



Joseph "Tex" DeFalco

HACKENSACK HIGH SCHOOL

Joe Defalco was on Hackensack High School's first varsity wrestling team, His record was 21-2 and he was Hackensack's first District Champion and placed 2nd In the Regions.

After college at the University of Rhode Island, Joe came back to Hackensack and became the head wrestling coach for from 1967-1976. The teams record over his ten-year coaching period was 112-24-3 ties.

Joe's team won two county titles, two league titles and five district titles. He was named Coach of the Year in 1973, 1974 and 1976, Joe coached 31 district champions, 12 regional and three 3rd place state finishers.

Joe had a saying as you entered the locker room which revealed how he could keep 65 wrestlers on his team every year. It said "The measure of a man is not in how high he stands but when falling how fast he stands."

All those student/athletes that wrestled for Joe are grateful for the character he helped build in everyone he knew and all the great memories created together along the way.

After retiring from wrestling Joe went on to be a dedicated administrator at Hackensack High School serving as the Director of Athletics and High School Principal before his untimely death on May 10, 2005. Joe is survived by his wife Vicki, son Scott and daughter Lauren.