



GEORGE CARUSO

The stream of former Steinert booters entering the Hall continues tonight with the induction of George Caruso. Coming from a family involved in soccer at the youth level, George grew up with the game and enjoyed an outstanding career, proving to be a formidable player and outstanding teammate. The second former University of Delaware player to join the hall in the past three years, we welcome George Caruso into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Beginning in the Hamilton Rec Leagues as a nine year old goalie under coach Laddie Straholla, George progressed through the local ranks quickly. Bolstered by summer visits to Bronco Soccer Camp under the tutelage of Schellscheidt, Wagner, Farrutto and crew, he eventually turned out for the powerful Spartan sides of the early 70's, including the 1973 20-0-1 Group IV state champions under Paul Tessein and Mario "Goose" Laurenti.

Club soccer had George turning out for local powerhouse sides like Post 313 and the German American Kickers under Hall of Fame coach Nick Wiener Sr. He was selected to a local side in 1975 comprised of star players from Hamilton, Lawrence, and Ewing for a

summer select team coached by Hall-of-Famer George Cimore, a team where playing time was earned among the young stalwarts of the local soccer scene.

Moving to the University of Delaware, George quickly became one of the Blue Hens' standout players at defense. He was a three time East Coast Conference selection, earned All-Region four consecutive years, a record just recently equaled, and garnered All American honors as a senior as the team's sweeper. A professional opportunity was offered in the Washington D.C. area, but George's commitment to finish his studies was more important. George's career at Delaware was a lynchpin in the Delmarva press recognizing the potential of Mercer soccer players in the Delaware/Maryland college scene.

A husband, father of three, and a player with an enviable resume', we welcome George Caruso into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.