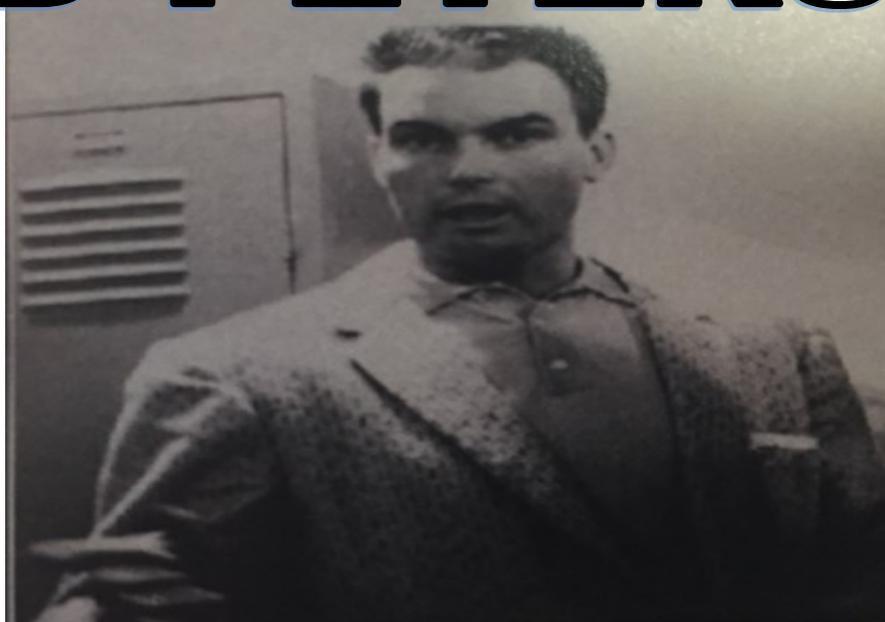


TED PETERSEN



On Wednesday September 30, 2015, Hall of Fame Wrestling Coach Ted Petersen was inducted into the first ever Nassau County High School Athletics Hall Of Fame. Coach Petersen was inducted and represented by Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Lou Tuorto. In addition, Athletic Director Jim Cranmer and former Head Wrestling Coach Damian Garcia also were present. Many of Coach Petersen's family members, friends, and former coaches/wrestlers' were in attendance. Coach Petersen's wife, Eileen received this prestigious honor on behalf of her late husband. Daughter Sharon Cellan, son-in-law and current Freeport Football coach Russ Cellan, sons Dane Petersen and wife Joyce, Glenn Petersen, as well as Ted's grandchildren Mike Cellan, wife Michele, Matt Cellan, and Dean Petersen, former Assistant Coach Paul McArthey, former wrestler and 1961 New State Champion Donny Fay, former wrestler and 1971 New State Champion John Golden, former wrestler and Baldwin Wrestling Coach Jimmy Murphy, and former wrestler and Plainedge Football/Wrestling Coach Rob Shaver all were on hand. Coach Petersen joins the first class with an impeccable resume and is in the company of the top coaches in the history of Nassau County High School Athletics.

Ted Petersen's favorite motto was, "Seek the highest". His Island Trees High School wrestlers wisely followed the words of their late, great coach. During a span of seven years, Petersen's wrestlers really were Bulldogs on the mat. His young men compiled a team dual mark of 325-70-4. Petersen's wrestling squads earned 20 conference titles, three Section VIII championships, and six New York State Championships. Twenty-two of his athletes were honored as individual Section VIII Champions.

Upon graduation from Cortland State in 1958, having no previous experience with wrestling, Petersen took a job coaching the Junior High School team of his local school district, simply because they needed a coach. He read books, pursued knowledgeable coaches for their advice, and even listened to his own young wrestlers to learn the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport.



Wrestling quickly became Petersen's favorite sport. He discovered that it was a perfect medium for him to teach his athletes life lessons as well as sport skills. Petersen's theories, constant positive motivation, and investment in hard work paid dividends. He lived humbly and taught his own personal standard of excellence. Simply known as "The Coach", Ted Petersen was admired and respected by many athletes, friends and colleagues during the course of his 33 years as a dedicated family man, Physical Education Teacher and Wrestling, Football, and Baseball Coach.

Coach Petersen is a member of the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame and The National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



ISLAND TREES BULLDOGS