

Misty Cregar Russo

It is only fitting, after the induction of Jen Abbondanza last year, that we bring in to the Hall of Fame the other half of the “Crown Road Connection”, Misty Cregar Russo. The scorer of 114 career goals at Ewing High School and a respected coach in the high school arena, we welcome her into the ranks of Mercer’s finest.

Beginning a career in the youth leagues in the area, Misty achieved great success at a young age, playing in the Olympic Developmental Program for three years at both the state and regional levels while also, as a member of the Willingboro Strikers in 1988, winning a national U-16 championship. But it was her arrival at Ewing High School that had her leap to the forefront of the local girls soccer scene.

A four-year starter for the Blue Devils and team captain for her junior and senior years, Misty was a feared scorer and leader for a Ewing side that was a Co-State Champion in 1991. Over her years at Ewing the list of her accomplishments was expansive: four times All- County, three times All-Area, two times All-State and she culminated her stellar career at Ewing with All-American honors as a senior. Additionally, she was named the Trentonian Player of the Year along with being named the MVP of the annual North–South All-Star game in 1991. Her high school career culminated with Misty being named the Ewing High School Athlete of the Year.

Awarded a scholarship to Rutgers University, Misty was named to the ECAC All-Conference team in 1995. Moving closer to home, Misty transferred to the College of New Jersey, playing under coach and fellow inductee Joe Russo. She continued her success for the Lions, garnering All Conference recognition twice and All-American honors in 1998.

Her post-college exploits on the field included a stint with the New Jersey Wildcats women’s side as well as embarking on her coaching career as a coach with the ODP program in New Jersey. Seeing her future on the sidelines, Misty became the head girls soccer coach at West Morris Central HS in Chester, New Jersey, being named Conference Coach of the Year in 2000. Traveling from one end of the state to the other, she became head coach at Buena Regional in 2003 where she continues to lead the Chiefs girl’s soccer team. She has also been involved with the youth recreation and club soccer programs in Vineland for over ten years. A member of the Ewing H.S. Hall of Fame since 2003, we welcome Misty Cregar Russo to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.