



Dr. Peter Capone

Year of Induction: **2016**

Year of Graduation: **N/A**

Inheriting something that is extremely successful is always desired, but the pressure to continue the success is also part of the deal. Dr. Peter Capone took over the Johnson City wrestling program in 1995. At that time, Wildcat wrestling teams had already won multiple state and local championships; however, during his tenure through the end of the 2011 season, Dr. Capone not only continued the success of the program, he led it to even greater heights.

Before he became a coach, Dr. Capone had an outstanding wrestling career. He was a 2-time New York State wrestling champion and a high school wrestling All-American at Watertown High School in 1979 and 1980. In recognition of his scholastic success, he was inducted into the Section III Wrestling Hall of Fame. He then went Hofstra University where he was a 1981 Freshman All-American. He was a NCAA East Coast Conference champion in 1983 and 1985, and he was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler in both years. He earned runner-up status at the East Coast Conference Championships in both 1981 and 1982. Finally, Dr. Capone placed 7th in the 1983 NCAA Division I Championships, and he ended his collegiate career with a 2nd place finish at the 1985 NCAA Division I Championships in the 167 pound weight class. He was inducted into the Hofstra University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

After graduating from Hofstra in 1985, Dr. Capone entered the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry, and he was on the coaching staff at the university until his graduation in 1989. He began his scholastic coaching career as an assistant on the Johnson City staff from 1991-1994 before taking over as head coach in 1995. His Wildcat wrestling teams realized amazing success during his 16 years as head coach:

- 3 New York State Championships (1999, 2003, 2006)
- 11 Section IV Championships
- 12 Class A Championships
- 16 STAC Championships

The listing of awards won by individual wrestlers coached by Dr. Capone at JC is even more impressive:

- 61 Section IV Individual Champions
- 48 New York State Place Winners
- 9 New York State Champions
- 8 Wildcats went onto achieve NCAA/NJCAA All-American status in college
- 2 Wildcats won High School National Championships
- 1 Wildcat won the NCAA Division I Championship

In all, Dr. Capone accumulated 241 victories as head coach of the Wildcats. He has been inducted into the Section IV Athletic Hall of Fame and he received the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2013. Although he handed over the head coaching reigns at the end of the 2011 season, Dr. Capone continues to assist with the Johnson City wrestling program.

The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome a coach who inherited a great program and built it into a nationally recognized powerhouse, Dr. Peter Capone.