

SPECIAL AWARDS

BCCA/LOU LANZALOTTA & RAY SEIGRIST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Bergen County Coaches Association was established in 1935. With more than fifty member schools and representing over 600 coaches, it is one of the leading organizations of its type in the country. The BCCA conducts annual tournaments, presents clinics, holds social functions, recognizes its own members with the Century Club and Special Service Awards, selects the All County Teams, and runs three seasonal awards dinners. Most importantly, it awards the annual Lou Lanzalotta and Ray Seigrist Memorial Scholarships as well as one scholarship to each high school in Bergen County. These awards were established to recognize the contributions BCCA members make to the high school experience in preparing student athletes for post-secondary education. It recognizes athletes who understand the value of high school athletics in both work and deed.

Lou and Ray were a long-term members of the BCCA. Both served as Executive Secretary/Treasurer for many years and were synonymous with the BCCA. It is in Lou and Ray's memory that the BCCA presents its annual scholarships, which exceed \$30,000 per year.

THE PAUL TASHIAN MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING WRESTLER

As a young man at Paramus High School, Paul was a successful football player but was intrigued by a new sport, wrestling. He soon learned that his enthusiasm and dedication could not completely compensate for his lack of ability. Although he never won a championship, his determination and attitude won the respect and admiration of coaches and peers. Continuing his wrestling at Monmouth College, Paul's knowledge of the sport continued to grow. After graduation, Paul began a teaching career in Ridgewood, and became a wrestling official. He soon became a sought after official because of his competence, dedication, and fairness. When Paul tragically died at age thirty-seven, The New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association and the BCCA Holiday Wrestling Tournament, believing Paul to be the embodiment of the wrestler's dedication, named the outstanding wrestler award in his honor.