

Marcel Cooper

Wrestling

1985-1988

Marcel Cooper is one of the greatest wrestlers to ever come out of Nyack. His overall record was 120-8, over the course of his high school career. He is the only State Champion wrestler in NHS history. After high school, he continued to enjoy success, wrestling in a number of competitions.

Marcel started wrestling at an early age. As a 12 year-old, he finished in 1st place at the Kids Eastern Nationals.

In 9th grade, Cooper went 25-4. As a sophomore, his record was 30-3, and he placed 5th at the State meet. In 11th grade, he finished at 30-1. In his senior year, he went 35-0, and won a New York State championship. In 1986, Marcel captured Gold at the Eastern Nationals. In both 1987 and 1988, he received the Rockland County Tournament “Outstanding Wrestler Award.” From 1985-1988, he never lost a dual meet, home or away. After his high school wrestling career, Marcel excelled in wrestling in the U.S. military. He served 12 years in the Marines, then 8 years in the Army. Cooper was an Armed Forces Gold Medalist 10 times, and was a member of the US National Team 10 times. He was named the 1999 Marine Corps Athlete of the Year. Also in 1999, Cooper won bronze at the World Military Games, in Croatia. He competed at the U.S. Nationals on several occasions, winning gold medals in 2001 and 2006. He was a two-time Olympic alternate as well. In 2001, Marcel earned a gold medal at the U.S. World Team Trials, and also a silver medal at the Military Worlds. The same year, he won gold at the Pan American Games in the Dominican Republic. Cooper also was a 7-time gold medalist at the Empire State Games.

After being a wrestler in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, Marcel worked as an assistant wrestling coach in the same program from 2009-2012. Cooper was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.