



Mike Stricklin

One of many talented players to come out of Mercer County during the '60's & '70's, Mike Stricklin made his mark as a goal scoring midfielder on the local and regional level. His distinguished career makes him a perfect addition to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Starting as a youth player in the Hamilton Township leagues under the tutelage of Trenton legend Ed Kater, Mike made himself known as a potent goal scorer, winning the league scoring title by scoring six goals on the last day of the season to claim the honor. Surrounded by players like Steve Collis and Bob Rostron, he was a regular fixture at the nightly pick-up games at Steinert every summer.

As a member of the Spartans, Mike was a member of the 1966 State Co-Champions under Hall of Famer Bob Pivovarnick and with teammates such as Bob Smith and Ken Hess. 1968, where Mike was honored with a 1st Team All-City berth, saw him share the team captaincy with Smith and Tom Armenti. He also got noticed on the state level when he was named to the Honorable Mention All-State team that year.

Turning down a scholarship to Rider College, Mike chose to serve his country with the USMC, seeing combat action for one year in Vietnam. But he was far from done with his soccer career. He entered Mercer County Community College for two years, going to the National Tournament twice and scoring 25 goals during his time at MCCC while teaming with fellow Hall of Famers Glenn Myernick and Mike Rasimowicz for the Vikings.

Recruited by Collis, he headed to the University of Rhode Island, playing for two years as an attacking midfielder and was named team captain in his senior year of 1975. Staying in Rhode Island, Mike was drafted and played for the Rhode Island Oceans of the American Soccer League, which featured a young Tony DiCicco, former U.S. Womens National Team coach, as goalkeeper. He continued thru the '70's playing with many strong New England clubs, winning a Regional Amateur Championship in 1977 with Giovanni XXXIII.

Coaching was in Mike's future as well as he earned his USSF "A" license and was an assistant coach at Harvard for three years with Kevin Welsh. He also coached at the high-school and travel club levels for many years. A 2009 inductee into the New England Soccer Hall of Fame, we welcome Mike Stricklin into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.