

LARRY POVIA

A mainstay in local soccer circles for many years, Larry Povia is synonymous with success as a player and coach. A goalkeeper as a player who brings his years of knowledge to a new generation of aspiring netminders, Larry's soccer resume' has few rivals. For his years on the field and on the sidelines, we congratulate Larry Povia on his induction into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

He began his playing days under influential coaches such as Steve Kerner and Dave Kish in the Hamilton Recreation and Little Bigger Leagues, winning several league championships, a highlight being successive overtime victories over the Scots Americans and Post 313 to collect the crown.

Larry moved over to Steinert where he enjoyed success playing behind future Hall of Famers John Timko, Art Napolitano, and Jim McKeown under coach Mario "Goose" Laurenti. He took the trip to Lawrence where he had a four-year career at Rider College, including being named as a tri-captain in 1975, the year the Broncs won the MAC East Championship. He again played with some of the area's best talent, including Brian Welsh, Barry Pelleteri, Timko and McKeown under coaches Bob Pivovarnick and Rich Gialella. Like many, he spent his summers as a counselor at the Bronco Soccer Camps.

His local club career saw Larry mind the net for such clubs as the Houghton Inn, Merry-Go-Round, and Trenton Extension, commenting that while playing for the "Ex" side full of future Hall of Famers and NASL players that "they could make any keeper look good ". But for Larry, his involvement in soccer was about to take another fortuitous turn.

While volunteering at the NJCAA national tournament at MCCC, Larry was asked to join new Vikings coach Charlie Inverso and long-time fixture Joe "Sec" Secretario as goalkeeper coach. This began a 24 year run with Mercer where he was instrumental in bringing five National Championships and four runner-up spots home while developing two All-American keepers along the way. For his efforts, Larry was inducted into the Mercer County Community College Hall of Fame in 2000, followed by his 2006 induction into the National Junior College Hall of Fame, one of only 2 assistant coaches to receive that honor.

After assuming the head coaching role at Mercer in 2010 and winning the Region 19 championship in his first season, Larry went back to familiar territory when Inverso took over the reins at Rider University in 2011 and asked Larry to once again team with him, reassuming a decades-long partnership at his alma mater where together they look to bring the Broncs to national prominence.

For his past successes and his love of the Beautiful Game, we induct Larry Povia into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.