

MIKE LEE

While many a player would question bringing a referee into the Hall, there is no mistaking the impact that Mike Lee has had on not only the local soccer scene, but on the national stage as well. An outstanding player in his youth, Mike has refereed on the high school, college, and club level for over 34 years. One of the finest referees on the field, we welcome Mike Lee into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Mike was a standout player from an early age, playing for George O’Gorman’s undefeated St. Anthony’s JV side in 1974 while tearing up the Junior League where he averaged three goals a game. He was a striker on the 1976 Hamilton West Group 4 State champions and spent two years at Mercer County Community College, where he helped the Vikings to successive #5 national rankings in 1978 and 1979. He continued to play locally after college with the Scots Americans, Smitty’s Kicks and VFW 3525 in the Mercer Men’s League.

It was after his stellar playing career that Mike found another calling through soccer as a referee. He has been a fixture in some of the biggest games on the high school level in New Jersey, refereeing over 25 State Championship matches, multiple Mercer County championships, and has been honored on three separate occasions as Mercer County Referee of the Year. He has also been named NJ Referee of the Year three times, most recently in 2015 where he was recognized by both the state and national federations.

Mike has also made his mark at the collegiate level, where for over seventeen years, he has worked countless matches in the Big East Conference, Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Patriot League, and the Northeast Conference. He refereed the 2013 NJAC Conference Championship, and has been on the field for numerous NCAA tournament matches, including three Elite 8 games.

Mike can be seen locally refereeing in the Mercer Men’s League along with fellow Hall member John Carmignani. Additionally, Mike is on the executive board of the Central Jersey Soccer Officials Association, also occupying the position of High School Rules Interpreter and Cadet Instructor for the CJSOA. A husband, father and grandfather, Mike continues to bring order to the proceedings on the field. Always level headed and fair, but with the red card at the ready, Mike Lee is welcomed into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.