

# Locals set for induction into Delaware Sports Hall of Fame

By Jon Buzby Newark Post | Posted: Friday, May 2, 2014 12:45 am

Tom DeMatteis, John Testa and Derrick May Sr. are among 10 people selected for induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame on May 15.

Tom DeMatteis scored the first-ever goal for the St. Mark's soccer program in 1979 and went on to play at Cabrini College. He was hired to teach English at St. Mark's in fall 1984 and took over as soccer head coach in 1987.

Twenty-five years after that, he retired as the state's all-time winningest soccer coach for both boys (25 seasons, 356-73-31) and girls (14 seasons, 223-25-12).

DeMatteis led every single one of his St. Mark's teams to the state tournament, winning 15 state titles (11 boys, 4 girls). Five of his teams finished undefeated (3 boys, 2 girls) and 13 of them finished seasons ranked in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll (9 boys, 4 girls). His individual honors include being named National (1999), Regional (1990, 1997, 1999) and State (1986, 1993, 1999) Coach of the Year.

As is his nature, DeMatteis was quick to credit others for his success.

"I am honored by the selection and humbled by the fact that former players went through the trouble of speaking on my behalf to the [Hall of Fame] nomination committee," said DeMatteis, who is finishing his 30th year in the classroom at St. Mark's. "A lot of great players and coaches along with the support of my wife, Theresa, and my kids, Elizabeth and T.J., and my mom are responsible for me being in a position to receive an honor like this."

Another Spartan, John Testa, wrestled his way to two state championships while at St. Mark's. He went on to an illustrious career at Clarion University, highlighted by an overall 134-29 record, and three EWL and four PSAC championships. He achieved NCAA Division I All American status as a senior and is a member of the Clarion Sports Hall of Fame.

The youngest of seven, Testa comes from an athletic family and for that reason said his induction is much more than about wrestling.

"Because my siblings are also so athletic, it's pretty special to represent my family," said Testa, also a member of the Delaware Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Derrick May Sr. was a three-sport star at Newark High School and helped lead the football team to back-to-back state championships and the baseball team to the 1984 state title.

“We always won there, so that was fun,” May said of his memories at Newark High. “There were good athletes, coaches and teachers. I’ll always appreciate that.”

The two-time first team All-State outfielder was drafted in the first round (No. 9 overall) by the Chicago Cubs in 1986. He played on six major league teams over 10 seasons, and his career stats included a .271 career batting average, 52 home runs and 310 RBIs.

In 2005, he became a hitting coach in the St. Louis Cardinals organization and is currently the minor-league hitting coordinator for the club.

“It’s a different experience [being a coach] because as a player, it’s a team environment but ultimately it’s you who has to perform on the field,” said May, who resides in New Castle. “As a coach, I have to help players get better at what they’re doing. It’s actually more gratifying as a coach than a player because you give information to kids and watch them succeed.”

Baseball has always been a family affair for the Mays. Derrick’s late father, Dave, was inducted into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 after 12 seasons in the major leagues. His two sons, Derrick Jr. and Donovan, currently play baseball at Villanova, and his brother, Dave Jr., is a scout for the Toronto Blue Jays.

“We like to say it’s kind of a family business,” May said laughing. “It has impacted my life and my family in positive ways and it’s something we love to do.”

The induction ceremony is May 15 at the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased before May 7 by contacting [sueholloway@comcast.net](mailto:sueholloway@comcast.net) or 302-992-0550.