

THE CORPORATION

William Farrell wrestled in Japan in 1957 and became fascinated by the lightweight nylon shoes the Japanese National Team was wearing. The name of that shoe was Onitsuka Tiger, and the company is now known at the ASICS Corporation.

Shozo Sasahara, a 1956 Olympic Gold Medalist for Japan, introduced Bill to Kihachiro Onitsuka who had begun designing athletic shoes in Japan shortly after WWII. In 1958 Bill began importing and distributing the first "Tiger" wrestling shoes in the United States.

In the mid fifties Warren Tischler innovated a way to make highly

protective wrestling mats from new foams and paints which were emerging in the market place. The revolutionary RESILITE mat was to change the sport forever. Bill's company quickly became the eastern representative and sold one to legendary Mepham High School wrestling coach Sprig Gardner. Bill added wrestling uniforms and protective gear and his company, Olympic Resilite, became the national importer for Onitsuka Tiger products.

Bill added a third innovative product that would galvanize his young company, the Universal Gym. He traveled throughout the east extolling the advantages of weight training for athletics while selling the Universal Gym. One of his most well known customers was Green Bay Packer football coach Vince Lombardi. Bill served as the athletic trainer for both of Lombardi's Super Bowl seasons after he proved he could rehabilitate the players and get them back on the field in record time.

Neil Duncan was hired in 1972 and Nick Gallo was hired in 1978 as assistant director of the wrestling division. They joined a growing staff mainly consisting of wrestlers and friends of wrestlers. In 1980, the company changed it's name to Universal Fitness Products and relocated to larger facilities. Neil and Nick conceived a fourth innovative product line, the Mat Rack System, while moving a load of wrestling mats around the warehouse. In 1985 the company received a patent on the first Mat Rack.

In 1988, Bill sold the exercise business while



The 1972 United States Freestyle Wrestling Team that garnered six medals (a record number at that time) Front row, left to right: Don Behm, Sergio Gonzales, Jimmy Carr, Rick Sanders, Gene Davis, Dan Gable, Wayne Wells, Manager Russ Houck Back row, left to right: Coach Bill Farrell, Unknown, John Peterson, Ben Peterson, Hank Schenk, Chris Taylor, Jim Peckham, Bill Weick

retaining the wrestling division and formed TW Promotions, Inc. with Nick Gallo and Neil Duncan as partners. In 2001 they built a new 7000 square foot building in Ronkonkoma, NY which they still operate out of today.

TW Promotions, Inc. oversees a budget to promote and market wrestling products for the the ASICS America Corporation. It facilitates an outfitting agreement with USA Wrestling and maintains the ASICS brand with some of the top high schools, colleges, World and Olympic athletes in the USA and internationally. TWP's current list of names in the sport are Dan Gable, Cael Sanderson, Bruce Baumgartner, Tom Brands, Kevin Jackson and 2011 World Freestyle Champion Jordan Burroughs. TWP continues to be the exclusive NY Metro area distributor for RESILITE and the national distributor for The Mat Rack System. The new RESILITE "LiteWeight" mat will be featured at both the Nassau and Suffolk County wrestling championships this year at no charge to either section and setup by the staff at TWP. ASICS gear bags will be donated to the Section 1, 8, 9, 11 and Catholic School teams competing in the NYS Championships and TWP donates a scholarship to a senior athlete at each of their award banquets annually.

ASICS America Corporation continues to be the fastest growing full line athletic shoe, apparel and accessory company in the world today.