



## EVELYN GILL

There are many women who have left their mark on the soccer world. Mia Hamm, Carly Lloyd, and Evelyn Gill are three. While the first two women are almost household names, Evelyn Gill has quietly spent over forty years as a coach and advocate for youth soccer both on the state and national stage. Currently the President of New Jersey Youth Soccer for a second time, we are humbled and honored to welcome Evelyn Gill into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

The beginning of Evelyn's journey started as a coach in the Lawrence Hamnett program in the 1970's, winning a division title with her volunteer coaching staff. She moved on to coaching a Hamnetts boys team in the early years of travel soccer, working with local coach Ken Chambers to develop the skills that those players used in high school and college. She was instrumental, as the chairperson of the Lawrence Township Recreation Committee, in the development of Village Park, making sure that soccer fields were a part of the design to provide space for Lawrence's growing soccer population.

It was off the field that Evelyn continued to make her name known. After holding several positions on the Board of Directors, she assumed the presidency of NJ Youth Soccer in the early '90. She established the first formal state office, began the American Cup Festival for recreation-level teams, and held the first statewide Workshop. She also served as the Volunteer Services/Public Information Officer for the 1994 World Cup Meadowlands venue.

Evelyn's work with soccer continued on the national level when she served as the budget chair for US Youth Soccer, eventually becoming secretary and vice president. She championed efforts to grow TopSoccer for children with disabilities, Soccer Across America, a program for players in underserved communities, and to adopt a Risk Management program to help protect all youth players. She was involved with the early years of the US Soccer Foundation, working to award grants to soccer programs across the country.

She was formally a board member of US Soccer, finishing her latest term in 2015. She worked through the restructuring of the national soccer federation and remains on the Disability Committee. She has served as a liaison to the girls ODP program and the Hall of Fame. In June of 2016, she once again became president of NJ Youth Soccer. Under her guidance, NJYS continues to provide opportunities for over 140,000 boys and girls to play throughout the state through the efforts of countless volunteers.

A member of the board of directors of Mooch Soccer and a proud grandmother of five, Evelyn Gill's tireless years of service to the youth soccer community has ensured that the future is indeed bright for many future players. We welcome Evelyn Gill to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.