



## *Ed Luksik*

Coach Ed Luksik is a worthy inductee into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He competed as a scholastic wrestler in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and as a collegian at Slippery Rock University where he placed in the Pennsylvania State College Championships in 1961.

As the Varsity wrestling coach at Deer Park High School from 1963-1996 he compiled a remarkable record. His teams won 233 dual meets and 5 league championships. He was voted Suffolk County Coach of the Year in 1975 and received the Grand Master Award as Suffolk County's Coach of the Year following the 1995-1996 season

Many of Ed's wrestlers have had tremendous individual success. He coached 60 league champions, 51 Suffolk County placewinners including 11 champions and 18 runners-up. Three of his wrestlers, Tom Decker, Angelo Zegarelli and Sal Cusumano compiled over 100 wins. At the State level, 11 of his wrestlers placed at the State tournament and 2 were New York State Champions. Two of his wrestlers were voted Suffolk County Most Outstanding Wrestler, and one, Ray Downey, New York State MOW in 1985. Nick Gallo, who wrestled for Ed went on to Hofstra University and, in 1977, became the NCAA Division 1 Champion and Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Ed has been involved with wrestling on many different levels. He served as Treasurer of Suffolk County Coaches Association for two years. He started the Deer Park "Kid Wrestling Program" in 1966 and founded the Deer Park Club Wrestling program.

Perhaps one of the finest endorsements of Ed's influence has been that many of his former wrestlers have gone on to become fine High School coaches on Long Island. They include: Howie Greenblat, Joe Goonan, Bob Schwarz, Paul Klyap, Mat Bernstein and Ray Downey.

He has been married to his wife Angela for 38 years and has 6 children and 3 grandchildren.