



NYVCA Hall of Fame Class of 2024

January 12, 2024 (NEW YORK) - The New York Volleyball Coaches Association (NYVCA) is pleased to announce the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees: Marcia Laidlaw and Matt "Dezy" DiStefano. For information about the NYVCA or to view previous Hall of Fame inductees, please visit nyvbcoaches.com.



Marcia Laidlaw, Canastota High School, Mohawk Valley Community College

Marcia Laidlaw is a Canastota High School volleyball coaching legend, having coached at Canastota nearly 50 years. Laidlaw's coaching career began in 1973 with the Canastota Girls Varsity Volleyball Team, where she has continued coaching until present taking just three years off from 2004-07 after retiring from teaching as a physical education instructor at Canastota. Her on-court success is unmistakable through over 800 career wins, 40 league titles (Tri-Valley/Center State Conference), 18 sectional titles and nine regional titles.

Laidlaw served as the Canastota Boys Varsity Volleyball Coach with a 73-48 record. She led the boys team to two Tri-Valley League Championships, and helped establish boys volleyball for the Tri-Valley League in 1984-1985.

She coached women's volleyball at Mohawk Valley Community College from 1999 to 2008. Her winning record of 61-5 in the Mountain Valley Conference and 236-84-9 overall, were highlighted by seven Mountain Valley Conference titles, two NJCAA Regional Championships (2003, 2004), and two appearances in the NJCAA Division III National Championship (2003, 2004).

Laidlaw was honored as "Coach of the Year" by the Mountain Valley Conference six times (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008), and by NJCAA Region III four times (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004). She was inducted into the Section III Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2006, and recognized as the "Winningest Coach." In 2015, she received the National Federation of High School Coaches Association's "New York State Volleyball Coach of the Year" award. The Canastota Middle School Gymnasium was renamed the "Marcia Coach Laidlaw Gymnasium" in 2007.

Beyond her team's success on the court, Coach Laidlaw is known for her dedication and love for teaching generations of athletes. She has coached 13 levels of boys and girls sports at Canastota, earning various state, sectional and regional titles.



NYVCA Hall of Fame Class of 2024



Matt "Dezy" DiStefano, Sachem High School

Matt "Dezy" DiStefano was one of the best two-sport athletes in Sachem High School history and probably the best in the combined sports of volleyball and basketball. Dezy is the only two-time Suffolk County MVP for volleyball in county history (1994, 1995), and named as the 1995 Most Outstanding Senior on Long Island. As a team captain, he helped lead Sachem to two Suffolk County Volleyball Championships (1994, 1995), finishing with a 36-0 record during his time on the varsity. In basketball, he was the top defender on the only Sachem High School basketball team in school district history to win a Suffolk County Championship (1996).

He was also a two-sport athlete at Mount Saint Vincent – three sports if you count the year of soccer he played as a sophomore. He was named Team MVP from 1997 to 2000, first team All-Conference three times, NEVCA Tournament MVP in 1998.

Amongst DiStefano's many accolades, two his greatest were being inducted into the NEVCA Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2014 and having his volleyball number retired at Mount Saint Vincent in 2004. He was also inducted into the Sachem High School Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017, the College of Mount Saint Vincent Athletics Hall of fame in 2018, and the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame in May 2021.

"Dezy" was a Sachem coach for 17 years in various capacities for both volleyball and basketball at the varsity and junior varsity levels. He and fellow Sachem North boys volleyball coach and alum Matt Rivera reached the pinnacle, guiding the Flaming Arrows to a New York State title and No. 1 ranking in the state in 2014. During his esteemed coaching career, he led his teams to 15 Division Championships, five county championships, four Long Island Championships, and one NYS Championship. He also served as the Academy Boys Club Director.

Sadly, DiStefano passed away in January 2020, but his legacy lives on through the many lives he touched as a coach and an athlete. In 2019, with a group of close friends and family, DiStefano launched the "[Dezy Strong Foundation](#)," to be a positive voice and influence for those suffering from cancer.