

DR. VINCE ZUARO

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

A native of Queens, New York, he attended Boys High School In Brooklyn, a perennial football power with a student-body of over two thousand boys. Graduating in 1945 he was awarded an academic and football scholarship to Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts. In his freshman year at Holy Cross his team and he played in the 1946 New Years Day, Orange Bowl Game, still considered the "Classic" of all orange Bowl Games.

In 1950 he accepted a position as a science teacher and assistant football coach at Freeport high School. He was the line and defensive coach for sixteen years, during one of the most successful eras of Freeport Football. In 1953 the Athletic Director and head Football Coach decided to start a wrestling team in order to help keep his football players in shape during the winter months. When he told Vince of his decision he also said, "And you're the coach". Startled, Vince told him that he knew nothing about wrestling, having grown up in New York City and attended a college that did not have a wrestling program. The director's response was, "You don't have to teach wrestling, just have our football Players lift weights and do calisthenics".

When word got out that Freeport was starting a wrestling team the great Frank "Sprig" Gardner called Vince and offered assistance. Freeport's team worked out with Mephram three times a week that first year. The Mephram drill system was adopted and utilized in the ensuing years resulting in the success of the Freeport wrestling program. It was fortunate that several fine athletes with wrestling talent were members of those early Freeport teams. Sam Boone later won the Greco-Roman Olympic Trials, while Andy Taylor won a State Championship in 1963, New York's first Championships. Tom Henry won a State Championship in 1964. Freeport had

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evolved into a strong and competitive wrestling program. Vince left Freeport with a record of 132 wins and 63 losses in 1964.

In 1964 Vince received an invitation to officiate at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. After the games he returned to N.Y.U. to complete his studies for the Ph.D. degree. He coached wrestling at Columbia University from 1964 to 1966. After taking administrative positions at New York University and the City College of New York, he was forced to give up coaching wrestling.

Not wanting to give up his association with the great sport of wrestling he decided to continue as an official. He was president of The Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association for four years. He officiated in ten N.C.A.A. Division I National Championships, officiating final matches each year.