

# "Doppy" and Dick DOHERTY

George "Doppy" Doherty and his younger brother Richard "Dick" Doherty began their illustrious wrestling careers long before stepping onto the wrestling mat to represent Amityville High School. The Doherty household included eight children, five of them boys. This likely meant that there was some grappling taking place prior to lacing up their own wrestling shoes. But it was not until the mid to late 1940s that their wrestling careers — and their dedication to the sport — really took off.



Upon graduation in 1950, Dick enlisted in the United States Navy, and later attended Millersville State Teachers College. While wrestling at Millersville, Dick competed for Coach Rupp, whose teams compiled an overall record of 29 wins, 7 losses, and 1 tie. Dick finished his career at Millersville having placed two times in the Pennsylvania State Athletic championships. But it

was not until after college though that Dick Doherty truly made his mark in the wrestling world as a coach and mentor to many student athletes.

Doppy wrestled for Hall of Fame coaches Lonnie Kittle and Joe Valla at Amityville High School from 1945 to 1949, where he amassed a winning record and captured two Long Island championships. In addition, he earned a New York State AAU Freestyle wrestling championship. Upon graduation from high school, Doppy took his wrestling prowess to the state of Pennsylvania, where he attended Millersville State Teachers College. While there, under the tutelage of legendary coach Ted Rupp, he posted a career record of 30 wins and only 2 losses, including 13 victories by pin.

Doppy would go on to win three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championships as well as an AAU Mid Atlantic Freestyle championship in 1951. Following the completion of his varsity career in 1953, Doppy received the Theodore H. Rupp award for the most outstanding wrestler at Millersville. In 2003, he was inducted into the Millersville University Hall of Fame. His nominating sponsor expressed admiration for Doppy by writing, "He was by any standard the first 'big time' wrestler that Millersville ever had. His record speaks for itself, but more than that he was a great leader and a fine example of sportsmanship throughout his career. In those four years (1949 to 1953), George was chiefly responsible for bringing Millersville into national prominence as a wrestling powerhouse."

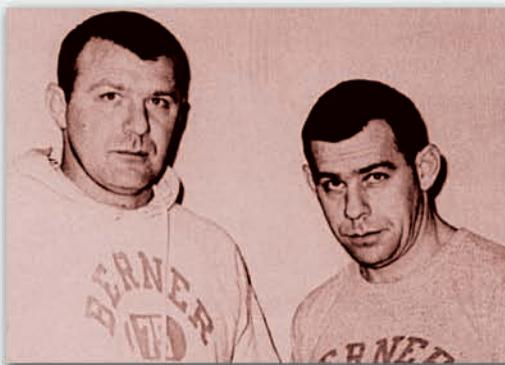
Dick Doherty wrestled from 1946 to 1950 at Amityville High School for coaches Lonnie Kittle and Joe Valla. Like his brother, he compiled a winning record during his high school career, capped off by a second place finish in the Long Island championships.

Dick was instrumental in leading the Amityville wrestling team to two consecutive runner-up finishes in the Suffolk County tournament in 1949 and 1950.

Together, he and his brother Doppy started the wrestling program at Berner High School in 1963 while they were teachers in the Massapequa School District. Dick would eventually assume the responsibility of the head coaching job at Berner following the unfortunate and untimely death of Doppy in 1974 at the age of 44.

This selfless coaching duo dedicated a big part of their lives to the sport of wrestling and helped inspire young athletes to become fine men. While Doppy and Dicky were incredible athletes in their own right, their real gift was their ability to inspire so many ordinary athletes to greatness. They had an uncanny ability to see potential and cultivate it. It was because of this ability to build self-esteem that so many young men were led to believe in themselves and excel, not only in the sport of wrestling, but in life.

Their dedication, motivation, and love for the sport of wrestling enabled them to amass an impressive list of coaching achievements. Together, they coached Berner High School Wrestling from 1963-1982 for a combined total of 19 years, and during this time they produced two New York State champions, 10 New York State place-winners, 10 Nassau County champions, including two outstanding wrestlers and 36 Nassau County place winners. They won an impressive 18 high school tournament championships and compiled a combined overall dual meet record of 182 wins, 56 losses, and 2 ties. In addition, Dick was runner-up for the Nassau County Coach of the Year award in 1981, and both he and Doppy were recipients of the prestigious Legends of Nassau County Wrestling Award in 1992 and 1994, respectively. The Doherty brothers were posthumously inducted into the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1996.



*"Doppy" and Dick started the wrestling program at Berner H.S. and produced an impressive record of 182-56-2*