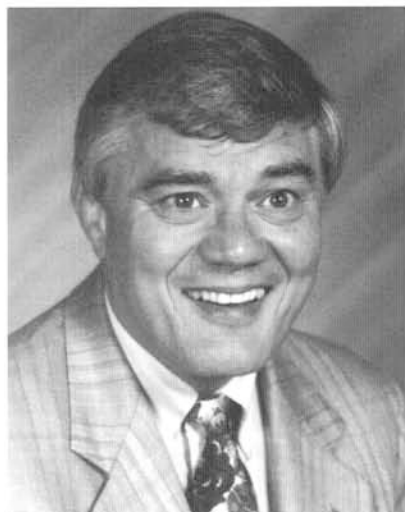


Sonny Greenhalgh: New York's Wrestling Ambassador By Stan Bishop



Sonny Greenhalgh

Most wrestlers that the Friends Of Long Island Wrestling inducts into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame attain prominence through successful coaching careers. Sonny Greenhalgh, however, followed a different route.

Sonny began wrestling at Vestal High School in Broome County and then went on to Syracuse University, graduating in 1964. He benefited from fortuitous timing as he helped contribute to one of Syracuse's most successful wrestling seasons ever. In Sonny's senior year Syracuse went undefeated in dual meets, won the EIWA Tournament, and placed 4th in the NCAA Tournament. Syracuse invited Sonny to stay another year to coach the freshman team.

Sonny's next moved to the Big Apple and the New York Athletic Club where he competed for 10 years, serving as team captain for the last four. He didn't know it then, but the NYAC became his base for the remainder of his career. A two-year sojourn back to Syracuse enabled him to coach again as well as earn a Masters degree in accounting. In 1969 he accepted a position with Olympic Resilite, situated first in Valley Stream and then in Hempstead. This required re-locating to Long Island where he quickly became active in local and state wrestling programs at all levels – high school, college, open. Sonny's high level

of activity led to several accolades: Nassau County Wrestling Coaches' "Man of the Year," induction into the New York State Collegiate Wrestling Coaches' Hall of Fame, and

appointments as Long Island Open and Empire Games Wrestling Chairman. During this time his son wrestled for Massapequa High School.

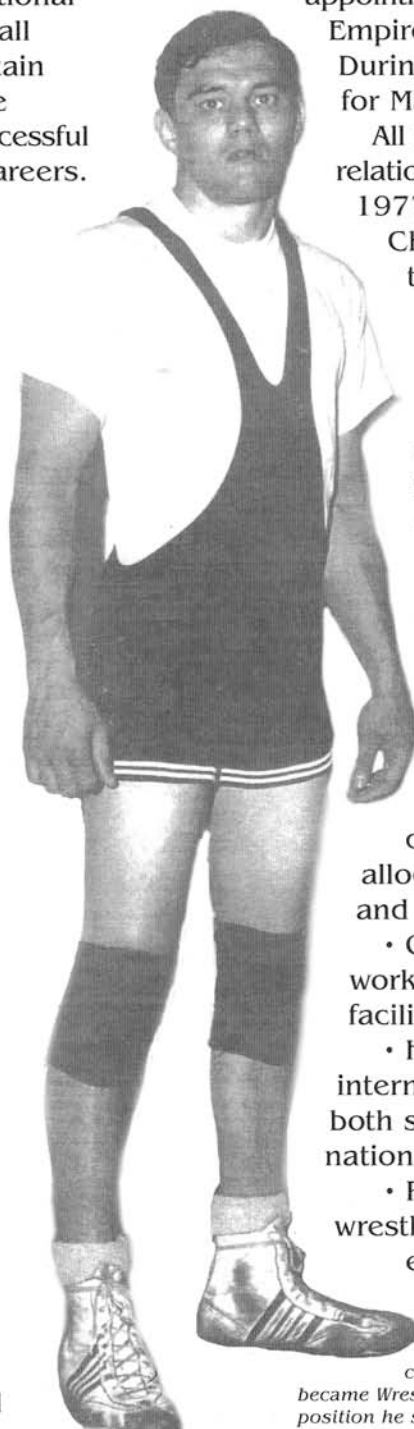
All this time Sonny maintained his relationship with the NYAC, and in 1977 he became Wrestling

Chairman, a voluntary position that he still holds. This enabled Sonny to widen his scope to the national wrestling scene.

He envisions this task as an "avenue which will provide every good wrestler, primarily from eastern United States the chance to be the absolute best he can be, both nationally and internationally." As NYAC

Wrestling Chairman his responsibilities include:

- Overseeing our national Greco-Roman and freestyle programs in terms of scheduling training, competition, and expense allocation according to national and international rules
- Overseeing the NYAC domestic workout program by making facilities available for training
- Hosting at least three international tournaments a year in both styles so as to attract the nation's best wrestlers
- Raising funds to cover NYAC wrestlers' training and competition expenses



Sonny Greenhalgh competed for the NYAC during the 1970's and served as team captain for several of those years. He later became Wrestling Chairman of the NYAC, a voluntary position he still holds.