

HILARY BECKER

Hilary Becker has been devoted to the sport of wrestling for over 40 years, as a wrestler, a coach, a mentor, and a benefactor. In addition, over the past 30 years, there has been no individual who has done more for the youth of the Lynbrook community than Hilary Becker. As president of the Lynbrook Youth Athletic Association, he has presided over the stewardship of multiple sports programs including wrestling, lacrosse, and soccer. He also created and founded a girl's self-defense program that encourages self-awareness and self-discipline in pre-teen girls.

But Hilary's greatest contributions have come in the sport of wrestling. He began his wrestling career at Lynbrook in the 7th grade, and went on to become a three year varsity starter and an All-Division wrestler for Coach Larry Glenz. Mr. Becker wrestled for two years at Farmingdale State University (SUNY) where he was an All-Conference wrestler for Coach Joe Bavaro. A severe back injury prematurely ended his wrestling career, but his heart was still in wrestling. It was then that he made a life-long commitment to the sport by teaming up with his uncle, Bob Becker, to establish and run the Lynbrook Titan's Kid Wrestling Program.

Throughout the years, the program has developed into one of the largest kid wrestling programs on Long Island, growing from 30 wrestlers per year when Hilary started to over 150 wrestlers today. The success of the program is not just measured by the number of participants or in wins and losses, but the life-long lessons that are taught about sportsmanship, perseverance, and integrity that these young athletes have carried with them through all other sports. Countless former Titan wrestlers have gone on to win county championships in wrestling, football, and lacrosse, as well as serving in the U.S. Military with honor and distinction. Many have become wrestling coaches as well. One thing they all have in common is that they praise Hilary for providing them with a solid foundation at a young age.

Many Lynbrook athletes attribute much of their success to their early experiences in the Titan Kid Wrestling Program. In addition, many of



the program's wrestlers started out at Lynbrook and ended up wrestling for other schools as they grew up. For example, past Nassau County's high school wrestling championships featured numerous finalists who started their careers with Hilary in the Titan's program. But Hilary's contributions do not stop there. Each year he honors those Titan wrestlers who have wrestled in the Titan's program through the Lynbrook varsity program with the Perseverance Award. He also continues the tradition that was started by his father, Francis, and his uncle, Bob, of acknowledging the top varsity wrestlers with two "Becker Brothers" awards that are accompanied by scholarships. His commitment to the sport has not only helped the youth of Lynbrook

wrestling but through his actions, such as a donation of wrestling mats to the "Beat the Streets" wrestling organization in New York City, Hilary has assisted spreading the benefits of wrestling far from his own community. Throughout the past 30 years, Hilary has been the heart and soul of the Lynbrook Titans Wrestling Program, but that only touches on one of his contributions to the community. He is the president and founder of Becker Realty Services, Inc., and is currently a trustee for the Village of Lynbrook. For his active involvement in many organizations and his charitable endeavors, he has been awarded the Humanitarian Award of the Year from the Institute of Real Estate Management and the "Father of the Year" Award from Momma's House. Momma's House is a program which provides housing for homeless moms and expectant mothers.

In summary, Hilary Becker is the embodiment of integrity, citizenry, and leadership. He has donated endless hours of his time each week to multiple organizations with no expectation of rewards. When reviewing the qualifications for nominees to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in the Lifetime Service to Wrestling category, it is hard to imagine someone who has taken a more personal interest in teaching the true benefits of the sport of wrestling to the youth of his community. It is for that reason, and his 32 years running the Lynbrook Titans Kid Wrestling Program, that he would make an outstanding addition to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.