



Tom Bayless

There are few people who have championed the growth of girls soccer in Mercer County over the years more than Tom Bayless. His influence as a player, coach, and executive over the local and regional soccer scene is unmatched and we welcome him into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

A alumni of the Hamnetts and Little Bigger Leagues as a youth, Tom played under legendary Hall of Fame coach Lou Angebranntd at Lawrence, contributing as a starter for the Cardinal's State Championship teams in 1969 and 1970, earning All-County honors from both the Trentonian and Trenton Times in 1970. He matriculated at Quinnipiac College, where he was team captain and MVP in 1975, leaving ranked #8 in career goals scored and was named to the All-New England team.

Tom's development led him to coaching both boys and girls in the Hamilton Township Recreation Soccer League for a number of years before taking his talents to the Hibernian Club. It was here that he helped to form some of the strongest girl's sides the area has ever seen. His Hibernian Heartbreakers won the NJ State futsal title three times and the regional title in 1994. Recently, the Bayless-coached Hibernian AA Fusion U-16 girls team won the U.S Futsal National Championship in Anaheim, CA. They are ranked #16 in the country and are perennial State Cup powerhouses.

It is Tom's organizing skills that truly show his commitment to the girls game. He has been the president of the Hibernian Athletic Association, the home of many top clubs, 11 times over the years. He has been the president of Jersey Area Girls Soccer for over 12 years, helping the league grow from 60 teams to over 300 over the years. He has been the co-director of the JAGS tournament since 2004, showcasing some of the finest teams and players from the East Coast in Mercer County on an annual basis. Additionally, Tom has been on the Board of Directors of New Jersey Youth Soccer since 2002.

For his dedication to the game and the promotion of the local girl's soccer scene, we heartily welcome Tom Bayless to the ranks of the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.