



## 1986-87 & 1987-88 Wrestling Teams

Year of Induction: **2021**  
Year of Graduation: **N/A**

For two years the Johnson City Wrestling team dominated the high school wrestling scene in New York state. With an outstanding lineup of student-athletes combined with a strong coaching staff, these two dedicated teams set the foundation for Johnson City wrestling for the next three decades thus earning them the nomination for this year's legacy teams.

This team was not only Johnson City's finest New York state championship team but they were the only teams to win back-to-back titles in New York state in Spencerport, STAC, Class A and as NYS champions. They were undefeated in tournaments and duals.

What stands out in the minds of some of the teammates was the culture that was created within the Wild-cat wrestling community. It was one that emphasized team success which was fed by individual successes. Once the goal for the season was set, each team member united to push each other to meet that goal. Families supported the program as brother after brother joined the team. This enthusiasm for the sport began at an early age through the Mat Rats program and resulted in building teams that dominated the high school wrestling world with five state titles and between 60-70 individual state place winners.

Team captains Jeff Drimak, John Sorochinsky and Bill Stanbro (1986-87) and Steve Farr, Chris Drimak and J.J. Stanbro (1987-1988) led their teams to these championships and set impressive records that placed Johnson City Wrestling heads and shoulders above their competitors. Each member of the team proved to be a formidable opponent with one single focus on their mind ...to win. And win, they did.

To highlight some of the wrestlers' exceptional achievements as members of these teams:

- Steve Farr (Class of 1988): Section IV Champion and NYS place winner
- J.J. Stanbro (Class of 1989): 2nd NYS, 3 times High School AA, held NYS wins record
- Bill Stanbro (Class of 1987) 1990 NCAA Division II All-American
- Matt Sorochinsky (Class of 1991): 1991 NYS Champion, 2 times NCAA All-American, one of the top 10 wrestling officials in the country
- Joe Toner (Class of 1991): 2 times Section Champion, NYS place winner
- Keith Smith (Class of 1992): 2 times Section Champion, NYS place winner, NCAA Division III AA
- Jeff Drimak (Class of 1987): 1987 Section IV 138 lb. fourth place finish
- Chris Drimak (Class of 1988): 1988 Section IV 155 lb. champion, 1988 NYS 155 lb. fourth place finish, 3 year winning record at Drexel University

These two teams helped launch wrestling as the most successful sport in Johnson City history. From 1987 to 2015 there has been at least one Johnson City wrestler who has placed at the New York state championships with the exception of 1990.

All told, the wrestlers on these teams combined for 12 individual Section titles with each of those titles resulting in 12 NYS place winners, three NYS finalists, one NYS champion, three High School All-American honors, five NCAA All-American honors, and two wrestlers who helped earn Ithaca College the 1994 NCAA Division III national title.

The work ethic, achievement and determination shown by each and every one of these team members both at the high school and collegiate level elevated wrestling in the area and sparked one of the most successful wrestling programs in Johnson City and in New York state.

If you ask any one of the individuals from these two teams if being a part of Wildcat wrestling made a positive impact on their life, they would all tell you it has shaped who they are as adults and has kept them focused on being successful in their lives after high school.

Johnson City proudly welcomes the Wildcat wrestling teams of 1986-1987 and 1987-1988 into the athletic hall of fame. They certainly lived by this quote, "Great wrestlers are not great because of their technique. They are great because of their passion" (author unknown). These two teams were great because of their technique and their passion.