches Association all star meet in the Palestra at the University of Pennsylvania as a senior. He was a University Freestyle Champion, placed in the Top 6 in the United States Freestyle Championships 4 times and was a member of the U.S. National team in 1994. A three-time Sunkist Invitational champion, he wrestled internationally in dual meets against Russia, Iran, Japan and Canada. He was an assistant coach two years at Iowa State and one year at Cornell.



Joseph J. Derillo (Class of 2023)
New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association

A 1969 graduate, Derillo wrestled for the legendary coach, Ernie Finizo, where he went undefeated in dual meets for two years and won a District XII Championship in 1968. Upon graduation, Derillo continued to aid wrestling by serving as a coach for the Roselle Park youth program and by helping take the lead of founding the Union County Youth Wrestling League. Derillo took a year away from the workforce to attend and wrestle for Union County Community College, where, under Coach Jerry Purdue, he went undefeated in dual meets. Derillo claims Coach Purdue was responsible for getting him started in officiating, because he assigned his charges to join the NJWOA in order to learn the rules of the sport. Under the tutelage of acclaimed state wrestling official, Dick Matarante, Derillo acquired the nuances of the sport's rules. An official since 1974, Derillo officiated all over the state, save for South Jersey. All that changed in 1978 when Derillo worked a match between Shawnee and Rancocas Valley. After the match, Derillo was approached by the opposing coaches (future Hall of Fame members), Bill Neal ('90) and Tony Petrillo ('85) and told him how he should never be anywhere but officiating on a match day. This is one of Derillo's most memorable moments, claiming it was his indoctrination into South Jersey wrestling. Derillo claims that these coaches' endorsements kept him "booked" for seasons to come. Over the years, Derillo has worked numerous sectional tournaments, forty-seven district and regional tournaments, and twenty-five state tournaments, five of which were state finals. Aside from his "on the mat" work, Derillo has been the Southern Chapter's president and vice president, the chapter's cadet supervisor and is currently serving as the NJWOA membership chairman. Derillo claims the highlight of his career is twofold, the first of which was when he was presented with his "state ring" in 1989 for working the state finals. Part two of this highlight was when, before the 2023 N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament in Atlantic City, he received the Richard C. Mirshak Award for excellence in officiating. There to witness both events were Derillo's wife, Susan, son, Joe, Jr and daughter, Noel, her husband, Steve Marini and four of their five grandchildren. Joe retired from Amtrak as a Communications and Signals Supervisor and also as National President of the American Railway and Airways Association in December 2014. Joe lives with his wife, Susan, in Marlton, N.J.



Daniel K. DeTullio (Class of 1996)
Millville High School

A 1975 graduate, DeTullio had a perfect high school senior season at heavyweight. He won the Edgewood Christmas, District 32 and Region 8 tournaments before capping a brilliant 34-0 campaign by winning the state championship with a pin over Delseais Mickey Aikens, the fourth time the two heavyweights met that season. A District 32 champion as a junior, DeTullio, a co-captain his senior year, finished his scholastic career with 56 wins in 62 outings in three varsity seasons. DeTullio also was a football player at Millville for three years. Following high school DeTullio wrestled at Cumberland County College.



Robert Deutsch (Class of 2024) Eastern Regional High School

A 2011 graduate, Deutsch won four District 26 and four Region 7 Championships on his way to as many trips to the N.J.S.I.A.A. tournament in Atlantic City. In his first appearance at 103 pounds in '08, Deutsch rang up wins of 10-1, 3-2, and 3-1 before dropping a 4-2 decision in the finals to come away with the silver. The following year at 112 pounds, Rob hit his stride, winning his first three matches by scores of 11-2, 10-3 and 3-1 before pinning River Dell's Dave Della Torre in 3:39 to claim his first state title. In '09, Deutsch was on his way at 119 pounds, winning his first two matches (a fall in 2:25 and a 5-4 decision) before he was upended in the semifinals via a 3-0 verdict. Undeterred by the setback, Deutsch notched a 7-3 decision over his West Essex opponent and followed with a 3-1 decision over Joe Orecchio (Don Bosco) for the bronze medal. Rob began his senior year by capturing the respected Beast of the East Tournament at 119 pounds. This seemed to set the tone for the remainder of the year as he approached the state tournament in Atlantic City. Deutsch opened the state championships with 5-3 win over Nick Anderson of Delbarton and followed with a 12-2 major decision of Cranford's Joe Giaccio. In the semifinals, Rob overcame Billy Ward (St. Auggies), 8-3 to garner his third state finals appearance; he did not disappoint as he won a hard-fought 7-4 decision over South Plainfield's Troy Heilmann to earn his second state championship. Deutsch closed out his high school career with 156 wins, which was the state record at the time. This, along with forty-two season wins stands out as a highlight of Deutsch's career. Upon graduation, Deutsch enrolled at Rider University where he was a two-year team captain, a three-time conference champion and was the recipient of the Male Athlete of the Year Award in 2016. Rob qualified for the Division 1 NCAA Tournament where he competed at 125 pounds for two years and at 133 pounds his final two years. He cites pinning his state final opponent (Dave Della Torre) for his first title as a most memorable moment in his career. He also adds that being named as the Philadelphia Inquirer's "Wrestler of the Year" in 2011 as a career highlight. A bachelor, Deutsch lives in Cherry Hill where he works as a law enforcement officer.



James J. Dever (Class of 2004)
Moorestown High School

A 1975 graduate, Dever was a two-time District 29 and Region 8 champion (188 pounds as a junior, 170 pounds as a senior). A three-time Highland Christmas Tournament champion, Dever compiled a 66-10 varsity record. He lost in the state finals to unbeaten Keith Stiehler of Lyndhurst to finish his senior season 30-1. Twice an All-South Jersey selection, Dever was team captain as a senior. Dever went on to East Carolina University where he compiled an 86-28-2 record. He was the North Carolina Collegiate Champion in 1977 (3rd in 1976, 2nd in 1978), was 3rd in the Southern Conference in 1977, 3rd in the Eastern Regional in 1978 and 2nd in the Eastern Regional in 1980. He served as volunteer assistant wrestling coach at North Carolina State 1980-84. He became a police detective in the Moorestown Police Department and served as a volunteer assistant wrestling coach at Delran, Moorestown and Holy Cross high schools and became an assistant football coach at Holy Cross in 1986. Among his many commendations is a 1986 commendation from the Federal Government for repairing a large tanker ship that was leaking heating oil in the Delaware River while working as a hard hat/commercial diver in the Philadelphia and New York areas. In 2000 he received a commendation from the Burlington County Prosecutor's office and in 2002 a commendation from the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police for his work with the Moorestown Police Department.



Dennis DiDonato (Class of 2018) **Camden Catholic High School**

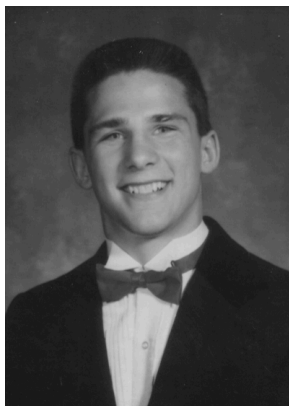
A 1968 graduate, DiDonato wrestled on the school's club team before a varsity team became a reality; though once a team came to fruition, DiDonato found himself in on the ground floor. Dennis fell in love with the sport and has remained a part of it ever since. Upon graduation from Camden Catholic High School, DiDonato's college of choice, St. Joseph's Univ., had no team in existence, so he prepared himself by staying in contact with the local wrestling scene in South Jersey. After he graduated from St. Joe's in 1972 with a BS degree in mathematics education, he took his first teaching and coaching job at Eastern Regional High School. He served as an assistant to Hall of Fame coach, John Sanders ('93) for five years. He then moved to teach and coach at Oakcrest High School, where he assisted Doug Cervi before being named as head coach in 1981. Throughout all of his years as a wrestling coach, he also coached football, where he encouraged his players to become involved with both wrestling as well as football. He remained as the head wrestling coach until '88, where his teams compiled a record of 72-46-1. He organized the Oakcrest Christmas Classic Wrestling Tournament, and produced 17 individual district champions and 3 regional champions. DiDonato was in the corner at the N.J.S.I.A.A. Tournament when his 3 regional champions earned All-State honors. Dennis supervised the Mays Landing Youth Wrestling program for 5 years and has stayed active as a varsity wrestling official for the past 37 years. During his tenure as an official, DiDonato saw action officiating districts, regions and sectionals. He and Hall of Famer, Art Marinelli ('89) started the Southern Shore Officials' Chapter, where at different times he was the assignor for 5 years, held the offices of vice-president and or treasurer for 9 years and served as president for 10 years. He also became involved with the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association, serving on the state's ethics committee and constitution committee. DiDonato started the NJWOA Scholarship Committee in 1998, and continues as Co-Chairman to date. He also helped create the South Jersey Youth League/Southern Shore Scholarship in 2014. Dennis continues to work as a timekeeper and scorer at the New Jersey State Group Tournament and at the N.J.S.I.A.A. State Wrestling Championships. Dennis states that there are too many memorable moments to single out one, but suggests that seeing many of his former athletes becoming involved with the sport through coaching and officiating gives him great pleasure. Retired from education in 2006, he currently continues tutoring math and works part time as an insurance agent. Dennis and wife, Elizabeth, reside in Mays Landing and have four daughters: Liesje (MBA), Nicole (PHD), Deanna (MS) and Andrea (MS) as well as 3 grandchildren, Abraham (4) and twins, Augustus and Atticus (1 ½).



Angelo DiJoseph (Class of 2024)

Cumberland Regional High School & Delsea High School

A 1988 graduate, DiJoseph was a two-time District 31 and a one-time Region 8 Champion who earned three trips to Atlantic City's N.J.S.I.A.A. Wrestling Tournament. Having only reached the 7/8th place (1987) in his first two attempts, DiJoseph was on a mission as a senior at 119 pounds. Coming off a 2-1 decision in the Region 8 finals over former state champion, John Doran of Pennsville, Angelo began the tournament by notching a win by fall (1:48) over Palisades Park's Tom Toscano and followed with a 12-8 decision ousting of Chris Wolkwitz (Voorhees). Unfortunately, DiJoseph fell by a narrow 4-2 decision in the semifinals and found himself in the wrestle backs. Undeterred by his loss, Angelo dispatched Emerson's Joe Harrimon by fall (2:19) before defeating his quarterfinal opponent (Chris Wolkwitz) for a second time by an 11-0 major decision to take home the bronze medal and complete his high school career with a record of 93-8-1. After graduation, DiJoseph entered college at Central Connecticut State University. There in '90, Angelo won All-American honors at the University Nationals before leaving to begin a career as a coach, which arguably surpassed his success on the mat. DiJoseph's coaching career has spanned twenty-three years between two schools. He spent eighteen years at Delsea and five years at Haddonfield as the assistant coach at both high schools. Angelo assisted in numerous SJ Group Championships, and at Delsea, his team won three Group 3 State Championships. During his tenure at Delsea, DiJoseph was named both the District 31 and Region 8 Assistant Coach of the Year in '09 and the prestigious N.J. State Assistant Coach of the Year. While coaching at Haddonfield, he was named the District 28 and Region 7 Assistant Coach of the Year in '2014 and in 2015 the District 27 Assistant Coach of the Year. DiJoseph was tireless in his dedication to the teams he coached and to his country, having served in the United States Marine Corp for six years. Along with his duty to his country, DiJoseph aided as a District 31 Representative and assisted in the Region 8 seeding process. Angelo cites coaching his first state champion at Delsea as a most memorable moment and adds that becoming an All- American at the University National Tournament was the highlight of his personal wrestling career. Employed by Washington Twp.'s maintenance department, Angelo lives in Franklinville with his wife, Iris. The couple has one daughter, Kaitlyn.



Duke DiJoseph (Class of 2021)
Cumberland Regional High School & Paulsboro High School

A 1990 graduate of Paulsboro High School, DiJoseph was a two-time district and a two-time region champion who qualified for the state tournament three times. As a sophomore at Cumberland Regional, DiJoseph won a District 31 Championship, went on to win the Region 8 Championship to qualify for the N.J.S.I.A.A. tournament in Atlantic City at 103 pounds. DiJoseph quickly rattled off a major decision (13-1) and an 8-1 decision before falling to Phillipsburg's Kevin Dilts (5-3). In the wrestle backs, DiJoseph won by technical fall (17-2) over Hamid Chalileh of Waldwick, but lost his bid for the bronze, earning 4th place honors. As a junior at Paulsboro (112 pounds), DiJoseph won a District 29 Championship and a Region 8 Championship to once again qualify for the state tournament. During his second appearance in Atlantic City, DiJoseph bowed out after going 1-2. In DiJoseph's final appearance at Atlantic City as a 119 pound senior, he won a major decision (18-4) over Rob Blight of Pinelands, then won 10-6 over Eastern's Mike Pierce. The quarterfinals proved problematic for DiJoseph as he lost via default to Summit's Leo Pietrantuono. In the wrestle backs DiJoseph impressed, winning 8-1 over Karl Finney (Union), 6-4 over Demea Haywood of West Deptford, and by 11-2 (major decision) over John Balsamo of Morris Knolls, which set up a rematch with Leo Pietrantuono. DiJoseph turned the tables, winning in overtime and earning the bronze medal, his highest finish in the state tournament. DiJoseph finished his high school career with a record of 108-18-0 before moving on to Virginia Tech, where he amassed a 31-13 record as a freshman. Reconstructive shoulder surgery in '91 sidelined DiJoseph for the '92 season, and after a great start in '93, the recurring injury ended his wrestling career, but opened the door to his coaching career. DiJoseph served as the head coach at Cumberland from '96-'99 before moving on to take over as head coach at Delsea Middle School for seven years. During his tenure at the middle school, DiJoseph coached several future state place winners and a state champion (Anthony Baldosaro). DiJoseph was an assistant coach at Sacred Heart from '06-'08 before leaving to reestablish the Cumberland Junior Wrestling program. This move enabled him to coach his son, Geno and gave him the opportunity to continue to serve as the program's head coach today. DiJoseph cites winning a Region 8 Championship at Cumberland alongside of his brother, Angelo, as a highlight of his career. He adds that coaching Scott Kelly (Sacred Heart) in the '08 state finals as another career highlight.



Brett J. DiNovi (Class of 2006)
Williamstown High School

A 1988 graduate, DiNovi was a three-time District 30 champion (108, 115, 125 pounds), a three-time Region 8 finalist (winning in 1986 and 1988) and capped a 33-0 senior season with the 125-pound state championship to culminate a 114-7-1 career. DiNovi's district championships were 8-3 over Wayne Mauri of Eastern, 9-4 over Jeff Greiner of Edgewood and 5-3 over Rob Sentman of Highland. DiNovi also decisioned Sentman for his regional title in 1988 and won 6-4 over George Chew of Cumberland in 1986. DiNovi was fourth in the state as a sophomore (losing to Chew, 7-3) and third as a junior (going 6-1 in the tournament after a second-round loss to eventual state champ Sam Cole of Long Branch) and defeated Cole 5-2 to cap his unbeaten senior year. A member of the USA 'Dream Team' in 1988, DiNovi won the bronze medal in the Greco-Roman Nationals at Northern Iowa in 1988. DiNovi, who also was the leading scorer on his school's soccer team as a senior, attended West Virginia University where he won the WVU Open.



John Disanti (Class of 1985)
Vineland High School

A 1960 graduate, Disanti compiled a 51-6 career record under Coach Tony DiTomo, a 1984 South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee. A four-year varsity performer and one of the most outstanding wrestlers ever to compete for Vineland High School, Disanti was third in the South Jersey championships his freshman year and a runner-up as a sophomore. In 1959, Disanti won the district and South Jersey championships and won a state title (3-0 over Ed Purdy of Morris Hills Regional) at 115 pounds. He was South Jersey's second consecutive recipient of the Outstanding Wrestler Award in the state tournament (following hall of Fame inductee Bobby Hogan of Millville). In his senior year Disanti again won against all South Jersey competition, winning a district and regional crown but lost 6-4 in the state finals against Joe Zelasney of Bound Brook



Anthony (Tony) DiTomo (Class of 1984)
Vineland High School

DiTomo graduated from Vineland High School in 1940 and later played varsity football at Wake Forest University where he graduated in 1949. He also received a Masters Degree from Temple University in 1956. The wrestling coach at Vineland for 21 years, DiTomo compiled a 165-44-4 record. His teams won 17 Cumberland County, eight league, four district and one South Jersey championship. He produced three individual state champions ó John Disanti, 1982 Hall of Famer Hank Mazzoni and David Homiak. Disanti was also the recipient of the state's Outstanding Wrestler Award. DiTomo produced 54 district, five South Jersey and six regional champions. He was president of the South Jersey Wrestling Conference and was on the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Advisory Board two years. He received the outstanding Contribution Award from the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association in 1983 and was site director for the districts and regionals for a number of years. In the 1950s and 60s he helped many schools in South Jersey start their high school programs and was instrumental in starting Vineland's community midget program. DiTomo was also a member of Vineland's city recreation commission for 30 years.



John W. Doran, Jr. (Class of 2022)
Pennsville High School

As a freshman wrestling at 101 pounds, John made the most of seeing action behind teammate and NJ State Champion (Greg Griffith) in 1985. He used his sub-varsity year of undefeated wrestling to guide him to his own state title the following year. As a sophomore in 1986, John won District 31 and Region 8 Championships to qualify for the NJSIAA Wrestling Championships. John began his assault on the title by downing Emerson's Joe Harriman in the pre-quarter final match, 8-2. He then followed up that victory in the quarterfinals with a 2-0 overtime win against John Maute of Morris Hills. In the semifinals John bested Drew Black of Mahwah, 3-2 to earn his spot in the finals, where he cemented a perfect season (29-0) and grabbed the gold medal with a 12-3 major decision over Steve Rivera of Manalapan. In 1988, wrestling at 119 pounds, John garnered runner-up medals in both the District and Region tournaments, thus qualifying him for another shot at reaching the podium in the NJSIAA tournament. John opened with a fall over Delbarton's John Faccanni in 4:04 and added an 8-1 decision over Hunterdon Central's Mike Darlington, thus setting up a quarterfinal match with Matawan's Jared Michinga, whom he defeated via a 9-4 verdict. The run for the title hit a snag as John dropped a hard-fought 5-2 overtime loss to Mike Indorato (Paramus) and after the wrestle back rounds, finished with sixth place honors. John finished his high school career with an 86-9 record which boasted having never lost a dual match in three years of varsity wrestling. John spent one year competing for Gloucester County College, where he was again undefeated in dual meet competition, was the Mid-Atlantic Zone Champion at his weight class and was a Junior College (JUCO) All-American, finishing the tournament in 6th place. John ended his career at Gloucester County College in 1989 after being named to the All Garden State Wrestling Team and compiling a record of 32-3. John cites his successes with the Pennsville Youth Program and Seagull Wrestling Club as highlights of his career and adds that winning his NJSIAA title in 1986 was his most memorable moment. The wrestling bug, never far from John's thoughts, he went on to coach at the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Wrestling Academy for three years, where he worked with students from youth to adult athletes. Employed by Window Nation in Cherry Hill, John is an exterior design specialist.



Dale Driver (Class of 2010)
A.P. Schalick High School

A 1972 graduate of Paulsboro High School, Driver was a four-year starter. In district competition, he was 4th as a freshman, 3rd as a sophomore and 2nd at 136 pounds as a junior and senior when he put together back-to-back 17-2 and 19-3 campaigns. All-Colonial Conference as a junior and senior, Driver was 2nd in the regionals in 1972 when only the regional champion advanced to the State Tournament. A senior co-captain, Driver also won All-Gloucester County honors. Driver went to Trenton State College and competed in wrestling four years. In 1976 Driver accepted a teaching position at A.P. Schalick High School and three years later the wrestling program started and he was appointed head coach. With no youth wrestling program at the start, Driver compiled 124 wins over the next 16 years. Ten wrestlers made the district finals (with three champions) and seven finished among the top four in regional competition, with one earning Outstanding Wrestler laurels. In the final match of his coaching career Driver had Karl Haywood finish second (losing 8-6 in overtime) in the state. Driver helped form the youth wrestling program in Pittsgrove and the Pittsgrove Wrestling Association (PWA). He also helped start the Bob Kinner Wrestling Classic, a youth tournament that evolved into one of the best in southern New Jersey..



Joseph A. Duca (Class of 2023)
Paulsboro High School

A 2010 graduate, Duca, wrestling for Hall of Fame Coach Paul Morina (96), was a four-time District 29 Champion and a four-time Region 8 Champion. As a freshman at 112 pounds, Duca was named the OW in District 29, and in '09 he was named the OW in Region 8 at 119 pounds. All but one of Duca's four trips to the state tournament in Atlantic City resulted in places on the podium. As a sophomore at 112 pounds, Duca lost a razor-thin 3-2 semifinal match to Joey Langle of Howell and a squeaker to Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace to earn 4th place honors. Not satisfied, but motivated that he could place higher, Duca came back to the state tournament at 119 pounds his junior year, where he reeled off wins of 9-3, 12-6 and 8-6 (OT) before dropping the match for the gold via a 3-2 UTB to a tough Vinnie DellaFave of Toms River East. In 2020, Duca was back and primed to take home the gold, and he didn't disappoint. The two-time winner of the highly-esteemed Escape the Rock Tournament opened with a 16-1 technical fall over Andrew Polidore of Queen of Peace, followed by a 12-1 major decision over Southern's Bob Lanno. Duca's semifinal match saw him decision T.J. Miller of Camden Catholic, 7-5 to earn his second trip to the finals. This time things were different as Duca decisioned Del Val's Bobby Stevely by a 10-6 verdict to come away with an N.J.S.I.A.A State Championship. Duca completed his high school career with a record of 155-14, then began his college career at Indiana University, where he was a three-time Academic All American, a team captain and a Division I qualifier. Upon graduation in 2015, Duca was not ready to walk away from wrestling. He opted to immediately take on the position of assistant coach at his alma mater where he still coaches today. Duca views his presence as a member of his team's three Group I State Championships as one of his most memorable moments. He goes on to say that the highlight of his high school career was winning an individual State Championship at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall. Today, Duca works in sales for the Concord Truss Company and lives in Gibbstown with his wife, Maria Elena and their twin daughters, Aurielle and Aviana (2).



Joseph J. Duca Jr. (Class of 2000)
Paulsboro High School

A 1980 graduate, Duca was a three-time District 29 and two-time Region 8 champion who compiled a 93-9-2 record in four varsity seasons. Third in the state as a sophomore, Duca won the state title at 122 pounds in 1979. The following season Duca finished second in the state to Pemberton's Orlando Caceres. Duca went on to wrestle varsity for four seasons at Temple University where he was fifth in the Eastern Regional Tournament his first two seasons and fourth as a junior. He lost out on a chance to compete in the national qualifier his senior season when he was sidelined with rheumatic fever. Following his four years at Temple, Duca was an assistant coach for three seasons at Paulsboro High School before moving into the business world. He considers the highlight of his athletic career winning the coveted state title in 1979. His most memorable moment was the very first day of wrestling practice when his father had to literally drag him into the wrestling room and remembering his father telling him, "If you don't like it, you don't have to stay."



William B. Duff (Class of 2006)
Delran High School

A 1993 graduate, Duff was a two-time District 27, Region 7 and state heavyweight champion. He capped a perfect 35-0 senior year with his second straight state gold medal that raised his record to 70-1 over those two seasons. Duff won Region 7 as a junior with a 9-2 win over Diondrey Ford of Willingboro and repeated a year later with a 10-4 win over Steve Randazzo of Haddon Township. Duff was dominating in both state finals, pinning Jim Kirk of Sayreville in 3:15 in 1992 and Alex Rodriguez of Secaucus in 5:02 in 1993. An excellent all-around athlete, Duff was captain of state championship football and track teams his senior year. He was selected to the All-America football team as a senior, which resulted in a full scholarship to the University of Tennessee. Duff also won the shot put and discus events in South Jersey as a senior. Duff was captain of the 1997 SEC Champion Tennessee football team and went on to play eight years of pro football in the NFL, the XFL and the AFL.