



BILL CRUM

Bill Crum has coached, officiated, managed, and administered wrestling at many levels, and of many styles...at, and for many institutions, including events at the local, high school, college, national, and international levels...some early New Jersey examples are...He assisted his High School coach at Seton Hall Prep, and became Freshman coach there. At age 20, he was head coach at St Peter's Prep, then hired as Head coach at Union Catholic HS. Next, recruited to be Head Coach at Rutgers-Newark, he led them to a tri-championship shared with Montclair State and Trenton State. Then started a wrestling program at Saint Anthony's HS (New Jersey), and followed that by spending a year coaching at Monsignor Farrell HS on Staten Island!

Bill moved over to officiating HS matches in 1972, but soon favored the Freestyle and Greco-Roman styles, and in short order was promoted to a "category 1 official", working all levels, including US Open Nationals. Retiring in 2002 as an "Emeritus" official, he then officiated events in New York City High Schools as Clinician for all officials of the PSAL Girls Freestyle League.

While as Executive Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hudson County in 1994, Bill had often thought about starting up a program he would call "Beat the Streets"...a name borrowed (with permission) from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. While in Atlanta working as an administrator for the '96 Olympic Games, he wrote letters to Hall of Famers Al Bevilacqua and Setrak Agonian, asking them to join him

in starting an organization which would be called "Beat the Streets". They enthusiastically concurred, their plan evolved...and as Chief Executive Officer for the Metropolitan Wrestling Association, bill wrote, and was awarded, two grants from the Junior Olympic Committee of USA Wrestling, and "Beat the Streets" was born!

Working along with Bill was "Beat the Streets" Chairman of the Board and Philanthropist Mike Novogratz, an enthusiastic supporter of the fledgling initiative...and that small program called "Beat the Streets" is now a \$2M+ organization serving over 3,000 NYC students, with more than 80 middle school programs and 65 HS teams in "The Big Apple" New York City!

Bill has managed wrestling events at every level, from local age division tournaments, up to and including World Championships and The Olympic Games!

He was instrumental in the "Grapple at the Garden," and was a coordinator for the 2016 NCAA Championships at "The Garden."

After 40 years of service o wrestling in the NY Metropolitan area, Bill and his wife Kathleen relocated to Boynton Beach, Florida...continuing his service to wrestling communities there...most recently in 2017 as Florida Team leader for the Junior and Cadet National Championships.

Please join me in welcoming and Congratulating Bill Crum into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame!