

Dwight Olivier

Track

Class of 1981

For those who knew him, it was clear early on that Dwight Olivier was going to be something special as a Nyack athlete. With a skillset and will to win forged in an upbringing that brought constant competition and opportunities to push himself, Olivier wowed teammates, classmates, and especially his opponents as he ran and jumped his way into NHS and Rockland record books during a stellar track career.

Growing up in the projects in Central Nyack, Dwight was surrounded by elite athletes and a hyper-competitive environment. Future Nyack Hall of Famers Dawn Royster (NHSAHOF '15) and Thomas Sanders (NHSAHOF '22) were amongst the many great neighborhood stars who, along with his own stud siblings, gave Olivier athletic battles and inspiration as he honed his skills. The boundless Dwight was always active, whether it was gymnastics, riding a unicycle to school, or even building fence-high wooden stilts to race his friends with. He constantly found creative ways to go toe-to-toe with anyone he could, and his commitment to condition his body was unmatched. Racing and hurdling fences, however, would prove the most relevant training for what was coming next for the future star.

From his sophomore to senior years, Olivier helped fuel a powerful Nyack Track program to triumph after triumph in the winter and the spring. Dwight scored in three events to help secure the 1979 spring county championship, and also earned All-County recognition as a sophomore and junior. His senior year, though, the relentless Olivier reached his greatest heights. A leader and captain on the squad, Dwight's excellence brought individual and team glory for Nyack. He won the triple jump at the indoor Eastern States on the final jump of the meet and recorded several top five finishes in the triple jump and hurdles at States. Olivier narrowly finished 2nd in the triple jump at the prestigious Penn Relays on a tiebreaker, and won several events in Nyack's triumphant indoor and outdoor

section championship campaigns. Rockland's coaches awarded him with awards as the Most Outstanding Performer for the winter and spring.

When it was all said and done, Dwight had broken numerous school and county records and had helped his teams win 3 of the 4 titles on the fieldhouse championship sign. After NHS Olivier ran track at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Despite being only 5'9", Dwight excelled in the high jump, while also going on to win the Metropolitan Conference indoor triple jump and compete in the NCAA championships. After track, Olivier won his greatest award: an honor from the mayor for his dedicated service answering hundreds of calls as a member of the Nyack Community Ambulance Corps.

Many of his marks are still amongst the best in the area's history, and he earned induction into the Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2007. Dwight Olivier's remarkable accomplishments individually and for his team, along with his limitless competitive spirit, certainly make him deserving of being remembered as one the great legends in Nyack's athletic history.