

## **Walt Bulat**

One of Mercer's greats beginning in the 1960's, Walt Bulat enjoyed success from a very early age and has carried his extensive experience onto the sidelines as a successful coach at the youth level. From the days before Astro-Turf, we welcome Walt Bulat into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Beginning his soccer education as a member of the Ukrainian Tigers in the Hamilton Recreational League, Walt was a rare player who played international soccer at a young age, captaining a Trenton-based USA International Youth team against a number of teams from England and Scotland in the early 60's.

His high school career was equally stellar. At Notre Dame, Walt was a four year varsity starter for the Irish, and was elected captain in both his junior and senior years. He led the team to consecutive Mercer County and State Championships in 1966 and 1967, while garnering All-County honors for all four years. He was the recipient of the NJ Soccer Coaches All-State Soccer Award as well as the NJ All-State Parochial Award in 1969. He was voted team MVP in his senior season and the 1966/67 team was voted into the Notre Dame Athletic Hall of Fame thanks to his efforts.

He moved on to Mercer County Community College under Hall of Fame coach Stan Dlugosz where the Vikings were ranked #1 in the NJ coach's poll. 1971 saw Walt as co-captain of a team full of local standouts that finished third in the National Finals.

His club career was no less impressive. He captained the Trenton Extension Juniors that won the NJ Championship and finished third in the National Junior Cup. He played in the very first year of the Cranbury Kickers as well as for Trenton Italians, Ukrainian Nationals, and Post 458, winning numerous league and state titles.

He has been a successful coach as well, holding a USSF "C" license and was Director of Coaching for the Manheim Twp. Soccer Club for many years and continues to bring his wealth of experience to the Penn Legacy Soccer Club in the Lancaster County area. Additionally, he was the goalkeeper coach for the Manheim Twp. H.S. that won four consecutive district titles.

For his passion for the game, for his numerous successes, and for his continued involvement in soccer, we welcome Walt Bulat into the Hall of Fame.