

# Tony MELOSCI

In 1967, Tony became the assistant wrestling coach at Deer Park High School, under the guidance of future Hall of Famer Ed Luksik. He served as head wrestling coach from 1974 thru 1979. Having never wrestled before, Coach Melosci credits Coach Luksik with giving him the solid foundation of wrestling skills that would shape his coaching career for years to come.

While at Deer Park, he coached many league and county place finishers along with All-State wrestlers Nick Gallo, Mike Nock, Joe Downey, Ted DiPasquale, and Howie Greenblatt.

He became an assistant wrestling coach at Hofstra University from 1980 to 1983, under head coach, and former NCAA champion/ NCAA tournament outstanding wrestler, Nick Gallo.

Melosci returned to the high school coaching ranks in 1984 at Lindenhurst HS with future Hall of Famer Joe Russo. While at Lindenhurst, he coached a number of all league and all county place finishers along with all state wrestlers Mark Frole and Rob Friese. He retired from teaching and coaching, on Long Island, in 1997.

Tony Melosci took his coaching talents down south after leaving Long Island. He served as an assistant coach in Wilmington, North Carolina where he would coach his first high school folkstyle state champion. He went on to become the head coach for one year in Gainesville, Georgia (North Hall HS) and ended his coaching career as an assistant coach at Citrus HS in Inverness, Florida.



He served for 8 years as the Co-State Chairman for New York USA Wrestling. He has also been the Team Leader for New York's Cadet and Junior Freestyle and Greco Roman Team at the National Championships. While leading team New York at the Nationals, he coached numerous All Americans along with Cadet Freestyle National Champ Ted Dipasquale, Freestyle Junior National Champ Peter Yozzo (later NCAA Champ), Freestyle Junior National Champ Dan Mayo and Junior Greco Roman National Champs Bill Starke and Willie Warren.

He also served for 4 years as the Northeast Regional Kid Director for USA wrestling.

He started officiating Freestyle and Greco Roman in 1975 and continues today. In 1982 he received his International (FILA) Officials license. In 1988 Tony earned the FILA E (exceptionale) Level, which is the highest level of international officiating. Melosci credits Mort Gellar, Chuck Almeida, and Bill Stecklein, all Olympic Exceptionale officials, for mentoring him in his journey of international officiating. He also earned the title of "Official of the Year" which recognizes the top official in the USA.

He officiated 16 world championships at all levels (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Europe and Espior). He officiated at 25 USA Open Championships, 15 World Team trials, 15 World Championships, the 1988 Pan American Games (Indianapolis) and the last three World Police and Fire Games (New York, Dublin, and Fairfax).

Tony is married to Terry, and has two sons, Brian and Tim.