**Big Moments in Voorhees Wrestling**

**1975 – 1st Win in Program History over St. Mary’s High school 58-7 on Jan. 3, 1975**
- The Voorhees Wrestling Team opened its inaugural season with a win over St. Mary’s High School in Perth Amboy, NJ.   The team finished 9-9 on the season.

**1976 – Jack Holthaus becomes 1st District 17 Champion (108lbs)**
- Jr. 108lb wrestler Jack Holthaus becomes the first district champion for Voorhees High School. Holthaus would also go on to lead the Viking wrestlers in wins during the 1975-76 season with 17.  The Voorhees Wrestling program has since claimed 116 individual district titles since……117 in total.

**1979 – Eric Lobell becomes 1st Region Champion (108lbs)**

- Jr. 108lb wrestler Eric Lobell becomes the first region champion for Voorhees High School. Lobell would also go on to lead the Viking wrestlers in wins during the 1978-79 season with 24 and claim 2 Region titles.  The Voorhees Wrestling program has since 35 Region titles in total.  2-time Region champions – *Eric Lobell, Dave Zehnbauer, Shawn Curtis, Greg Evans & Mike Hafke*.  3-time Region champions – *Glenn Hall, Dan Moody & Jadaen Bernstein*.  4-time Region champion – *Eric Hall*

**December, 1979 – The Light, 2001 Space Odyssey, and Satisfaction**

-At the first home match, after the opposing team finished warming up, the Voorhees Wrestlers waited in the stairwell as 2001 Space Odyssey blasted through the speakers in the gym.  The rows of lights in the gymnasium were shut down one-by-one as a large mat light descended from the ceiling.  The gym went dark at the crescendo, the mat light flicked on, and the Voorhees Wrestlers warmed up to the Rolling Stones’ “Satisfaction” with the cheerleaders dancing and fans clapping along.  It was the most unique and spectacular pre-match entrance of its time, and to this day, the Vikings still use it.

**1980 – VHS Finishes 20-0 and Claims its 1st Sectional Championship**

-The VHS wrestling program capped a remarkable undefeated season by capturing its first of 16 NJ State Sectional title with a 43-14 win over Morris Hills. The Vikings would end up ranked #2 in NJ, District Champions & DRC champions.

**1981 – Glenn Hall becomes 1st NJ State Champion (101lbs)**
-Jr. 101lb. wrestler Glenn Hall becomes the first state champion for Voorhees with a 2-1 win over Milburn’s Doug Taylor.  Hall’s accolades still tattoo the VHS wrestling record books including an impressive 91.67% winning percentage which still stands as the best all time.

**1982 – VHS Claims its 1st Group State Championship, Ranked 3rd in the state.**

-The VHS wrestling program completed a 16-3 season with its first Group 2 state championshipover Pennsville 29-27 after winning the Sectional title against a Del Val team that beat them earlier in the season. The Vikings would end up ranked #3 in NJ and were DRC, District 17, and Region 5 Champions.

**1982 – Voorhees places four individual wrestlers in the top 4 in the state.**

-After a fantastic dual meet season, the Vikings placed 4 wrestlers in the top 4 in the state!
Sr. Shawn Curtis 4th at 158 lbs., Jr. Dan Moody 3rd at 115 lbs., Sr. Glenn Hall 2ndat 108 lbs. and Sr. Lee Getz, who became the second State Champion for Voorhees with a win over Anthony Carter of Delsea at Heavyweight.

**1983 – Moody get his title.**

-Dan Moody capped off an amazing career getting his 100th win in the 122lb state final bout against Karl Monaco from Clifton with 2-2 match that was decided on criteria.  He became the third State Champion for Voorhees in three years and the first ever to reach 100 wins.

**1985 – Group 3 Championship Title, Ranked 5th in the state.**

-After an early season 24-26 loss to inter-district rival North Hunterdon, the Viking wrestlers got their revenge, beating North Hunterdon 32-23 in the state sectional finals and going on to win the Group 3 State Title.  They would also finish with a ranking of 5th in the state.

**1987 – Undefeated, Group 3 Champs, Ranked 7th in the Country, 2nd in NJ, 1st Express Times.**

-Arguably the best team in VHS wrestling history, the 1986-87 spared no expense at proving their worth.  This squad finished the season 22-0, winning both sectional and group state championships, placing four individuals in the top 8 in the state, and outscoring their opponents by a score of 960-321!   Truly a season to remember.

**1995 – Group 2 Title, finished 18-1 ranked 7th in the state.**

-After almost completing a perfect season, the Viking wrestling team capped off an 18-1 campaign with a CJ Group II Sectional and Group 2 State Title. It was the fourth in 14 years, and is the last state championship for the program to date.

**1996 – Eric Hall earns his 100th career victory in the same day the programs 300th**

-Sr. Eric Hall earned his 100th career victory on the same day as the VHS wrestling program earned its 300th program victory.   The Vikings defeated Watching Hills and Hillsborough in a tri-meet that afternoon, in route to a 19-2 season record. Eric capped his amazing career with 120 victories, a record that stood for 17 years.

**1998 – Brienza becomes VHS Wrestling’s first State Champion since 1983**

-In an epic conclusion to an undefeated season, Sr. Captain John Brienza caused an eruption at Boardwalk Hall by pinning Dave Santamaria from CBA in 1:09 in the 130lb state championship bout.  John is currently the last state champion for the Vikings and was the 4th in 12 years.

**2004 – First Sectional Championship since 1998**

-After several seasons of rebuilding, the VHS wrestling program put together an impressive 12-4 season that was capped with a state sectional title…the program’s first in 6 years.

**2011 – Bernstein goes to finals as a sophomore in a memorable postseason run**

-After a modest 15-14 freshman season and some serious off-season commitment, sophomore Jadaen Bernstein exploded onto the NJ wrestling scène.   The sensational sophomore went undefeated throughout the regular season in route to his first district and region title.   His historic run to the state finals is still talked about to this day.  Bernstein would end up a 3-time NJ place winner (2nd, 7th, 2nd) and a 5-time all-American.  He is still the current leader in wins at VHS with a career record of 135-19.

**2015 – Sectional Win in a thrilling match against Nutley.**

-In a crazy back-and-forth match with Nutley under the light at Voorhees, all hope looked lost in the last bout of the evening. The Vikings were down by four points in the team score and 220-lber Derek Howarth was in a close match with seemingly no chance of getting bonus points. All of sudden, Howarth scored a takedown and pinned his opponent with less than a minute to go to put the home crowd into a frenzy and deliver the program’s 16th Sectional Championship.

**2014-Present – The Fernandes brothers**

-For the past 5 seasons Michael, Scotty and Lewis Fernandes have established a precedent of success that few family trios in the state can claim.  They have accounted for just under 300 career wins and over 200 pins.

**Win Milestones:**
100 - Jan. 31, 1983 vs. West Morris HS 34-18
200 – Jan. 25, 1989 vs. Bridgewater West 33-28
300 – Jan. 27, 1996 vs. Hillsborough 57-19
400 – Jan. 27, 2005 vs. Ridge HS 58-9
500 – Jan. 4, 2013 vs. Del Val 31-23
600 – Jan. 27, 2018 vs. Livingston 48-22