



TOM DEVITO

An accomplished athlete, coach, and referee, Tom DeVito continues to guide athletes on the field in his decades-long affair with soccer. Also a member of the Trenton Softball Hall of Fame, Tom's work both on and off of the field has earned him a deserved place in the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame and we welcomed him as a member of the Class of 2017.

Tom's involvement with soccer began in 1964, when Hall of Fame coach Bill Drake introduced him to the game. He soon was turned into a goalie by Gary Voegler and played his first competitive game for Trenton State College at the tender age of 21. An idea to create a keeper was rewarded when Tom led the Lions to two successive national championships in 1964 and 1965. He was named All-Conference and All-American while only giving up 3 total goals in 1964 while blocking a penalty kick in the championship final to bring home the shutout and the win for TSC.

Mining the rich local soccer community, Tom moved on to play for some of the region's most storied sides. From GAK and the Italian Americans locally to Newark Portuguese and Philadelphia Ukrainians in the area's other soccer hotbeds, Tom's talents took him to some of the powerhouse teams of the time. He returned to play locally for Olden AA Old-Timers both outdoors and indoors at the Trenton Armory, finally joining Extension in 1978.

Tom eventually took his years of experience to the sidelines, helming a Princeton Day School program from 1973 to 1982. He compiled a staggering 112-8-5 record, guiding PDS to eight Prep finals while bringing home four state championships. He was named

Prep Coach of the Year on three separate occasions. In light of all of his success, Tom has always cited Mel Schmidt and Lou Angebrannt as his biggest influences.

From the beginning of Tom's involvement with soccer, he has been a referee, now moving into his 53 year on the field. He has garnered referee of the year honors in both the girls and boys division in the CVC, has refereed CVC Championship games as well as state regional and finals games for over 40 years. He also referees in the Garden State Friendship League at the Over-40 level.

From the advanced age of 21, the soccer gods blessed Tom DeVito with ability, knowledge and passion for the game that has given back to him tenfold. We recognize not only his years of accomplishment on the field but also for his continued devotion to soccer. We welcome Tom DeVito to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.