

Bob ATTONITO

In 1963, Bob saw his first wrestling match as a freshman at Indiana State University. He was so inspired that he signed up for a wrestling class, won three intramural wrestling championships, and was hooked for life. He managed the wrestling team in 1964 because of a torn Achilles tendon incurred playing football (which ended his season) at Indiana. Coach Chuck Sanders, who later was named to the Hall of Fame, let Bob manage the Varsity team and workout with the team. This became a huge challenge for him because he

had to wrestle from his knees until the cast came off. These were the most intense workouts, which made him stronger physically and mentally. Bob returned to football and continued to manage as well as workout with the wrestling team in 1965-66.

Continuing his education for a double major (Physical Education & Health) and two weeks before the Indiana State Invitational, Bob received the ok from Coach Sanders to wrestle in the tournament. He was probably the first team manager to ever make weight and place first in the tournament. In 1966-67 his record was 16-8 and the following season it was 27-7. With a second place in the Indiana State Invitational, and a first in the Conference Championships.

After college, Bob's involvement with wrestling continued at Martinsville High School, Indiana. His team was 23-7 (1968-1971) with 6 sectional champions. In 1972 he returned to NYC where he continued to teach and coach



multiple sports. At Beach Channel High School, he coached the wrestling team from 1977 to 1980 where his teams were 22-8.

Bob's interest then turned to officiating. He started in Nassau County (worked for 27 years) and in NYC from 1977 to 2015. As an official, he worked the Nassau County Championships four times along with 23 qualifiers. As a NYC official he worked 32 State qualifiers, 25 Private School State Championships, received the Distinguished Service Award 2013, 23 Ivy League Championships,

plus 15 Catholic State Championships/qualifiers. In 1988 Bob became President and Interpreter for the NYCWOA, receiving the NYCWOA Distinguished Service Award 2015.

Bob served as the New York State Wrestling Officials Association President from 2008-2010, (receiving the NYSWOA Distinguished Service Award 2013). To date the NYCWOA, under his Presidency, has produced six NYS Championship Officials, whom collectively have represented New York City, working over 23 State Wrestling Championships. Beyond mutual respect for all, he has always emphasized equal dignity in the official's association and has cultivated a very strong mentoring program for the younger officials. To this end, the officiating in New York City has improved, so has the coaching and wrestling in the city.

Bob's career has always been supported by his wife Pam and their two daughters.