

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME *JAMES PECKHAM – OUR FOUNDER AND FRIEND*



JAMES PECKHAM “EARNING THE RIGHT TO WIN” SCHOLARSHIP

In 2011, the *James Peckham Earning the Right Scholarship Fund* was established to perpetuate Coach Peckham’s legacy by supporting Massachusetts high school wrestlers who exhibit the characteristics of Coach. James Peckham is a legend in Massachusetts wrestling circles whose contributions to the sport spanned more than a half-century. Peckham’s impact was immense; he was a role model and mentor to countless athletes and coaches across the region.



As a wrestler, Peckham competed in the freestyle and Greco-Roman styles. In 1954 Peckham “earned the right” to represent the United States as a member of the Greco-Roman Olympic wrestling team. In 1962, Peckham started a collegiate coaching career that would last for thirty years, coaching at Emerson College and then at Harvard University. During that time, “Coach” ran a popular wrestling program at the Boston YMCU (the “Union”), where he trained scores of elite wrestlers. Jim also ran a wrestling camp for many years, where selected wrestlers were given the opportunity to “earn the right to win” by learning technique, toughness and philosophies from him.

On the international level, Peckham was one of the pioneers who built the United States into a world power in international wrestling. Jim was a USA wrestling coach for 38 major international competitions, serving as head coach for the 1976 Olympic team and assistant coach for the 1972 Olympic team.

In 1998, Coach Peckham founded the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Guided by his example, the Massachusetts Chapter continues to pursue its mission of preserving our wrestling history, recognizing our excellence, and inspiring future generations of wrestlers. In 2000, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Oklahoma recognized Jim Peckham’s many accomplishments as a competitor, coach, administrator, and official by inducting him as a Distinguished Member.

Over the past eight years this scholarship has been presented to a few dozen graduating seniors, whose individual personal letters & recommendations to the Peckham committee, detailed their stories of growth through wrestling, their battles to overcome adversity and how they shared Peckham’s strengths and philosophies. The Peckham fund has sponsored almost \$20,000 in scholarships over the life of the fund.



Peckham Scholarship Recipients

On the far left is Jeff Ott; Belmont Hill and Harvard Graduate, EIWA finalist and NCAA qualifier.

To the right are the most recipients. Antonios Sevastos (left); Mansfield High School Graduate and current WPI freshman. Marisol Nugent (right) Phillips Andover Graduate and current Lehigh freshman.



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APPLICATION FORM

Name of Candidate: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

High School: _____ Coach's Name: _____

Coach's Email: _____ Coach's Cell: _____

No. Years Completed: _____ Won-Loss Record: _____ Weight Class: _____

List Wrestling Accomplishments/Awards (league, state and New England places, team captain, etc.*):

List Academic Accomplishments/Honors (GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT scores, Honor Society, etc.*):

List School Activities, Work, and Community Service (clubs, other sports, jobs, volunteerism, etc.*):

The following items to be submitted with this application form between February 1st and April 15th

- A letter from candidate describing why you have "earned the right" to this scholarship. In addition, describe your personal character, what wrestling has done for your life, any college & career aspirations and adversity you may have overcome)
- A letter(s) of recommendation by a school administrator, coach or established figure in the applicant's community

*Candidates to be graduating high school seniors from Massachusetts (Mass. resident attending a Mass. high school/prep school or a Mass. resident attending an out of state prep school) who intend to wrestle throughout college (4 years); and be a person that reflects the legacy, integrity, commitment, character and philosophies that Jim Peckham valued. **The applicant's letter and story will carry significant weight during the selection process.** Scholarships will be awarded at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Banquet to one (1) public school wrestler and one (1) prep school wrestler in the amount of \$1,500 each.*

**Please additional pages when needed.*

Scan and email completed form and documentation to:

Matthew Quimby
Matthew.J.Quimby@gmail.com

Donations may be made out to the Peckham Scholarship Fund and mailed to:

Rene Canezin
36 Hyde Avenue
Newton, MA 02458