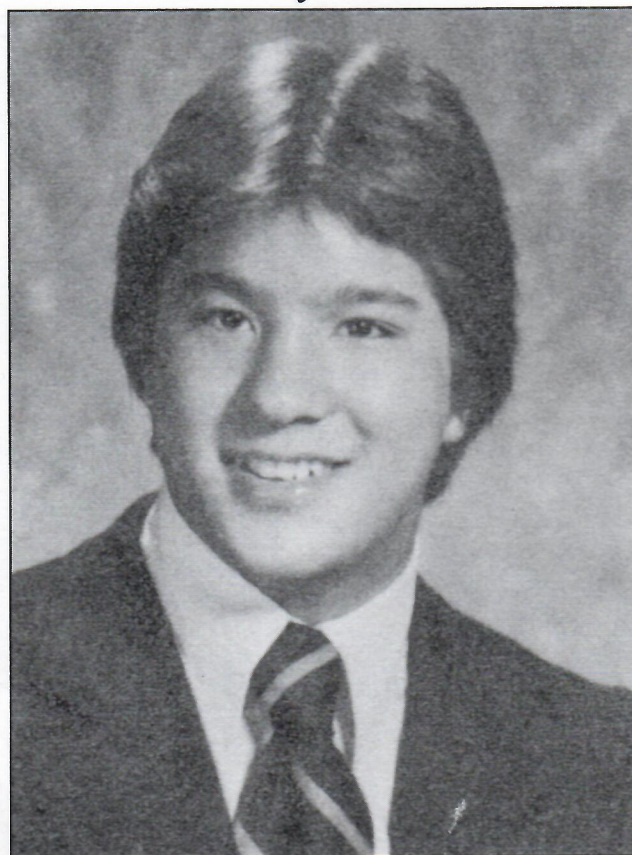


Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



Nicholas K. Yonezuka
Olympic Competitor, Judo, and Wrestling
Class of 1981

“Nicky” Yonezuka was greatly honored, and at the same time, gravely disappointed when he was named to the 1980 Men’s Judo Olympic team at the age of 16. That, unfortunately, was the year in which the United States boycotted the Olympic Games. Although he received the United States Olympic Trial Gold Medal in 1980 and again in 1984, he never had the opportunity to compete with the world’s top mat men. In 1986 he was the recipient of the Bronze Medal in the World University Games.

Along the way, he was the United States National Judo Champion 5 times in 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1988, in the 78 kg weight class. In 1986, he was the Gold Medal winner in the Dutch Open Tournament.

More locally, he was District Wrestling Champion in 1979, 1980, and 1981, and placed 3rd in the Regionals in 1980 and 2nd in 1981. He is one of the finest wrestlers to participate at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

At present time, he “wrestles” with numbers as a real estate appraiser for Bank of America.