

BOB APGAR

Bob Apgar saw soccer from a different viewpoint from an early age and it translated onto the fields of Mercer County throughout his short but stellar career. Now faced with a greater challenge, Bob brings the fight of his playing days to his everyday life and we are proud to have him join the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Bob was introduced to soccer through summer trips to Liverpool, where his mother would take him for family visits. His uncle was a coach in the Everton F.C. youth system and Bob had the opportunity to train with the young future stars and to see such greats like Alan Ball ply their trade at Goodison Park. He brought his love of soccer back to the States where, like so many others, he played in the Trenton Recreational League. Before long, he was a standout at St. Anthony's, earning All-Mercer and All-Area honors while playing with fellow Hall members Barry Pelletteri and Billy Gazonas under coach John Wagner.

He brought his considerable skill to Mercer County Community College, helping HOF coach Stan Dlugosz and teammates Steve Reid and Glenn "Mooch" Myernick reach the National Tournament and achieve a #5 national ranking for both of his years playing for the Vikings. While still at Mercer, he played for the Scots American Juniors squad under coach Frank Kane that won the NJ State Junior Cup in 1973. He continued his college career at Flagler College in Florida before returning home to Mercer County to play in the Mercer Men's League with the always formidable Merry-Go-Round side.

Tragically, it was at that time that Bob was stricken with Multiple Sclerosis, which ended his playing days, but did not dampen his spirit or will to live to the fullest. With an amazing disposition on life, Bob's is an inspiration to all that know him. Buoyed by the love of his family and friends, Bob lives by the mantra "MS will not beat me, I will beat MS". With no complaints, Bob continues on with the same drive and passion that he displayed on the soccer field. We are honored to have Bob Apgar join the ranks of the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.