



# ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A History of Sports Excellence  
Founded in 1974

# 2025



JOE LYNCH - WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION



1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM



MICKEY DESIMONE



1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM

## 2025 HONOREES

**JOSEPH LYNCH**  
OLD-TIMERS' SPECIAL AWARD

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

**MICKEY DESIMONE**  
POSTHUMOUS

**1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**

9/20/25 - O'GRADY'S CASTLE AT BLUE HILL GOLF COURSE

**The D'Auria Family wishes to extend  
their congratulations to the  
2025 RCSHF Inductees.**



**JOSEPH LYNCH**

**Old -Timers' Special Award**

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS**

**BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

**MICKEY DESIMONE**

**1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**

**D'AURIA**

**In honor and acknowledgment of the D'Auria  
members (Gerald, Pete and Pat D'Auria) who have  
been bestowed the glorious achievement as long time  
members of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame.**



## Chairman's Message – Pete Scheibner



Welcome to Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Night at O'Grady's Castle at Blue Hill Golf Course. Tonight, we continue a recent tradition of honoring Rockland's outstanding individual athletes and our greatest athletic teams.

Congratulations to Joe Lynch and Mickey DeSimone, two outstanding (posthumous) athletes who represented their sports at the highest level. Joe Lynch had a celebrated boxing career from 1915 to 1926. He was a two-time world bantamweight champion and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005. He moved to New City after his boxing career and served

his community as Postmaster and Fire Chief. Mickey DeSimone was an outstanding athlete at Suffern High School who went on to become an excellent wrestling coach as witnessed by his 1996-97 wrestling team that we honor this evening. Mickey was a first-class teacher, guidance counselor and mentor, and was well respected by his community and Rockland County sports.

Special accolades go out to the 1974 Albertus Magnus boys' cross country team, a dedicated group of thirty-eight runners coached by Dick Weis, an innovative and hard-driving head coach who got "maximum effort" from his squad, known affectionately as the Long Red Line. The team won every dual meet and invitational they ran in, and captured Rockland County, Section 9, New York State, and Eastern States championships. The Falcons' season-ending performance at a two-mile track competition earned them a No. 2 national ranking from Track & Field News, certainly one of the best accomplishments of a Rockland County high school team. The top seven runners included Brian Kelly, Jamie Kempton, a 2005 RCSHOF inductee for both his running and sports-writing accolades, Kevin Leonard, John McNiff, George Buckheit, Pat Chambers, and Mike Colangelo. Jim Moran and Ralph Coleman, two highly qualified assistant coaches, supported Dick Weis.

The 1996-97 Suffern wrestling team, coached by Mickey DeSimone, dominated the County tournament with nine champions, accumulating 260 points, with Steve Pregiato named outstanding wrestler of the tournament. The Mounties went on to win Section 1 (10-0) with a combined 177 points. Star performers were Griff Powell, Chad Caros, Jamie Ryan, Chris Mason, and Khyl Farrison, an All-Section three-sport athlete who was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. Recognition also goes to assistant coaches Bob Farquharson, Chris Matteotti, 2001 RCSHOF inductee Bill White, and John Wallach for their many contributions.

As is our custom at team inductions, we will be raising funds for a charitable organization. This year's organization was founded in 2017 to honor the memory of Brandon Smith, a Clarkstown athlete and New York State champion bowler who passed away while in high school. The Brandon W. Smith Foundation was created in Brandon's memory and contributes to causes within the Rockland County community and beyond, to raise awareness and fund services for our young adults who suffer chronic illness and depression.

Please visit our website, [www.rcshf.org](http://www.rcshf.org), to view bios of all our inductees. The website includes enshrinement requirements for selection, as well as a nomination portal for future candidates and teams. We very much look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming 53rd anniversary induction, which will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at Paramount Country Club in New City.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pete Scheibner'.

Peter Scheibner, *Chairman*  
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.RCSHF.ORG](http://WWW.RCSHF.ORG)



## ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

### LIST OF 2025 INDUCTEES

#### JOSEPH LYNCH

##### *Old -Timers' Special Award*

Nominated by: Jamie Kempton

Introduced By: Jerry Kleiman

Old Timers' Special Award Sponsor: New City Fire Engine Co 1

Plaque Sponsor: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

#### 1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Nominated by: Jamie Kempton

Introduced By: Ralph Coleman, Assistant Coach

Plaque Sponsor: Fesco Fence

Paperweight Sponsors: Albertus Magnus Cross Country team members

#### MICKEY DESIMONE

##### *Suffern Coach*

(POSTHUMOUS)

Nominated by: Bob Veltidi

Introduced By: Steve Dugandzic

Trophy Sponsor: Suffern High School Mat Club

Plaque Sponsor: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

#### 1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM

Nominated by: Bob Veltidi

Introduced By: Alan Veltidi

Plaque Sponsor: Suffern High School Mat Club

Paperweight Sponsor: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

Peter Scheibner .....Chairman

Vincent Sciortino .....Vice Chairman

Kurt Lundgren .....Secretary

John Ryan .....Treasurer

#### DIRECTORS

Giulia Adler

Bob Baird

Peter Castellano

Andre Chiavelli

Tom Collins

Pat D'Auria

Pat Dizzine

Phil Donnelly

Steve Dugandzic

Russell Grant

Jerry Kleiman

Ray Kondracki

Kurt Lundgren

Chuck Maze

Sid McCready

Bill Rubbert

Kristen Sullivan

Alan Veltidi

Bob Veltidi

(1998-2021)

Robbie Woods





The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame  
*wishes to thank the following businesses for  
their generous support of our organization:*

*Beckerle Productions*

*J. J. Donnelly, Pearl River 1-Hour Photo*

*Schweizer & Dykstra Beautiful Flowers*

*Louie's on the Avenue*

*Lynch's on the Green*

*Crown Trophy*

*Quality Graphics Tristate, Inc.*

*Rockland County YMCA*



## Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

### 1974

Chuck Aleno\*  
 Henry "Peck" Artopee\*  
 Dr. Daniel "Danny" Fortmann\*  
 Joseph "JoJo" Mackey  
 Howard "Howie" Pierson

### 1975

Roger Brown\*  
 Joe D'Auria  
 Bill Drescher\*  
 Billy Hogan\*  
 Donald "Pop" Sherwood\*

### 1976

Howard Parker Talman\*  
 John Koster\*  
 Jim Ridlon  
 Pete D'Auria\*  
 Gloria Callan Jones\*

### 1977

Augusta Bradley Chapman\*  
 Nick Gamboli\*  
 Ed Greene\*  
 Harry Jackson\*  
 Paul Toscano  
 Richard "Gus" Shankey\*

### 1978

Jim Brown\*  
 Harold "Hale" DeChelfin\*  
 Jim Faulk\*  
 Ira Shuttleworth\*  
 Jim Schnaars\*  
 Nick Mottola\*

### 1979

Bob Bacheller\*  
 Frank Cosentino\*  
 Harry "Dee" Dembnicki\*  
 Jerry Hollahan\*  
 Bob Grossman\*  
 E.J. Maurer\*  
 Bruno Ablandi\*

### 1980

Dr. Jeffrey Munson  
 Art Orlando\*  
 Brit Paterson\*  
 Nick Ryder  
 Horace Tyrus\*  
 Emil Willis\*  
 Mickey Wittman\*

### 1981

Art Hopper\*  
 Frank Horan  
 Howard Johnson  
 Lester Lepori\*  
 Walter Ostrom  
 Victor Shankey\*  
 Bill Yuda\*

### 1982

Frank DePatto\*  
 Tony Gamboli, Jr..  
 Bill Perry\*  
 George Jakowenko  
 Ed McGrath\*

### 1983

Warren Austin\*  
 Jim Brechbiel  
 Frank Dawson\*  
 Jeanette Paddock  
 Walter Sickles\*

### 1984

Jim Ashcroft  
 Marvin Branche\*  
 Ralph Cordisco\*  
 Bryan Hassett  
 Bob Tierney\*

### 1985

Wil Arietta\*  
 Joseph "Josh" Bolack\*  
 Gene Erickson\*  
 Tony Gemma\*  
 Joe St. Lawrence\*

### 1986

Joe Alleva  
 John Jemison  
 Harold Lederman\*  
 Bob Mathias\*  
 Sylvester "Molly" McGee\*

### 1987

Fred Hahn\*  
 Charles Holbrook  
 Chuck Scarpulla\*  
 Jim Stamos  
 Bob Strack\*

### 1988

Ron Becraft\*  
 Darryl Brown  
 Tom Canty  
 Pat D'Auria\*  
 James "Sham" Feeney\*

### 1989

Ralph Consiglio\*  
 Patty Dillon Solliday  
 Vincent "Dugan" Kovalsky\*  
 Frank Nelson\*  
 Bob Wolff\*

### 1990

Denise McGuire  
 Guy Guccione  
 Abe Schuster\*  
 Robert "Red" Schassler\*  
 Don Clancy\*

### 1991

Steve Drummond\*  
 Lew Brundage\*  
 Johnny Burns\*  
 Pete Haubner  
 Ethel Doller\*  
 Dominic Gamboli\*

### 1992

Murray Olderman\*  
 Jerome Bonomolo  
 Joseph "Biscuit" Picarello\*  
 Dale Lydecker  
 John Mercurio

### 1993

Jim Kane\*  
 Kathy Miller Dapolito  
 Jay Bohnel  
 Mike Deane  
 Don Driscoll

### 1994

Hubert Nealy\*  
 Martin "Hawk" Jacobs\*  
 Joe Goldsmith  
 Tom Collins  
 Ron Tellefsen\*

### 1995

Ron Edwards\*  
 Walter "Red" Levy  
 Max Talaska\*  
 Joe Klopchin\*  
 Joe McDowell\*  
 Paul Urban\*

### 1996

Harry Babcock\*  
 Gerald Kapusinsky  
 John Orlando  
 Al Simonds\*  
 George Garrecht\*  
 Marty Springstead\*

### 1997

Mike Hagon  
 Hank Kapusinskyl\*  
 Tom Mounkhal  
 Dennis Pozsar  
 Steve Wanamaker\*

### 1998

Kevin Kane  
 Lou Kliewe\*  
 Rocco Marano\*  
 Howie McNiff  
 Blaise Winter

### 1999

Jim Cann  
 Joe Casarella  
 Ervan Levine\*  
 Gibby Sweet\*  
 Dick Yerg\*

\* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

## Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

### 2000

Rich Conklin\*  
Kevin Houston  
Dawn Royster  
Sarah Will  
Alex Zilko\*

### 2001

George Dalzell  
Gerald D'Auria\*  
Seth Joyner  
Tod Giles\*  
Debbie Grant  
Bill White

### 2002

Ken Harniman\*  
Derrick Lassie  
Norinne Powers  
Kris Snider  
Dick Teetsel\*  
Walt Weiss

### 2003

Genny Mulderig Allard  
Jeff Bryant  
Peter Hackett\*  
David Hirsch  
Bill Kurisko  
‡ Joe Grasso\*  
‡ Charles "Jumbo" Strack\*

### 2004

Jim Gallo  
Dave Hanson  
Joan Neuendorf  
Nancy Rosenfeld Lewis  
Ed Rubbert  
Frank Samoylo

### 2005

Jane Ronner-Beckley  
Mike Carroll\*  
Tom Doherty  
Jamie Kempton  
Lee Klepper  
‡ Leon Pesner\*  
Rudolph Rejholec\*

### 2006

Tony Harlin  
Jon Hess  
Jim Pollard  
John Scanlan  
Jeff Van Wie  
John Van Wyck\*

### 2007

Julius D'Agostino\*  
John Flaherty  
Barbara Hebel  
Robert Neuendorf  
Richard "Dixie" Reilly\*  
‡ Dan White\*

### 2008

Noreen Annunziata Apicella  
Charles Dittmer\*  
Reid Hoffer  
Randy Nelson  
Paul Pietropaolo  
Tim St. Lawrence  
‡ Elizabeth "Pat" Ryan\*

### 2009

Joe Biddy  
Jeff Brown  
Jim Horvath  
Mike Longuil\*  
Janice Olszewski  
John Sottile

### 2010

Joe Conace\*  
T. J. Ford  
Sol "Spike" Israel\*  
Barbara Mellen-Speerin  
Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel  
Mike Sparago  
Robbie Woods

### 2011

Jeff Becker  
Dan Keeley  
Gene Martin  
Kristen Conklin-Sullivan  
Shulton Whitley  
‡ Wilbur "Web" Wanamaker\*

### 2012

Marcel Cooper  
John Diffley  
Tom McTaggart  
Dennis O'Sullivan  
Dawn Sugrue  
Victor Veltidi  
Dan Sullivan\*

### 2013

Keith Bulluck  
Khyl Farrison  
Gary Gray  
Bud Kast\*  
Mike Rotundo\*  
Jodi Schlesinger Salsberg  
Ed Wanamaker  
‡ Vic Alfieri Sr.\*  
Ernie Capobianco\*  
Vic Alfieri Jr..  
Deer Head Inn & Softball  
Tournament

### 2014

Rick Carey  
Tom DePatto\*  
Don Fischer  
Ed Kolakowski\*  
Lorraine Moylan  
Richard Schumacher\*  
Thaddeus Wilson  
‡ Al Witt\*

### 2015

Joe Clinton  
Bob Corvino  
Jennifer Feeney Lovell  
Ed Matott\*  
Bob Nadal\*  
Lintz Rivera Adams  
Homer Wanamaker  
‡ Nick Picarello\*

### 2016

Virgilio Hernandez  
Buster Keyes, Jr.  
Joe McGuinness\*  
Ron Morgan\*  
Katherine Nowell  
Steve Silverberg  
Linda Soto  
John Stephens  
‡ Michael Coffey\*

### 2017

John Castellano  
Tom Mulroy  
Al Taylor\*  
Jerome Whidbee\*  
Phil Donnelly  
‡ Fred Adler

\* Denotes Deceased

‡ Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

## Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

### 2018

Thomas Dickson\*  
 Bobby Lawson  
 Chuck Maze  
 Jackie McCracken Houck  
 Thomas Sanders  
 Willie Worsley  
 1989 Nanuet High School Football Team  
 ‡ Tom O'Brien

### 2019

Phil Bogle  
 George Coates  
 Kristen McGarvey Miedreich  
 Sherry Murphy McGill  
 Tommy Rowe  
 Todd Sinclair  
 Gene Dall  
 1990-91 Albertus Magnus High School  
 Girls' Basketball Team  
 1981-82 Spring Valley High School  
 Boys' Basketball Team  
 ‡ Bob Veltidi\*

### 2021

Emil Willis Jr.\*  
 Bob Willis  
 Tom Lawson  
 1971 North Rockland High School  
 Football Team

### 2022

Phil Consiglio  
 Will Cunneane  
 Wilbur Eschen\*  
 George "Doc" Leitner\*  
 Jose Saint-Victor  
 Charlie White  
 ‡ Margaret "Babs" Stead  
 1954 Tappan Zee High School  
 Cross Country Team  
 1972 New City Little League  
 1991-1992 Suffern High School  
 Hockey Team

### 2023

Lance Arietta\*  
 Dave Billings  
 Mary Brechbiel-Agnetti  
 Heidi Higgins-Sermabekian  
 Shawn Kapusinsky  
 Kimberly McDole-Gordon  
 Jim Scaringe  
 ‡ Joseph M. Famelletto  
 1969-70 Clarkstown High School  
 Boys' Basketball Team  
 1993 North Rockland High School  
 Football Team

### 2024

Jim Eschen  
 Jean Cary  
 ‡ Pete Scheibner  
 Dana Williams  
 Mike Schroer  
 Kurt Lundgren  
 Kelvin Smith Jr.  
 Scott Finlay  
 Ryan Dall  
 1953-54 Tappan Zee High School  
 Boys' Basketball Team  
 1999 North Rockland High School  
 Girls' Soccer Team  
 2008-2009 Nanuet High School  
 Girls' Basketball Team

### 2025

Chris Algozzino  
 Jerry Blow  
 Stephanie Cleary Mills  
 John DiGirolamo  
 Lauren Kahn  
 John Panaro  
 ‡ Charles "Bones" Jones  
 1974 Albertus Magnus Boys'  
 Cross-Country Team  
 Mickey DeSimone\*  
 1996-1997 Suffern Wrestling Team  
 ‡ Joseph Lynch



\* Denotes Deceased

‡ Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award



## ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while residing or competing in, or have brought recognition to Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the Hall of Fame, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- A. Attain prominence in sports as an athlete, coach, manager, official, owner, writer, broadcaster or supporter.
- B. Reside or have resided in Rockland County, competed here at the time of their prominence, or brought fame to Rockland County as a result of their accomplishments.
- C. Be a person of integrity and good character.
- D. Candidates cannot be considered until 10 years after their high school class graduation, except in special cases.

Our committee encourages the public to send athletic resumes/nominations of prospective candidates to Screening Committee chairman Bill Rubbert, 189 Ridge Road, Valley Cottage, New York 10989. Nominees are reviewed by this committee and, if accepted, voted upon for enshrinement by the committee as a whole.

The Hall of Fame Committee holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month from September to May. Anyone wishing to join the organization should write to Chairman Pete Scheibner, 1 Captain McGovern Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980, or e-mail him at [scheibnp@msn.com](mailto:scheibnp@msn.com).

Each inductee in the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame receives a commemorative trophy and is further honored with an individual plaque, which is given to the inductee's high school for public display.

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame is more than awards and trophies and dinners, however. It is really about people – Rockland County people who have had an impact in the world of sports. A total of 303 have been honored since the hall's inception in 1974.

The Hall of Fame has evolved from those early beginnings to become a recognized presence in Rockland County athletics. In addition to its annual dinner, where it honors new inductees, the hall makes sizable donations to worthwhile local organizations and charities. Included among these donations have been cash gifts to:

- Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund • Special Olympics
  - Venture • Challenger Little League • YMCA Youth Programs
- Homes for Heroes • Will McCue, a New City volunteer firefighter with disabilities
  - Suffern Mat Club • Touching Bases Baseball of Rockland • BRIDGES
- Liam Frawley, former Tappan Zee High School Athletic Director who suffered devastating stroke



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**Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame  
Nomination Form  
for  
INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS**

**INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION**

**Individual**

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M)

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* If deceased, please give name, address and phone number of family member.*

HS and Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

College and Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM NOMINATION**

High School, Year and Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate typewritten page, list all of the significant accomplishments of the nominee, both as a Rockland County resident and otherwise. Please be as specific as possible. Include varsity sports played in high school and college, dates, letters earned, honors won, records set, post-collegiate achievements, etc.

*\* Please submit a clear black-and-white or color photo of the nominee.*

**Nominating Person:**

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Submit to:*

Bill Rubbert  
Chairman of the Selection Committee  
189 Ridge Road  
Valley Cottage, New York 10989  
billrubbert@gmail.com

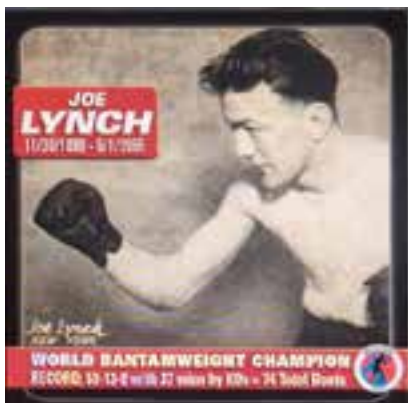
# Joseph LYNCH

DECEASED VETERAN

11/30/1898-8/1/1965

Sport: Boxing

- Two-time World Bantamweight Champion (118 lbs.)
- Inducted into International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005, Old-Timer's category
- Career record of 99-36-21, with 37 knockouts
- Possessed a "chin of stone" - he was never knocked out, despite an aggressive fighting style. Explosive right hand wallop, intelligent ring general.
- Won title the first time 12/22/1920, 15-round decision over Pete Herman of New Orleans.
- After losing title to Herman in a rematch, he regained the championship by knocking out then-World champion Johnny Buff of Jersey City, 7/10/1922.
- Relinquished title in a decision loss to Abe Goldstein in 1924.
- World War I interrupted his career earlier. He served in France as a "Doughboy" for American military operation for more than a year as member of 27th Infantry Division.
- Ring magazine founder Nat Fleischer ranked him the No. 4 all-time Bantamweight fighter. Boxing Scene ranked him No. 8. International Boxing Research Organization ranked him No. 11.
- Originally from New York City, from impoverished Irish immigrant family
- Retired from boxing in 1926. Moved to New City, NY, the same year.



- Purchased 70 acres of farmland in the heart of New City, opposite today's Rockland County Courthouse. Also purchased a gymnasium in the vicinity of the current Chase Bank building.
- Served several terms as New City Fire Department firehouse foreman, then fire chief.
- Co-owned the Elms Hotel (across from newly built County Courthouse) with partner George M. Cohan, the eminent entertainer, playwright and song-writing composer.
- \*\* Appointed New City Postmaster by U.S. Postmaster General James Farley of Stony Point, during the FDR administration. Remained in that position till the early 1950s.
- #\* Served as president of New City Democratic Club and vice president of Rockland County Democratic Club
- Ran for County Constable and was said to have been a County Deputy Sheriff.
- Married to Anna Harvey Lynch, who had been very active in local church activities.

She died in 1955.

*\*\*Joseph Lynch drowned in a 1965 accident in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, where he had been visiting family members. The Lynches had no children.*

*#\*Joseph and Anna Lynch are buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery in Nanuet, NY.*





# International BOXING HALL OF FAME

IBHOF.COM

CANASTOTA, NY

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## Joe Lynch



**Born:** Nov 30, 1898  
**Died:** Aug 1, 1966  
**Bouts:** 157  
**Wins:** 52  
**Lost:** 52  
**Draw:** 10  
**NO:** 83  
**KOs:** 38  
**Induction:** 2005

Born Joseph Aloysius Lynch on November 30, 1898 in New York, NY. During an era replete with talented bantamweights, Lynch was one of the standouts.

He turned pro in 1915 following a brief six-month amateur career. Tall for a 118-pounder, the 5'7 3/4" Lynch appeared frail but was anything but. He possessed a hard right hand that was often set up by an effective left jab. An extremely active fighter, he fought as often as two or three times a week. Bouts with Memphis Pal Moore, Frankie Burns, Monte Attell, Johnny Erla, Charles LeDoux, Abe Goldstein, Jack Sharkey, Kid Williams and Pete Herman propelled him to the top of the talented division. While in the Navy, Lynch boxed two bouts with flyweight Jimmy Wilde (Erla, L3, L15) in 1918 and 1919 respectively.

Upon returning home in 1919, he was soon poised to box for the bantam title. On December 22, 1920 he defeated Pete Herman for the world championship, only to lose it back in 1921. Following a win over Midget Smith, he regained his lost laurels with a 14th-round TKO over Herman's conqueror, Johnny Buff. After a successful title defense over Smith he dropped the title to Abe Goldstein in 1924 in his next defense. Lynch continued to box, including two draws with rival Moore, before retiring from the ring in 1928 having competed in nearly 160 bouts (71-17-12, 57 NO (MKOs)).

In retirement he lived on a small farm in New City, NY, where he served as postmaster for many years. Lynch was also appointed a judge by the NYSAC. On August 1, 1966, Lynch died from accidental drowning in Sheephead Bay, Brooklyn, NY.



## ***Our Forgotten but Notable Neighbors: Joseph Lynch***

*By Jerome Kleiman on July 29, 2024*

In 2005, when Joe Lynch was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, it was already 40 years since his death. He had twice been the Bantamweight Champion of the World back in the early 1920s, the Roaring Twenties, an era known as the Golden Age of Boxing, when boxing was the preeminent sport in the world, and when there was only one champion in each weight class. During this period Joe Lynch was a household name, known far and wide by both boxing fans and non-fans alike, so popular was the sport and so famous were its champions.

Although he has largely faded into obscurity, remembered mostly by sports historians, there is a side to Joe Lynch's story that is very relevant to Rockland County, for he spent most of his life here as an extremely active and civic-minded resident of New City, NY. Joe Lynch was born in 1896 to an impoverished Irish immigrant family on Manhattan's West Side. Today it is upscale and known as Hell's Kitchen, but at the time it was a rough and poverty-stricken area in which one had to learn to defend himself to survive. Lynch is quoted as saying, "I had to fight in the neighborhood or wouldn't have been a good Irishman." But street fighting helped prepare him for his future profession. Always good with his dukes, he realized that if you are going to fight anyway, why not get paid for it, and hence he took an interest in boxing, the manly art of self-defense. In 1918, at the age of 18, and following a short stint as an amateur, he had his first pay-for-pay fight.

Always very skinny, Joe was able to box as a bantamweight, which has a 118lbs limit. At the time, unlike today, the smaller fighters were numerous and also extremely popular with the fans. Lynch had a major advantage over most of his opponents since at 5'8" he was several inches taller and had a significantly longer reach. Besides that, he packed an explosive right-hand wallop, was an intelligent ring general, and owned a chin of stone (he was never knocked-out). With all those tools, he rapidly made his way up the ladder in his division.

Fighting almost on a weekly basis, he perfected his skills — pacing, knowing when to attack and when to stay out of range, how to counterpunch and how to adjust his style to different opponents. World War I interrupted his career. Lynch became a Doughboy, serving in France for over a year as a member of the 27th Infantry Division.

Once back in the states, he rapidly became a top contender. On December 22, 1920, at Madison Square Garden, despite fighting with a broken left thumb, Joe Lynch defeated Pete Herman of New Orleans in a 15-round decision to become the Bantamweight Champion of the World. Lynch would defend his belt several times, only to lose it to Herman in a rematch. Then, on July 10, 1922, he regained the title by KO'ing the then World Champion Johnny Buff of Jersey City.

Two years later Joe relinquished the title again, this time losing a decision to Abe Goldstein. By 1924, it was becoming very difficult for Lynch to make weight. Before the Goldstein fight, he had to spend hours in the steam room sweating off pounds to get down to 118lbs. In doing so he depleted his energy, which contributed to his loss to Bernstein, a man he had knocked out a few years before.

Joe had followed his father's advice to save his money, and with in excess of 150 professional fights under his belt, at age 30 the frugal Mr. Lynch was already a very wealthy man. Realizing that it was becoming too difficult to continue as a Bantamweight and tired of starving himself before big fights, Lynch decided to retire.

In 1926, with his wife, the former Anna Harvey, who had been his childhood sweetheart, Lynch purchased over 70 acres of farmland in New City, bounded on the south by New Hempstead Road, opposite today's Rockland County Courthouse and Government Office buildings, where the now deserted Sain building, and the Animal Medical of New City stand.

With no intention of personally doing any farming, they leased the fields to local farmers. Friendly, gregarious and now finally able to eat without having a trainer constantly looking over his shoulder, Joe Lynch joined many local civic groups in New City. Far away from the West Side slums, and the hustle and bustle of the big city, once relocating to the New City of nearly 100 years ago, a sparsely populated, rural community with trees instead of tenements, and fertile soil instead of hard asphalt sidewalks, Joe spent a lot of time involved with the New City Fire Department and the local Democratic Party club.

In 1928, for a short while, Joe Lynch together with his partner, George M. Cohan, the most famous entertainer of the day, owned the Elms Hotel, across the street from the then newly built County Courthouse. Joe was a very active member of the fire department for many years, serving several terms as firehouse foreman and then fire chief. He was known as the "fire-fighting chief and fighting fire-chief". He also served as president of the New City Democratic Club and V.P. of the Rockland County Democratic club. He even ran for County Constable and is said to have been a County Deputy Sheriff. In addition, among his other involvements, Lynch was a member of the Elks. In 1926 at the induction ceremony there were three new members, the former world boxing champion, a local judge and a priest from Nanuet — quite a threesome.

During the FDR administration, the Postmaster General was James "Big Jim" Farley from Stony Point. Back when Lynch had been champion, Farley had been the Chairman of the NY State Athletic Commission, and the two proud Irishmen had become acquainted. In the late 1930s, Postmaster General Farley appointed his old boxing buddy and now hard-working Democrat, Mr. Joseph Lynch, as the Postmaster of the New City Post Office. Lynch would continue in that position until the early 1950s. Following the election of Dwight Eisenhower as President, a Republican was appointed as the New City postmaster. Anna Lynch, who had been very active in local church activities, died in 1955. She and Joe never had children. Joe Lynch, after losing his Postmaster position kept a low profile. He began to lose vision in one eye. Maybe the effects of absorbing punches in over 150 professional bouts were finally catching up to him. On September 1, 1965, at the age of 68, he accidentally drowned in Sheephead Bay where he had been visiting family members. For a few days, stories about the death of this once great boxer appeared throughout the nation and beyond. Joe Lynch is still considered one of the greatest Bantamweight boxers of all-time. The eminent boxing writer Nat Fleischer ranked him #4. Boxing Scene has him at #8. And, as previously mentioned, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005. However, Joe Lynch would also want to be remembered as a proud, long-term resident of New City and Rockland County, as a neighbor who was very involved in civic activities, and as an indispensable part of his community. Joseph and Anna Lynch are buried in the St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery in Nanuet.



*Our Forgotten but Notable Neighbors: Joseph Lynch added by Jerome Kleiman on July 29, 2024*  
View all posts by Jerome Kleiman →

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# JOE LYNCH NOW BANTAM CHAMP

## Decisively Beats Herman In 15-Round Fight and Cops World Laurel

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, New York, Dec. 23—Joe Lynch, the little boxer from the west side of Manhattan Island, who jumped into prominence about three years ago as a likely boxer, won the bantamweight championship of the world from Pete Herman at the Madison Square Garden last night.

The men weighed in under 115 pounds as called for in the articles of agreement, at 2 o'clock, but the official weights announced by the state boxing commission when the men entered the ring were 116 pounds for each.

### Herman the Favorite

Lynch looked the much more drawn of the two when the bout began, while Herman was in the better condition so far as looks went. Herman was an odds-on favorite in what betting was indulged in, 3 to 2 being freely offered that he would retain his championship. Both boys were palpably nervous at the outset.

Lynch's advantages of height and reach soon were apparent and excessive cautiousness on the part of Herman cost him any chance he might have had to hold his title.

In four of the rounds Herman had the better of the argument, but in only one of these had he any decided advantage.

In this round he had Lynch in difficulty, but that was all. Herman's defense at times was puzzling to the challenger, but whenever he landed one of his long lefts or right hooks or swings, a grin of satisfaction spread over Lynch's countenance, while Herman's face denoted that he was afraid of his opponent's wallop.

In the rounds where he had the better of Lynch, Herman took chances. When he did attack he was very successful, but these efforts were only spasmodic, while Lynch was the aggressor in all the rest of the rounds. Lynch clearly outpointed his man in 16 rounds. Herman had four and the opening session was just about even.



### Hurt Thumb in Third.

Lynch suffered from a cut lip early in the fight, but it was not until after the battle that it became known to those in his corner that the new champion had badly injured the thumb of his right hand during the third round. Lynch was elated as he was carried on the shoulders of his manager and man went out through the ropes without making any comment.

Announcer Humphreys, after taking the slip from the judges and reading it, shouted: "The judges have decided on a new champion, having agreed on Lynch as the winner." There was a wild scene all over the house, ringing cheers greeting the decision, without a counter cheer being heard.

### Joe Lynch's Career.

Joseph Lynch, the new world's bantamweight champion, was born in New York 23 years ago. He entered the ring as an amateur five years ago. He saw service with the American expeditionary force in the 27th division and while abroad lost decisions in two fights with Jimmie Wilde, the English flyweight.

Lynch earned the right to meet Pete Herman by knocking out Jack Shar-ttle-holder gained considerable notice by knocking out Kid Williams in 1918. Although Lynch has accumulated a small fortune with his fists, he still drives a truck occasionally and considers it a pleasure to spend a day "working for father."

# JOE LYNCH

## BOXING HIGHLIGHTS

Joseph (Joe) Aloysius Lynch was born on Nov. 30, 1898, and raised in Hell's Kitchen, a rough, largely Irish neighborhood in Manhattan. At age 16 he entered the amateur Newsboy Boxing Tournament and was victorious in the 115 lb. class. On December 20, 1914, the New York Herald reported as follows: "The biggest surprise of the night was the defeat of New York State Champion, George Mass, by Joe Lynch, unattached. Mass almost had his foe out in the first round."

Eight months later, he began his professional career by winning a clear 10-round decision over Jack Wagner. According to the NY Times, Lynch was fast, clever, and aggressive, winning every round. He would have an additional 160 officially recognized bouts during his famed 9-year pro career (he claimed that the actual number was somewhere between 200 and 300). The last time he entered the ring was on Dec. 17, 1926, when he stopped Eddie Seigel in 3 rounds.

Joe Lynch won the Bantamweight Championship of the World (118-lbs. limit) by way of a decision over Pete "Kid" Herman on December 22, 1920, fighting the last 13 of the 15-round bout with a broken hand. He would relinquish the title on July 25, 1921, losing to Herman in a rematch at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field. The following year, on August 21, Lynch regained the title by knocking out Johnny Buff, who himself had won the title by defeating Herman months earlier. Then, two years



later, on July 25, 1924, Lynch would again lose the title, this time to Abe Goldstein through a 15-round decision.

Very tall for a 118-pounder, Lynch was known for both intelligent ring-generalship and an extremely powerful right-hand punch. He could also absorb a large amount of punishment without succumbing, a useful trait for a boxer. At the time that he hung up his gloves, he was the first former World Champion to retire without ever being knocked out.

He excelled during an era known as the Golden Age of Boxing, when many legendary boxers were active and the sport held unparalleled popularity. At the time that Joe held the title, champions in other weight categories included the famous Benny Leonard, Lightweight, and Jack Dempsey, probably the most influential figure in the sport's history, in the Heavyweight division.

Many of Lynch's victories came through knock-out. For example, on Jan. 29, 1918, he knocked-out ex-World Bantamweight Champion Kid Williams, who is a member of the Boxing Hall of Fame. On Nov. 5, 1920, he KO'ed Abe Goldstein, the man who, four years later, would win the title from him.

Throughout his illustrious career, Joe Lynch would fight the best boxers in his division. Barely into the second year of his professional career, Lynch was already matched with ex-World Bantamweight Champion Johnny Ertle, with whom he fought a draw.

Over the course of years, Lynch entered the ring with Memphis "Pal" Moore, a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, 11 times, splitting the decisions evenly, Lynch winning 4, Moore winning 4, and 3 ending in draws. He fought Jackie "Kid" Wolfe, of Cleveland, 4 times, once for the Junior Featherweight Championship on September 21, 1922, which resulted in defeat, while in the other 3 bouts he was victorious. Other highly ranked bantamweights that he met multiple times are Joe Burman, Frankie Burns, Frankie Mason, Jabez White, Midget Smith, Jackie Sharkey, and Abe Friedman. Among the other top contenders that he fought are Pete Sarmiento, One-Punch Hogan, Joey Sangor, Benny Valger and Monte Attell.

While still a soldier stationed in England following WWI, he met Jimmy Wilde for 15 rounds in a bout held in London on March 31, 1919, and lost by decision. Wilde, who at the time was the World's Flyweight Champion and had a record of 124 wins with 1 defeat,

is considered by almost every boxing historian as the best ever in the 112-pound weight class and is a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame. However, the decision was very highly disputed, with most reporters feeling that Lynch was the clear winner, and the victim of a hometown decision. Also, while in London, Lynch easily defeated Tommy Noble, the British Bantamweight Champ over 25 rounds.

Joe Lynch moved to New City even before retiring from professional boxing, residing on a spread of over 70 acres that is bordered by New Hempstead Road and opposite the Courthouse and government buildings. Interestingly, he never intended to move here. After his bout at Ebbets Field with Pete "Kid" Herman, in which Joe lost the World Title, he approached his manager, Eddie Mead, demanding his share of the purse. Mead, however, told Joe that he had, without Joe's knowledge or permission, purchased a tract of land in New City. Lynch had no idea where New City was and was incensed, but the deal had been made and couldn't be rescinded. Years later, Lynch, at the time a seasoned citizen who was well known in Rockland for his service as New City's Postmaster and Fire chief, county Democrat party officer and so on, stated that Mead's acquisition of the property was the best thing that had ever happened to him.

Joe Lynch of New City passed away on August 1, 1965. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005.

## **JOE LYNCH**

### **WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION**

# 1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM



**Front row, left to right:** George Buckheit, Ed Corrigan, Matt Mulligan, Jamie Kempton, Pat Chambers, Mike Colangelo. **Back row, left to right:** Head Coach Dick Weis, Keith Heigman, Kevin Leonard, Steve Root, Tom Moran, Tom Festa, Frank Cotter, John McNiff, Brian Kelly, Gerard Gaynor, Assistant Coach Jim Moran



## 1974 Albertus Magnus XC Team Roster

**Head Coach: Dick Weis**

Assistant Coaches: Jim Moran, Ralph Coleman

### **Seniors**

Ed Brown  
George Buckheit  
Mike Colangelo  
Kevin Donovan  
Gerard Gaynor  
Brian Kelly  
John McNiff  
Matt Mulligan  
Gil Wager

### **Juniors**

Pat Chambers  
Frank Cotter  
Tom Festa  
\*Keith Heigman  
Jamie Kempton  
Kevin Leonard  
\*Tom Moran

\*Deceased

### **Sophomores**

Bill Brown  
\*Ed Corrigan  
\*Kevin Kiernan  
Tom Leonard  
John McKeegan  
Mike McCrudden  
Steve Root  
Mike Teetsel

### **Freshmen**

Paul Bopp  
Matt Clark  
Rich Dobson  
George Gilmartin  
Andrew Grennan  
Jerome Kane  
Mike Lord  
Kevin McGuire  
Mike McPhillips  
\*Jim Moran  
Jamie Moran  
Sean McCormack  
\*John Schlemmer  
Jim Schutz

# 1974 Albertus Magnus Meet Results

## 9/20 @ Hook Mountain

Albertus Magnus 18, Nanuet 45

## 9/24 @ Hook Mountain

Albertus Magnus 15, North Rockland 50

## 9/28 @ Bear Mountain

Albertus Magnus Invitational

Varsity I Race

Albertus Magnus -- 1st place out of 22 teams, 25 points

## 10/5 @ Cobleskill, NY

Cobleskill Invitational

Albertus Magnus -- 1st place out of 15 teams, 22 points

## 10/8 @ Pearl River, vs. Pearl River and Suffern

Albertus Magnus 19, Suffern 42

Albertus Magnus 15, Pearl River 50

## 10/12 @ Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY

Manhattan College Invitational

Varsity A Race

Albertus Magnus -- 1st place out of 35 teams, 45 points

JV Race: Albertus Magnus, 1st place, 16 points

## 10/15 @ Spring Valley, vs. Spring Valley and Nyack

Albertus Magnus 15, Spring Valley 50

Albertus Magnus 15, Nyack 50

## 10/19 @ Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY

St. John's Invitational

Varsity I Race

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 40 teams, 49 points

JV I: 1st place, 27 points

JV II: 1st place, 22 points

## 10/22 @ Bear Mountain

RCPSAL Championships

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 11 teams, 22 points

Meet record, lowest score (22)

Meet record, margin of victory (55 points)

Individual champion: Mike Colangelo, Albertus

JV Race: Albertus Magnus, 1st place, 15 points



## 10/26 @ Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY

Eastern States Championships

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 25 teams, 96 points

(Seven states represented)

## 10/29 @ Rockland Lake

Albertus Magnus 20, Tappan Zee 40

Albertus Magnus 20, Clarkstown North 45

(Undefeated dual-meet season)

## 11/1 @ Bear Mountain

Section 9 Class B Championships

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 14 teams, 30 points

(3rd straight Section 9 title)

## 11/9 @ Sunken Meadow State Park, Long Island

NYSFHSAA Intersectional Championships

Class B Race

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 9 teams, 27 points

Record victory margin, 76 points (27-103)

Individual champion: Mike Colangelo, Albertus

## 11/23 @ Albertus Magnus

5x2 Postal Run (2-mile track race)

Albertus Magnus, 1st place out of 5 teams

Individual champion: Mike Colangelo, Albertus (9:29.0)

## 11/30 @ Iona Prep, New Rochelle, NY

5x2 Postal Run (2-mile track race)

Iona-Sacred Heart Cross Country Relays

Albertus Magnus, 1st place

[Individual champion: Mike Colangelo, Albertus (9:27.6)]

Albertus 5-man aggregate time: 47:47.6

2nd-fastest team in the nation

Final No. 2 ranking in USA



## REMEMBERING THE FAMOUS LONG RED LINE

by **Bill Madden**, Staff Writer



**Dick Weis, architect of the Long Red Line**

They wore blood red shirts. They were cold, unemotional and executed each task with predictable results. Success was expected, failure was unthinkable. They were the 1974 "Long Red Line," considered one of the greatest athletic teams in Rockland County history.

The Long Red Line was the Albertus High School Boys Cross Country team in disguise. And in 1974, seven young men and their dedicated coach Dick Weis swept through New York State, like a typhoon. They were never beaten or even threatened.

"I truly thought we could be the greatest high school cross-country team in the history of the United States," remembers Weis, now coaching at Oklahoma State University. "The kids were all very disciplined and goal-oriented. It was a special group."

Special indeed. The Line won the 1974 Class B state championship and finished with an incredible 27 points, the lowest total and meet history. The second place team tallied 103 points.

The Line won every dual meet and invitational they ran in. At the Eastern States Championships, Albertus trounced a much-heralded field and followed with impressive victories over Nanuet at the PSAL and Section 9, Class B meets. Opposing coaches watched in awe.

At season's end, the Falcons participated in the two-mile track run to determine their national rating. Their top five finishers ran a combined clocking of 47:47.6 for an average of 9:33.5. The times were compiled by Track and Field News magazine and Albertus ranked second in America behind an Illinois' York High.

Weis was a master motivator. There were motivational poems, prayers and sayings. Togetherness was another big theme. The Line was a group, not seven individuals. The runners spoke in team terms, and never took glory in their own personal achievement. Nine years later, Weis is hundreds of miles away at Oklahoma State. One runner lives in Japan, another in Ireland, and still another coaches cross country at Albertus Magnus.

The Line is remembered by its results and not by individual members. But the individuals were obviously, very talented. They were, in alphabetical order, George Buckheit, Pat Chambers, Mike Colangelo, Brian, Kelley, Jamie Kempton, Kevin Leonard, and John McNiff.

What has happened, nearly a decade later, to the members of the Long Red Line? All seven have gone on to earn college degrees and hold professional jobs. Five still run competitively. But there's more, much more to tell. And so, for those who remember the squad as friends, fellow students and fans, here's a close-up look at the members Long Red Line as they were in 1983.

**Dick Weis - Coach Weis** is the assistant men's and women's cross country and track coach at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater Oklahoma. The 45 year-old father of five thinks he found the ideal collegiate coaching situation at State.

After leaving Albertus in 1976, Weis sold insurance for a year before taking a teaching/coaching position at Monroe Woodbury High. Two years later, he was off to the University of Missouri where he coached for three years and had five female runners make it to the Olympic trials.

Weis' oldest daughter, Katie, is a 16 year-old junior at Stillwater High. He and his wife Donna also have an adopted 13 year-old son named Jeff and an 11 year old son name Ray, who was a Missouri state wrestling champ in 1982.

Michael Colangelo who transferred to Albertus for senior year, remembers thinking Weis was some sort of maniac at their first meeting. His fiery personality caused many other folks to get that same impression.

The best example of what kind of coach Mr. Weis was, was at the Cobleskill invitational, remembers Kelley. We brought our varsity and junior varsity teams and we really blew everyone away. We won and the junior varsity came in second. After the race people were walking by us and saying "Wow, those guys are unbelievable."

Mr. Weis heard all of it and came over to us and really laced into us. He said we shouldn't think we're hot stuff because we should have done better. People were horrified, they thought we had a madman for Coach. But it was all carefully calculated by Coach.

### **George Buckheit**

Weis had a nickname for just about everyone and Buckheit's name was "Silent George" because of his quiet manner and low profile. Buckheit was physically immature as Falcon, but blossomed in his college years where he logged the best collegiate career of any Line member.

At Bucknell he won 10 individual East Coast Conference (ECC) Championships and was an All American in the outdoor and indoor seasons. With Buckheit and former Albertus teammate Kempton manning Bucknell cross country team, the Bison qualified for the 1978 and NCAA Championships where they placed 17th. Not bad for a college that doesn't offer athletic scholarships.

Today Buckheit is a member of the Puma and Energizer Track Club, a national track organization. His best event is the 10,000 meter run and plans on qualifying for the Olympic trials in June at Los Angeles, California. The top three finishes will represent the United States at the 1984 games. He is running 80-90 miles a week.

The 26 year-old is working at Orange and Rockland in Spring Valley as a financial analyst. He is single and lives in New City.

### **Pat Chambers**

Chambers was named by Weiss. He had the most natural talent on the team, but WISE remembers him as being very individual in personality. He was a calculating runner and tough competitor.

In the beginning of the 1974 season, Chambers was the No. 1 man but Colangelo's late-season heroics overshadowed Chambers contributions in the PSAL and state meets.

As a senior he set the Bear Mountain course record of 14:55.5, which stood for seven years before Suffern's Jeff Van Wie broke it last season. He attended Rutgers University and ran track and cross-country for four years. He helped Rutgers to Atlantic 10 titles in his junior and senior years, and still competes in road races. He ran in the 1982 New York marathon.

Today he is a varsity girls' cross country coach at Albertus and works as a billing analyst for a New York law firm. He is single and lives in Nanuet.

### **Mike Colangelo**

The 1974 season challenged Colangelo with injury, health problems, and the task of adjusting to a new school. Still the talented harrier won the PSAL, Class B State Individual crowns, and the Falcons top gun at the end of the season.

As a junior at Ramapo High, Colangelo placed sixth at the Class A State Meet, but he chose to transfer to Albertus for his senior season. Along with the problems of adapting to a new school, Colangelo came down with asthma problems and was involved in an auto accident. Despite the woes, he worked his way up to up the Line ladder and led the parade in the big meets.

At Princeton University, and Achilles heel injury cut short his running career after his freshman season. He majored in religion and has resided in Osaka, Japan for the past four years. He recently opened a tutorial school in Osaka, where he teaches English to all ages. He married his wife Junko last April, and his running is now reduced to occasional jogging.

### Brian Kelley

To date, Kelley, has run nine marathons and runs 60 miles a week in training for local road races. He is married and living in Thiells with his wife, Joyce.

After graduating Plattsburgh State University, he had a two-year stint at Trinity University's graduate school before accepting a job with Orange and Rockland in Spring Valley in 1981 as a market planning analyst.

His teammates and Weis best remember him for his performance at the Eastern States Championship. There, Kelley, was third man and registered a 13:11 time.

"At the Easterns, Brian ran the greatest high school cross country race I've ever seen" said Weiss. "He ran so much better in that race than where he was at that point. It was the most courageous thing I ever saw. He didn't have the talent to do what he did."

### Jamie Kempton

Kempton was an overachiever of the bunch. He was one of the biggest believers of the Weis system and benefited most by it. High school and college careers were excellent and he still ran competitively in area races.

In 1976, Weis held a turkey trot for freshman and it was there that Kempton earned the nickname "Turkey." The 90 pound freshman performed well in the event, and as sophomore he was a first team all county cross-country selection. He attended Bucknell University and ran four years of cross-country and track.

The Bison won the ECC Cross Country title in every year and Kempton was integral part of the club. He majored in English and currently works as sports reporter for the *Journal News*. He is also the assistant cross-country and track coach for Nanuet High.



George Buckheit   Pat Chambers   Mike Colangelo   Jamie Kempton

### Kevin Leonard

Leonard, no longer does any form of running, his memories of the glory Line years are fond.

"It was amazing how close the team was," said Leonard, who graduated Plattsburgh State College after running track and cross country for four years. It all centered around Mr. Weis. Our group was almost like a fluke. The combination of talent and hard work made us great.

Upon graduation from Plattsburgh, the math major coached cross country at Albertus Magnus in 1981. He moved on from there to work at American Telephone & Telegraph AT&T as a computer programmer. He is married and lives in White Plains.

### John McNiff

McNiff had a good running career at Fordham University before moving to Dublin Ireland, where he currently works as a manager of a retail store. He has completed nine marathons and runs 70 miles a week.

"We felt we were unbeatable," said McNiff while visiting his parents in Pearl River. "There was no doubt in our minds that we'd win every race. We believed that if you took Mr. Weis's system and gave it to any other team, they would beat our team. We were using motivational and training secrets. They were secret weapons."

"I felt running was important to us. We learned that if you're willing to do the work and you have a positive attitude, you can do anything. Our times prove that we were one of the best teams ever and we were very disappointed that we weren't national champs. It was a great experience."

**SUNDAY SPORTS SPECIAL**  
**THE JOURNAL NEWS**  
**OCTOBER 30, 1983**

# Mickey

## DESIMONE

POSTHUMOUS

Mickey DeSimone was a Ramapo Central School District native having grown up in Sloatsburg and attending Sloatsburg Elementary school and then the Suffern Junior High School.

Mickey entered Suffern High School in 1970. While in high school Mickey was an important part of the football program, earning two varsity letters and was elected captain of the varsity football team in his senior year.

Mickey was a four year varsity wrestler, captaining the team in his senior year while compiling a 15-7 record. He was second in both the Rockland County tournament and the Section Nine Tournament as a senior. In his junior year Mickey made the New York State Freestyle team that competed in Iowa for the National championship.

After graduation from Suffern High School in 1974 Mickey enrolled at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania where he competed on Bucknell's varsity wrestling team.

In the fall of 1978 Mickey returned home to Suffern and began his career as a history teacher at Suffern High School. He also began his coaching career in both the football and wrestling programs. Mickey has coached football at the Jr. High, Middle School or freshman level every year since then until 2006 when he briefly retired from coaching.

At the same time Mickey worked his way up the coaching ladder in the highly successful Suffern High School wrestling program. He was the freshman coach, then the J.V. coach, followed by the assistant varsity coach. Not being someone to be idle in



the spring Mickey also coached Girl's Lacrosse for a few years.

In November of 1988 Mickey took over the reins of the Suffern High School Varsity Wrestling program from then until the year he stepped down as the head coach. The Suffern Wrestling program was unparalleled in success. The eighteen years that Mickey was the head wrestling coach the team won~

- 220 dual meets
- 52 team tournaments
- 11 Rockland County team championships
- 8 Section I championships.

As amazing as those facts are, the list of accomplishments that the individuals Mickey coached during that time is even more spectacular. His wrestlers have won~

- 83 Rockland County Championships
- 35 Section I Championships
- 24 State Place Winners
- 10 State Finalists
- 4 State Champions

During his career as an educator, Mickey changed his position from history teacher to guidance counselor. He has helped guide the students of Suffern High School from his office every day that he walked into the

building. He was a caring, involved guidance counselor who always made time for any Suffern High student. After two years of coaching retirement, Mickey worked his way back into the wrestling room and assumed the position of J.V. wrestling coach. To have some one of his magnitude back in the wrestling room was a big plus for the wrestling program. At the same time Mickey's daughters began playing lacrosse and Mickey became active in the highly successful Girl's Lacrosse program as an assistant coach.

Everything Mickey was involved in was successful and it had a great deal to do with the type of man that he was. He always believed in setting goals,

then working hard to achieve that goal, and then setting higher goals. It worked for him and he believed that it would work for his teams and students.

We tragically lost Mickey DeSimone on December 30, 2014. Everyone who knew Mickey was shocked; he was the picture of good health and vitality. The outpouring of sorrow and love that followed over the next six days was something the Suffern Community hasn't seen in a very long time. As his daughter, Micaela said in her eulogy at Mickey's funeral, "Heroes are remembered ~ Legends live forever." Mickey DeSimone's legend will live forever at Suffern High School.

## SUFFERN WRESTLING STAR GRIFF POWELL IS CONGRATULATED BY SUFFERN COACH MICKEY DESIMONE

**By Andrew Gross**  
Staff Writer

**Suffern**

**T**he last time I wrestled was my senior year at Syracuse, seven years ago. Of course, it was during a raucous party which resulted in me throwing my housemate through a stack of empty beer cans.

Other than that, I had four lessons in second grade.

The last time Suffern junior Griff Powell wrestled, he won the state 138-pound championship. Other than that, he's second in the United States in the under-18 Greco-Roman rankings and fifth in Freestyle.

Those thoughts floated through my head as Powell had me laid out on the Suffern High School wrestling room mat yesterday in a hold that kept me from breathing for about five seconds.

I escaped, briefly, but Powell jumped out to a 6-0 lead before pinning me in 1:30.

Powell really had nothing to



**THIS MOMENT:** Suffern wrestling star Griff Powell is congratulated yesterday by Suffern coach Mickey DeSimone.

all three times he's gone. He won two gold medals at last summer's Empire State Games.

Sure, I outweighed him by about 50 pounds but that advantage was nothing compared to his lightning-quick techniques and sheer physical strength.

He also had one other advantage. To him, wrestling is his life. I made my living covering wrestling.

"If wrestling is something you're going to be good at, you've got to work and work and work," Powell said after his easy victory, which technically ran his record to 46-0 this season. "Every minute of the day I'm thinking about wrestling, what I have to do that day, whether it's a three-mile run or lifting weights."

Powell is certainly an exception in terms of the success he's had, but his commitment is typical of the wrestling community. As I found out, wrestling, even for just under one period, is physically draining.

**WRESTLER** continues D12

***Heroes are remembered ~ Legends live forever.***

## MICK DeSIMONE

Mick wrestled and played football at Suffern High School graduating in 1974. As a senior, Mick wrestled at 134 pounds. He placed 3rd in the Rockland County Tournament, 2nd in the Division Tournament and placed 3rd at the Section 9 tournament to end his high school career. His record was 15-7 his senior year.

He attended Bucknell University where he majored in History and was a 4 year wrestler.

He returned to Suffern High School and taught History before becoming a Guidance Counselor after receiving his Master's Degree from Springfield College.

He married Sandra Pagan and together they had 3 wonderful children: Micaela, Lely and Gray.

He successfully coached football, wrestling and girls' lacrosse but it was as a wrestling coach that he was most accomplished.

He began as an assistant coach to Hall of Fame coach, Bill White. Mick took over the varsity program for the 1988-1989 season and quickly made his mark. He remained the varsity coach through the 2005-2006 season.

After he stepped away from the varsity, he continued to assist the new varsity coach, Chris Matteotti, as the JV/fresh coach. He did this until his untimely death at age 58 in Dec. 2014.

Mick's accomplishments speak for themselves:

During his 18 years as the varsity coach, he coached 79 Rockland County individual champions and his teams won 13 Rockland County championships. He had a dual meet record of 220 wins and 57 losses.

He coached 35 individual Section 1 champions and his teams won 8 Section 1 titles.

He coached 25 NY State place winners including 5 NY State champions. Two of these NY State titleholders became high school All-Americans including 1 champion.

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*Excerpt from John's speech as Mick was awarded SHS alumni of the year....*

During the course of his adult life, he had literally touched the lives of thousands of kids as a guidance counselor and coach. His wife, Sandi, was always proudest of the several hundred letters from all the non-athletic kids who would thank him for all the support he gave them during those difficult and awkward high school years whether that was helping get through the college application process, giving helpful advice getting through the rigors of AP classes or just giving advice. Through it all, Mick was there for the kids.

He got up every morning at 4am to run no matter what the weather. He would get to the high school every morning at about 5:30 to start his day. He was dedicated to all the kids who walked through his office door. He always had a group of kids who met there every morning before class and again they would gather there during lunch. He was loved by the kids and respected by his peers.

As a coach, he was tough on the kids but always had jokes ready to lighten the atmosphere. He never asked them to do anything he wouldn't do. He didn't care about records or accolades but just wanted the kids to be better than they thought they could be. He coached football, girls' lacrosse, and wrestling for many years. His daughters competed in lacrosse, basketball and field hockey and his son competed in volleyball and wrestling. As the varsity wrestling coach, Mick's record speaks for itself as he amassed a record 220 wins vs. 57 losses with

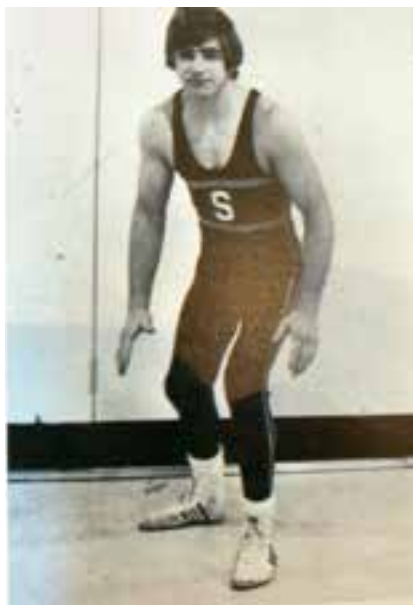


many county, sectional and state place winners.

Mick and Sandi expected their kids to work hard at being good students, athletes and good citizens.

They wanted well rounded kids who understood that there is no free lunch and that hard work pays off. Quitting was never an option in that house.

As his son said, "We're here to honor the legacy of a great man we all knew and loved. Heroes are remembered but legends never die."



Mick DeSimone  
Suffern High School senior year photo



### 1973-1974 WRESTLING TEAM

**KNEELING:** Steve Pregiato, Mike Licata, Mike Ewing, Joe Calantjis, Bob Farquharson, and Rich Pregiato. **STANDING:** Mick DeSimone, Bob Watral, Parcy Van Dunk, Calvin Ward, Pete Dunnigan, and Mark Mottola.

# 1997 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM



FIRST ROW: Alex Penate, Daniel Greeley, James Ryan, Steve Pregiato, Frank Pregiato, Chris Mason, Chad Caros.  
SECOND ROW: Doug Veltidi, Mike Fink, Khyl Farrison, Griff Powell, Matt Blecker, Geoff Schneider, Dave Visconti.  
NOT PICTURED: Alex Berbit, Miky Cimbura, Mike Faraone, Mario Gomez, Dan Horton, Jim Horton, James Ryan, and Omar Vargas.  
COACHES NOT PICTURED: Mickey DeSimone, Head Coach; Bob Farquharson, Asst Coach; John Wallach, Asst Coach.



## ON ROCKLAND

ANDREW GROSS

# Suffern pins down best year

Apples and oranges. That's what coaches say when asked to compare teams.

Or, they'll say every year is a new year and each team has its own characteristics.

All true.

But while you won't hear Mickey DeSimone say this season's Suffern wrestling team is his best, the statistics do some talking for the ninth-year coach.

And the statistics are screaming that this Suffern team is the dominant wrestling team of this decade.

## Five champions

Saturday, this became DeSimone's first team to have five sectional champions — seniors Griff Powell (152 pounds), Chad Carot (130) and Jamie Ryan (119), Junior Chris Mason (135) and sophomore Khyl Farrison (160). In fact, Suffern is the first Section 1 team to send five to the state tournament since Mount Vernon in 1976. No Section 1 team has ever sent six.

The Mounties also set a record with 177 points at Saturday's Section 1 tournament.

The team went 10-0. DeSimone's first undefeated team, despite losing sectional champions P.J. Bory and Graig Schneider. Carot and Powell are returning state champions, the first time DeSimone's had two champions on one team.

"Sending five is a great thing," DeSimone said. "It indicates that we have balance. We're not just comprised around Chad and Griff. The others are in the shadow of two great kids, but they're getting their opportunity, too."

In 1994, four Suffern wrestlers reached the state tournament. Bory won the 91-pound title, Andy Matteotti placed second at 105, Wayne Davis finished third at 138 and Powell, then a freshman, placed fourth at 119. That Suffern team was dubbed the "unofficial state champion."

"This year, and freshman year are the two best teams I've ever been on," Powell said.

"Freshman year, we finished one, two, three, four. This year, we have the same opportunity."

Yesterday in the weight room, the talk was that the state tournament was not as tough as the Hurricane Classic in Pennsylvania. There, Powell and Carot suffered their only losses of the season but each of the five wrestlers placed.

"That was the first time I saw Griff lose," said Farrison, Powell's workout partner. "I feared that week when we got back."

## Tough going

Competition such as the Hurricane Classic, or the Brandon, Fla., tournament are the reasons why Suffern churns out top-notch wrestlers year after year. Take Mason, for example. He sat out two and a half seasons before deciding to resume wrestling this season. Now he's a sectional champion.

Take Farrison, who just wrestles to stay in shape before baseball season. Yet he's a sectional champion.

And Carot. He came to Suffern from Section 6's Franklinville, south of Buffalo. Upstate, he carries the same reputation that Powell has in this region — unbeatable. Carot actually has more career victories than Powell, 179-175.

But all Carot recognizes is that he's got 14 career losses. Powell has 13. "And I remember each one," Carot said Saturday after winning his first Section 1 title after three Section 6 championships.

DeSimone says five years from now, he'll remember how he thought of this team as part of his family. How he had them all over to his house.

The record book, not concerned with apples and oranges, will show this team was the best.

# Suffern wrestling champion

Mounties' Pregiato most valuable

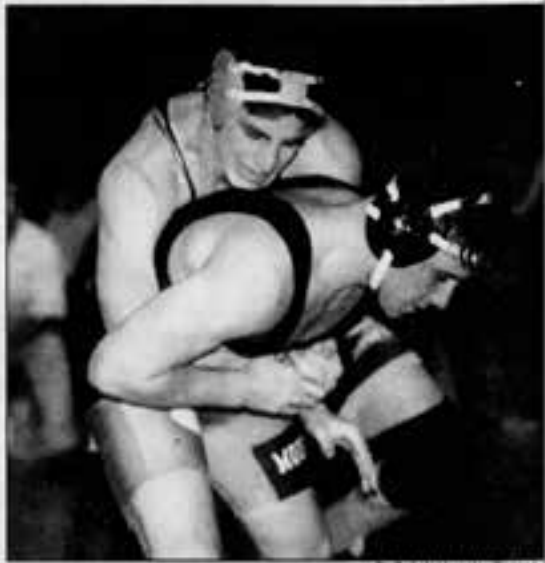
By Andrew Gross  
Staff Writer

When it came time to select the Sel Gordon Award as the Rockland County Tournament's most outstanding wrestler last night at Clarkstown South, the coaches found plenty of candidates.

There was Clarkstown South senior Scott Meltzer, who earned his 100th career victory with a technical fall over North Rockland senior Adam Light in the 152-pound final.

There was Clarkstown North junior Chris Granata, who won

Please see WRESTLING, 6D



Staff photo by Andrew Gross

Scott Meltzer of Clarkstown South begins to drive Jason Ryan of Suffern to the mat, a few seconds before pinning Ryan in a 152-pound semifinal yesterday at Clarkstown South.

Continued from page 1D

his third county title with a convincing 9-0 decision over Tappan Zee junior John Park for the 120-pound title, the only final pitting two returning county champions.

There was perpetual champion Cliff Furell, the Suffern senior who won his fourth county title by pinning Pearl River senior Geoff McElroy in 3:32 for the 106-pound championship.

There was also Suffern senior Chad Carro, like Furell a reigning state champion, who pinned Nanuet sophomore Ed Thompson in 42 seconds for the 145-pound title.

But the coaches selected another Suffern senior, Steve Pregiato, who edged East Ramapo senior David Levine, 9-5, for the 125-pound title. Pregiato was one of nine Suffern champions as the Mounties really won their 17th state title in 12 seasons and 23rd overall title since 1936. In 1998, Suffern shared the title with Pearl River.

Suffern finished with 260 points. Nanuet, with 141 points and two champions, edged Clarkstown North, which had 145 points and two champions, for second place.

"I was very surprised," said Pregiato, who earned a one-point escape 23 seconds into the third period for the winning margin. "We had a match Thursday and I didn't really open up, I remained conservative. Today, I was getting my shots and opening up. One hundred twenty-five is a little heavy but I had a lot of energy and stamina."

"For most outstanding wrestler, I expected Griff or Granata.

These guys have won the county before," Pregiato added. "Or even Chad."

Of course, had Levine won, he might have been the most outstanding wrestler. It was that close. Pregiato went up 3-0 on a takedown with 26 seconds left in the first period but Levine tied the score on a reverse 30 seconds later. Levine started the second period in the defensive position and needed 22 seconds to work a two-point reverse. But Pregiato escaped six seconds later, then earned two more takedown points for a 5-4 lead with 31 seconds left in the second period. Levine tied it at 5-5 with an escape as the second period ended.

"I knew he was very skilled and I was trying to take my time," said Levine, one of three East Ramapo finalists. "I wanted to counter him but it was very hard to score on my feet."

Sophomores Dan Greeley (96), senior Jamie Ryan (126), junior Chris Mason (150), senior Matt Becker (148), sophomore Eli Farnham (121) and senior Dave Vaccaro (275) were the other Suffern champions. Suffern seniors Geoff Schneider (189) and Doug Veltri (279) placed second.

Becker was perhaps the most surprising of Suffern's champions as he started the 145-pound bracket as the fifth seed. But he defeated top-seeded Clarkstown South senior Rich Pickett, 3-5. In the semifinals, then topped Nanuet senior Mike Sorrentino, 7-3, for the title.

Pickett won the county title at 132 last season and the second-seeded Sorrentino was a runner-up at 167 in 1995.

"I knew Sorrentino would be tough because he won the Kolt Tournament at Suffern," Becker said. "Pickett's got great stamina, he kept pushing and pushing. It feels good. We've been taking second and third in tournaments but we haven't won. We picked it up a level here."

Third-seeded Clarkstown North senior Mike Clark also defeated two higher seeds on his way to the 130-pound title. He pinned second-seeded Suffern sophomore Frank Pregiato in 3:20 in the semifinals, then won a wild 7-5 overtime decision over East Ramapo freshman Marcos Serna.

Clark took a 5-4 lead with 1:09 to go in the third period with a one-point escape. But Clark, who admitted he was "very tired," was warned for stalling with 23 seconds left. Clark was then sentenced a point for stalling as the buzzer sounded after backing away from Serna on a neutral restart.

"I was going into," said Clark, who walked off the mat with his arms raised, not realizing a one-point penalty had been assessed against him. "But Coach Tony Melillo said 'Calm down, calm down.' It felt so good because I thought I won but then I had to go back out. That was the worst. Mine's a real tough kid, the toughest kid I've faced all year. I really underestimated him."

In overtime, Clark won the match with 23 seconds left on a takedown.

East Ramapo won denied its first county championship since Ken Levine won the 91-pound title in 1992. At 275, sophomore Derron Grey was the top seed and he led

Vaccaro 4-1 after the first period. But Vaccaro pinned him in 3:28.

Clarkstown South senior Doug DeMarino also won a thrilling match, defeating Schenectady, 9-5, after Schneider pinned top-seeded Nysack senior Eddie Krane in 4:09 of their semifinal bout.

Top-seeded Nanuet senior Ringer Boats recovered to pin Veltri in 46 seconds. Veltri took an early 5-0 lead on a takedown and near fall.

At 112, Nanuet sophomore Chris Brady earned a 10-1 win over unseeded Tappan Zee junior Joe O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan did a great job filling in for junior Tim James, last year's county champion. James did not compete because of Tappan's lessened eligibility requirements.

The bout between Granata and Park was interesting if only because of the taunts that were hurled back and forth between supporters of the two wrestlers. On the mat, though, Park was fairly silent.

"My freshman year, he was first match ever because I didn't wrestle in middle school," said Park, who also lost to Granata in the Empire State Games trial this past spring. "I just needed to do better from the neutral position. I usually do better but I didn't get my shots."

Park and Granata would end by hugging each other again at the bottom of the mat.

"I figure I'll see him a couple of times this season," Granata said. "I'm not going to take any one lightly. Today, I just thought this wasn't the county final, this was the sectional final."

# 1997 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM



**HEAD COACH**  
**MICHAEL DeSIMONE**

**ASSISTANT COACHES**  
**ROBERT FARQUARSON, JOHN WALLACH,**  
**WILLIAM WILSON**

## DUAL MEET RECORD 10-0

OPPONENT	SCORE	MARGIN OF VICTORY
ARLINGTON	54-24	30
MAHOPAC	53-16	37
MONROE-WOODBURY	50-24	26
MT. VERNON	69-6	63
SCARSDALE	51-18	33
CLARKSTOWN SOUTH	58-18	40
CLARKSTOWN NORTH	55-24	31
NORTH ROCKLAND	54-21	33
EAST RAMAPO	60-12	48
JOHN JAY E.F.	66-12	54
<b>TOTAL MARGIN OF VICTORY</b>		<b>405 POINTS</b>
<b>AVERAGE MARGIN OF VICTORY IN DUAL MEETS 40.5 POINTS</b>		

# **1997 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM**



**ROCKLAND COUNTY LEAGUE A CHAMPIONS**

**ROCKLAND COUNTY TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**

**MacARTHUR LONG ISLAND TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**

**SUFFERN KOHL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**

**2ND PLACE BRANDON FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT**

(Brandon High School was defending Number 1 ranked high school wrestling team in the U.S.A.) They refused to wrestle Suffern in a dual meet for fear of breaking their streak of 227 straight victories.

**DIVISION I TEAM CHAMPIONS**

**SECTION I TOURNAMENT TEAM CHAMPIONS**

**NYS TOURNAMENT UNOFFICIAL TEAM CHAMPIONS**

**11 FINALISTS IN THE ROCKLAND COUNTY TOURNAMENT**

**9 INDIVIDUAL ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAMPIONS**

**6 INDIVIDUAL DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**5 SECTION I INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS**

**3 NYS PLACE WINNERS**

**(1-3rd place, 2-1st place)**



# 1997 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM ROSTER

## 97-RECORD FALLS

<b>ALEX PANATE</b> -Rockland County Champion 1998	7-6	2
<b>DAN GREELEY</b> -Rockland County Champion	18-11	8
<b>OMAR VARGAS</b> - 4th place Rockland County 2nd place Division I	8-10	6
<b>JASON RYAN</b> -5th place Rockland County Tournament	3-5	1
<b>JAIME RYAN</b> -Rockland County Champion Kohl Tournament Champion Division Champion Section I Champion	34-7	17
<b>STEVEN PREGIATO</b> -Rockland County Champion Brandon Tournament Champion Division Champion 2nd place section I Tournament	27-9	9
<b>CHRIS MASON</b> -2-time Section I Champion 2-time Rockland County Champion 2-time Division Champion MacArthur Tournament Champion	30-9	19
<b>CHAD CAROS</b> -2-time NYS Champion 182 total wins MacArthur Tournament Champion Kohl Tournament Champion Fulton Tournament Champion Brandon Tournament Champion Rockland County Champion Division Champion Section I Champion	37-1	20
<b>FRANK PREGIATO</b> -2-time Section I Champion, 105 wins 6th NYS tournament 1998	27-10	14
<b>JIMMY HORTON</b> -3rd place Rockland County Tournament 1998 2nd place Division Tournament 1998	3-5	2

# 1997 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM ROSTER

## 97-RECORD FALLS

**GRIFF POWELL**- 2-time NYS champion, 40-1 23  
179 wins at SHS

4-time state place winner 1st, 1st, 2nd, 4th  
4-time Rockland County Champion  
MacArthur Tournament Champion  
Fulton Tournament Champion  
Brandon Tournament Champion  
4-time Division Champion  
4-time Section I Champion

**KHYL FARRISON**-3-time Rockland County 33-7 13  
Champion, 145 wins

3-time Section I Champion  
3-time state place winner 3rd, 5th, 2nd  
Kohl Tournament Champion  
3-time Division Champion

**GEOFF SCHNEIDER**-2nd place Rockland County 21-14 8  
Tournament

2nd place Division Tournament  
4th place Section I Tournament

**MATT BLECKER**- Rockland County Champion 22-12 5  
2nd place Division Tournament

**MIKE FINK** 2-3 0

**MIKY CIMBURA** 0-8

**DOUG VELTIDI**-2nd place Rockland County 16-14 10  
Tournament,

Division 1 Champion

**DAVID VISCONTI**-Rockland County Champion 9-7 9

**MARIO GOMEZ** 6-3 4

**MATT FARAONE** 1-2 1

**ALEX BERBIT** 0-3 0

**DAN HORTON**

## **Mickey DeSimone**



**Mickey DeSimone was a one-of-a-kind — a dedicated Coach whose presence and perspective made all our interactions most interesting.**

**We remember his Love for April Fool's pranks that were both  
Humorous and Entertaining**

**Suffern High School's  
Coaching Staff & Athletes**

## CONGRATULATIONS 1974 AM BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM



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BRIAN KELLY '75 (PLATTSBURGH), JOHN MCNIFF '75 (FORDHAM)  
2ND ROW: MIKE COLANGELO '75 (PRINCETON), JAMIE KEMPTON '76 (BUCKNELL),  
KEVIN LEONARD '76 (PLATTSBURGH),  
COACH WEIS - WENT ON TO COACH OKLAHOMA STATE AND NUMEROUS OLYMPIANS.**

**In recognition of past ALBERTUS MAGNUS HIGH SCHOOL Inductees to the  
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JAMIE KEMPTON '76, HOWIE MCNIFF '73, TOM MOUNKHALL '67, FRANK SAMOYLO '68,  
DAN SULLIVAN '72, THE 1990-1991 GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM,  
DICK TEETSEL (COACH, TRACK OFFICIAL), JOE MCGUINNESS (ALBERTUS AD, COACH)**

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Brendel Logan-Charles, David Wanounou,  
Yehuda Weissmandl and Michael Rossman

In Honor of the Memory of  
**Coach Mickey DeSimone  
and Joseph Lynch**

May they always be remembered as  
heroes of Rockland County Sports  
and

Congratulations to the  
**1996-1997 Suffern Wrestling Team  
1974 Albertus Magnus  
Boys' Cross-Country Team**



*The  
St. Thomas Aquinas College  
Department of Athletics*



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The 2025 Rockland County  
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*22 NCAA Division II Sports Teams  
5 Varsity Sports Teams  
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# *Suffern Athletics*



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**Coach Mickey DeSimone  
And  
The 1997 Suffern Wrestling Team**

on their induction into the

**Rockland County  
Sports Hall of Fame!**



*Congratulations*

**TO THE  
2025 INDUCTEES  
TO THE  
ROCKLAND COUNTY  
SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

**JOSEPH LYNCH**

*Two-Time World  
Bantamweight Champion*

**1974**

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BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY  
TEAM**

*Infamously known as  
the Long Red Line*

**MICKY DESIMONE**

*Super Suffern High School  
athlete who went on to become  
an excellent wrestling coach*

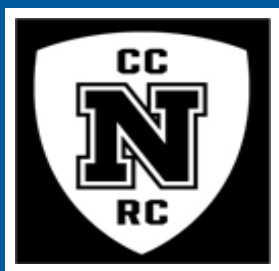
**1996-1997**

**SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL  
WRESTLING TEAM**

*Suffern wrestling team, coached by  
Mickey DeSimone, dominated the  
county tournaments*

*Tom & Katie*  
**DOHERTY**

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PIRATES!**



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to the

**Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame  
2025 Inductees**



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**Old -Timers' Special Award**

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS'  
CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

**MICKEY DESIMONE**

**1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**



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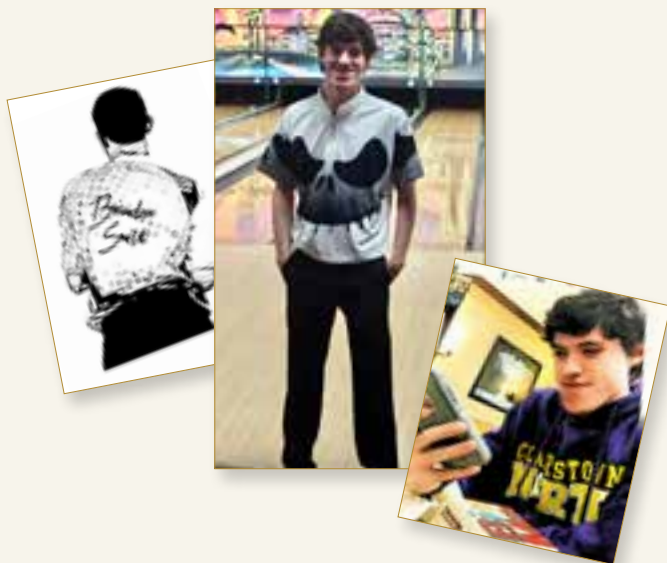
**BOB BAIRD, FOUNDER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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Brandon Smith was a Clarkstown athlete and  
NYS State Champion Bowler who passed  
while in high school.

## **The Brandon W. Smith Foundation**

was created in Brandon's memory and contributes  
to causes within the Rockland County community,  
and beyond, to raise awareness and  
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# THE SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL MAT CLUB

*Recognizes And Congratulates*

## MICKEY DESIMONE

**Under the 18 year tutelage of Mickey DeSimone,  
The Suffern Wrestling program was unparalleled in success -**

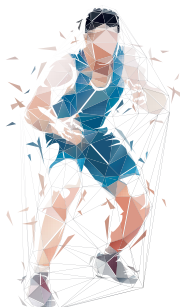
• 220 dual meets • 52 team tournaments  
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## 1996-97 SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

**County, Section, State Undefeated Champions**  
A dominating force in County Wrestling



## THE SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL MAT CLUB

*Congratulations*

**ROCKLAND COUNTY  
SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

**2025  
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OLD-TIMERS' SPECIAL AWARD

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS  
BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

**MICKEY DESIMONE**  
**1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**

FROM

**THE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS  
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*Congratulations*

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2025 Inductees**

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**JOSEPH LYNCH (POSTHUMOUS)  
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*RCPSAL Champions ~ 10-0 Record*

**MICKEY DESIMONE (POSTHUMOUS) SUFFERN COACH**

*Excellent Wrestling Coach and Leader (220 wins)*

IN MEMORY OF

**COACH MICKEY DESIMONE**



*In appreciation for his dedication  
as an excellent teacher, guidance counselor, and coach  
of student athletes at Suffern High School.*

*Chuck & Maureen Maze*

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*with a special nod to*

***Mickey DeSimone***

**&**

***The '96-'97 Suffern Wrestling Team***

***The Veltidi Family***

**Judy, Sally, Doug, Kristen,  
Katherine and Patrick**



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*CONGRATULATES*

**COACH MICKEY DESIMONE**  
(posthumous)

**1996-97 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOY'S**

**CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

**JOSEPH LYNCH**  
(posthumous)  
OLD TIMERS SPECIAL AWARD

# Congratulations

*to the*

## Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025

*Scott* **FINLAY**



**Congrats to all of the Inductees!!**



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*Congratulations*

**2025 ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

**JOSEPH LYNCH ~ Old -Timers' Special Award**

**MICKY DESIMONE ~ Suffern Coach**

**1996-1997 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM**

*&*

*Special shout out to the Long Red Line*

**1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**



Love and Best Wishes,

**Tom and Sandy Collins & Family**



Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Board and Sue Jones, Bones Jones Foundation.  
(L-R) John Ryan, Sue Jones, Pete Scheibner, Bill Rubbert and Kurt Lundgren

## **RCSHF PRESENTS GIFT TO BONES JONES FOUNDATION**

During a visit with RC Special Olympics, (Bones Jones Foundation) we presented a check for \$2500 to Sue Jones at New City Bowl. These funds were raised during a raffle that was held on our Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame induction on April 27, 2025.

Sue Jones and her Special Olympics group has rented out New City Bowl for 7 weeks every Monday for 80 -100 special needs bowlers from around Rockland County.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

IS CELEBRATING

**53**  
**YEARS**  
**OF SPORTS**  
**EXCELLENCE**

Sunday  
April 19, 2026  
Paramount Country Club  
New City, NY 10965

*Thank You  
to Our Sponsors!*



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.RCSHF.ORG](http://WWW.RCSHF.ORG)



**ALL OUR BEST TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
ON YOUR 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL & TEAM INDUCTIONS**

**&  
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR INDUCTEES**

**MICKY DESIMONE (POSTHUMOUS), SUFFERN COACH  
1996-97 SUFFERN WRESTLING TEAM  
1974 ALBERTUS MAGNUS BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM  
JOSEPH LYNCH (POSTHUMOUS), OLD-TIMERS' SPECIAL AWARD**

**WE ALSO REMEMBER HANK KAPUSINSKY & GIBBY SWEET  
ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS**



**The Honorable  
HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR., SUPERVISOR**

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TOWN JUSTICE

**GEORGE G. COFFINAS**  
TOWN JUSTICE



*HOME OF  
THE BRICKS THAT BUILT NEW YORK,  
THREE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS  
WHERE HENRY HUDSON DOCKED THE HALF MOON,  
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROOP ENCAMPMENTS  
THE 95TH CIVIL WAR REGIMENT FLAG CARRIED AT GETTYSBURG*

## *In Memory*



**GIBBY SWEET**  
1999 RCSHF Inductee



**HANK KAPUSINSKY**  
1997 RCSHF Inductee

*rest in peace*

*Congratulations*

to

**The Long Red Line**

on your induction into the

**Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame!**



Your dedication, perseverance, and exceptional athletic achievement have earned you a well-deserved place among Rockland County's greatest sports legends.

With pride and admiration,  
the Class of 1978.

# SCHULTZ

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