

JULIE SHACKFORD

For someone who didn't intend to make coaching a career, Julie Shackford certainly left a legacy that contradicts that original thought. A coach for 24 years with 20 of those years as coach of the Princeton University women's program, a decorated player with memberships into several other Halls of Fame, and a dedication to developing youth soccer, Julie Shackford holds all of the qualifications for entry into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Growing up in the soccer hotbed of Northern Virginia, Julie is an alumna of the prestigious Braddock Road Youth Club, where she shared fields with the legendary Mia Hamm and U.S. National Team coach and best friend Jill Ellis. Her club team, the Braddock Road Bluebelles, was the first Virginia girl's team to win the US Youth Soccer National Championship. After a successful high school career at Lake Braddock High School, Julie matriculated at William & Mary where she was a 3 time All-American, four time All-Region, and a three time member of the US Olympic Festival team. She was inducted into the William & Mary Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

After college, Julie seized an opportunity to initiate the Carnegie Mellon woman's soccer program, spending four seasons there while compiling a record of 42-21-3 record with the Tartans. It was in 1995 that Julie became known to local soccer circles when she took the helm at Princeton University, starting a twenty year run that saw her record over 200 victories with the Tigers and guiding them to eight NCAA appearances. 2004 was a special year for Julie when she guided her squad to the NCAA Women's Final Four, the first Ivy League program, men or women, to reach that level on the national stage. The Tigers ended the season ranked #4 nationally and Julie was named the NSCAA Division One Coach of the Year, becoming only the fourth female and second Ivy League coach to receive the award.

Through her tenure at Princeton University, Julie coached 37 All-Ivy recipients, five Ivy League Players of the Year, had 16 winning seasons out of her 20 years with the Tigers and, most importantly, 100% of her players graduated from the university.

A founder of the Princeton FC program, she has a long relationship with the ODP programs both in New Jersey and Virginia and has coached with the U-20 and U-21 national teams. She was also inducted into the Virginia-D.C. Soccer Hall of Fame in 2011. Not bad for someone who was unsure about making coaching a career! We are happy that she did and we welcome Julie Shackford into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.