



MEET THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Steven Penhollow CCAA Superintendents' Rep

What is 12 miles in a lifetime of accomplishments? For a Chautauqua County kid originally from Cassadaga, the trip down 60 South to Falconer doesn't seem long. But for deep thinkers, the route that runs just east of Chautauqua Lake, is a perfect distance.

Cassadaga native, Steve Penhollow has served the community of Falconer for 31 years as an elementary teacher, athletic director, principal and superintendent for the last 10 years. The 1985 graduate of Cassadaga Valley Central School, Penhollow went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Clarion University and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from SUNY Fredonia. He completed a second Master's in Administrative Leadership from Gannon University, in Erie, PA.

The Cassadaga Kid, was a champion wrestler and football player in high school. On the mat, Steve was a two-time Section 6 wrestling champion and a New York State Freestyle champion. During Steve's career, the Cougar gridiron teams won two Division Football titles and played at Rich Stadium. Steve still remembers the excitement as he and his teammates ran out on the Rich Stadium turf.

Penhollow, went on to wrestle at Clarion University, in the extremely competitive Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC). During that time period, the Golden Eagles were ranked as high as #3 in the country and had an undefeated 1985-1986 season. In 1989, Steve was a Division 1 National Qualifier and a PSAC Finalist.

He credits family and other important role models for helping develop his interest in athletics. "I was fortunate to have had cousins that shared the love of sports with me. We were always competing and racing each other in all areas of life'. Penhollow continued, "I had great coaches at Cassadaga Valley, like Cliff Blom and Dan Massey who gave me the inspiration to get into teaching and coaching. I wanted to share what they taught me with my future students and athletes".

He passed on that passion to his three sons, Brad (Mechanical Engineer), Zach (NYS Trooper) and Jake (Registered Nurse). All three boys wrestled and played football for Falconer, with Zach also a state qualifying track athlete. All three boys earned over 100 wins in wrestling, and on several occasions were Section 6 place winners. Brad was a Section Champion and placed 6th at the NYS Championships. Jake also qualified for the NYS wrestling tournament and was a two-time VI Finalist. Steve himself coached wrestling and football at Falconer for 18 years with team records over those years of 207-20. He won multiple Section 6 and leagues championships.

When Steve isn't grilling his specialty cheeseburgers, he's delving into home projects and catching a NASCAR race. Let's hope he doesn't daydream about the oval track when cruising those 12 miles on Route 60 between his hometown and a place that has become like home.