

Steve Martin

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Success is all that Steve Martin, formerly of Great Bridge High School and currently head coach at Old Dominion University, has ever known. From his days as a three-time state champion at Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach, to his time at the University of Iowa, where he was an All-American and Midlands Champion, to his dominant tenure as head coach at Great Bridge High School, Steve Martin has performed at the highest level.

The foundation for Coach Martin's winning resume is his pedigree. His father, the legendary Billy Martin, is the father of Virginia wrestling, the winner of 22 state championships in 23 years and coach of dozens of state champions who went on to win and place at the NCAA championships. Brother Billy was a three-time state champion on his father's teams, a three-time All-American at Oklahoma State, and an NCAA finalist at 126 pounds in 1974. David Martin won four state championships for Granby, and Wayne Martin preceded his brother at Great Bridge, coaching the Chesapeake school to five state championships.

Not least of his family's accomplishments is Steve's astonishing run of championships at Great Bridge. Head coach from 1991-2004, he won the AAA Virginia state wrestling championship in 12 out of those 13 years. Each year, his Wildcats were nationally ranked, once as high as #2. He coached 40 high school state champions and 98 state place winners; one of his wrestlers, Carl Perry, won an NCAA national championship at the University of Illinois.

His remarkable achievements came from total commitment: the hard work in the practice room and the off-season; the search for the toughest competition outside Virginia; the techniques he promoted in the renowned Granby Camps, another family legacy. As a result, he was awarded the National Wrestling Coaches Association state and regional Coach of the Year in 1995 and 2000. The Norfolk Sports Club named him the Bob Bates Award winner as Outstanding Metropolitan Coach of the Year.

Moving up to the college ranks in the '04-'05 season, Coach Martin has been relentless in his efforts to put Old Dominion University into the NCAA elite. His Monarchs have finished in the top 25 in four seasons; he has had an NCAA finalist and four All-Americans thus far.

Coach Martin graduated from the University of Iowa in 1991 and got his Master's Degree from The George Washington University in 1996. Steve and his wife Lori live in Chesapeake, VA, with their four children: Madison, Macy, McKenna, and Max.