

G. Nicholas Del Pizzo

Wrestling

Class of 1961

Nick Del Pizzo was one of the finest wrestlers to come out of Nyack High, and his perseverance helped bring him and his team greater heights. After heartbreaking losses in Rockland County PSAL Wrestling Championship Finals as a sophomore and junior, Del Pizzo launched a dominating perfect season as a senior to finally claim a title. He also helped the team finish near the top of the team standings year after year.

During his sophomore season, Del Pizzo wrestled in weight classes around 120 lbs. He enjoyed a breakout season, including when he pinned an opponent to help Nyack beat Pearl River by 2 on the road. Nick advanced to the finals of County Wrestling Championships, where he faced off against a Nyack teammate of his who defeated him to give him 2nd place. His efforts also helped Nyack finish in 2nd place as a team to perennial champion Suffern.

As a junior, Del Pizzo wrestled in weight classes around 136 lbs. He once again advanced to the final at his weight class at the County Championships. Nick went up against a top wrestler from powerhouse Suffern and the two put on a show. Spectators were captivated as "the fur was flying." In the end, Del Pizzo was defeated by a point in overtime and was runner-up again.

Despite just falling short two years in a row, Nick kept working and improving, and he finally broke through as a senior. Wrestling around 141 lbs as a team co-captain, he advanced once again to the County finals and once again faced a Suffern wrestler. This time, however, Del Pizzo won convincingly in a 5-1 decision, claiming a County title. He helped Nyack earn another 2nd place finish as well. Nick finished the season undefeated (16-0) and was named the team's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Another special moment in his senior campaign came during a Christmas Tournament in Orange County. Del Pizzo made it to overtime in the final at his weight class and was struggling with his opponent when he heard the "booming" voice of the father of one of his teammates urge him on. He immediately scored a takedown and near fall to win the match and the title.

Nick went on to wrestle at Bowling Green, where he helped the team win two Mid-American Conference championships. A highlight of his collegiate career was a victory he earned during a dual meet at Notre Dame. Del Pizzo went on to serve in the United States Air Force, earning the rank of captain. He has also served as the commander of the Nyack American

Legion, as well as Judge Advocate for the Rockland County American Legion.