

Solanco Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

Joseph Welk

A standout competitor in football, wrestling. Joseph Welk left a lasting mark on Solanco athletics through his talent, determination, and relentless work ethic. It is our honor to induct Joseph Welk, a member of the Solanco High School Class of 2012, into the Solanco Athletic Hall of Fame.

During his years at Solanco, Joe exemplified what it meant to be a true student-athlete. He earned varsity letters in football, wrestling, and track and field while maintaining Honor Roll status in the classroom. His ability to balance athletic excellence with academic achievement reflected the discipline and commitment that would define his career both during and after high school.

On the football field, Joe developed into one of the most dynamic players in Solanco history. His career numbers remain impressive. Joe accumulated **3,862 all-purpose yards**, averaging **175.5 yards per game** throughout his career. Included in those totals were **2,266 rushing yards** and **1,261 kick return yards**, making him one of the most productive all-around players of his era.

His senior season was particularly remarkable. On just 114 carries, Joe rushed for **1,335 yards and 10 touchdowns**, averaging well over 11 yards per carry. As a receiver, he added **21 receptions for 320 yards**. On the defensive side of the ball, he recorded **47 tackles, three sacks, and an interception** from his outside linebacker position.

The honors that followed reflected his all-around excellence. Joe earned **First Team Lancaster-Lebanon League honors** as a running back, outside linebacker, and kick returner, a rare achievement that underscored his impact in all phases of the game. His outstanding senior season also earned him **Third Team All-State recognition**, placing him among the top high school football players in Pennsylvania.

While football showcased his explosiveness and athleticism, wrestling highlighted his toughness, determination, and relentless competitive spirit.

As a four-year letter winner, Joe established himself as one of the most accomplished wrestlers in Solanco history. He compiled an outstanding **career record of 128 wins and 34 losses**.

Joe qualified for the District Tournament all four years of his high school career. He captured **three Section Championships** and **three Lancaster-Lebanon League Championships**. His high school wrestling career culminated with qualification for the PIAA State Championships as a senior.

Following graduation, Joe continued his athletic and academic journey at East Stroudsburg University, where he once again demonstrated his unique ability to compete in multiple sports at the collegiate level.

At East Stroudsburg, he continued his dual-sport career as both a football player and wrestler. He became a **four-year starter on the football team** while also competing for **four seasons on the wrestling team**, a testament to his work ethic, durability, and exceptional athletic ability.

Just as he had done at Solanco, Joe excelled academically. In 2017, he graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a double major in **Biology** and **Athletic Training**, successfully balancing the demands of two collegiate sports while pursuing a rigorous academic program. Following graduation, Joe ventured west to Colorado, where he built a successful career as a Ranch Manager in the Aspen area.

Today, Joe shares that life with his wife, Jennie. As they prepare to welcome their first child, a baby girl expected in November, a new and exciting chapter begins for their family.

Joe excelled on the football field, earning All-State recognition and producing some of the finest all-purpose numbers in program history. He excelled on the wrestling mat, winning championships and advancing to the state tournament. He excelled in the classroom, achieving Honor Roll status at Solanco and earning a challenging dual degree at East Stroudsburg University.

We welcome Hall of Fame inductee **Joseph Welk**, To the Solanco Athletic Hall of Fame!

