

William ZAGARINO



Bill's wrestling life began in September 1946 when he met Coach Frank "Sprig" Gardner as his freshman football coach. "Gardner started recruiting for wrestling at that point and I was hooked." This is when Coach Gardner took some of the freshman football players into his office and wrestling room to view "The Wall of Champions". Every wrestler wanted to get his picture on that wall. Bill had four years of wrestling under Coach Gardner and wrestled varsity his junior and senior years. In those two years, he only lost two matches.

After graduating high school, Bill attended Hofstra College for one year and wrestled on the Hofstra freshman team in the 145 weight class. He had a good year in wrestling with first place in the NY Metropolitan AAU's at 145 lbs.

After his freshman year, Bill transferred from Hofstra to Millersville, PA. He wrestled Varsity his second and third year at Millersville with only two losses. He lost to Gus DeAugustino of Lock Haven, who became NCAA Division 1 Champion at 137. Later, he lost to brother Pat Zagarino in the Pennsylvania State Teacher College Tournament-when Pat won Gold and Bill won Silver.

After graduation, his first stop, back on Long Island was Coach Gardner's office in search of a

teaching position. Gardner put a call into Lonnie Kittle, at Amityville High School. Amityville had an opening, so he went right to work teaching and coaching.

In 1956, Bill started officiating wrestling and from 1957-1980, officiated the high school leagues and Suffolk County Championships. During this time, he represented Suffolk County twice in the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships. He also acted as rules interpreter along with Bob Hartman. He later served as President of the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association.

Bill joined the Friends of Long Island Wrestling and became a Board Member. He was appointed Chairman of the Hall of Fame Nominating Committee and has been an active supporter of that organization.

Within the business community of Bellmore, NY, Bill has been the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Bellmore Lions Club; Zone Chairman for the Lions, and a Melvin Jones Fellow for Lions International.

Bill married Ann Marie Friedel. They have two children, Patti Ann and Bill.