



RICK KRAEMER

Rick Kraemer is a long-overdue inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Successful from an early age on the pitch, he is one of just two local prep players to join the Hall but his credentials rank up with all of those who have gone before him. From his time spent at Lawrenceville to Princeton University and on the national level, Rick Kraemer brings his impressive resume' to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Rick, like many other Lawrence youth players, cut his soccer teeth in the Lawrence Hamnetts league, where his early experiences with AAA Trucking led to a Hamnetts Select team participating in tournament and State Cup play. Joining the West End Cosmos program, he teamed with Hall members Chris Colavita and John Fink to play in the Mercer U-19 winter league as a true U-15 team, gaining valuable experience as a youth player. During this time, Rick was a member of the first U-14 National Team, remaining as a pool player for five years, including being one of the last 24 players selected for the U-19 national side in 1982. Rick can also boast of being a frequent attendee of the Bronco Soccer Camp during his formative years.

At Lawrenceville, Rick enjoyed a standout career, garnering All-State honors twice, All-Mercer County three times and Prep Player of the Year as a senior. He was also that rare prep inclusion onto the Mercer County Coaches Select team in 1980 and 1981. He also enjoyed considerable success on local club sides like GAK, Garden State Tire, and Mercer County Juniors.

His matriculation at Princeton University saw his successes on the field continue. While with the Tigers, he was a four-time All-Ivy performer and three-time Mid-Atlantic Select Team inclusion. He continued returning to his local roots, playing with strong sides like Smitty's Kicks and Princeton Soccer Club in the Mercer County League.

Rick moved onto the sidelines after concluding his playing career, working with Bob Bradley and Jim Barlow as a coach for the State U-14 team while assisting Bradley at Princeton University for six years, helping the Tigers gain a Final Four berth in 1993 while guiding the junior varsity program. He continued his coaching career as a head coach in the Moorestown Soccer Club, guiding teams from U-8 through U-14, while also bringing his experience to the Hibernians, working with a number of different successful girls teams. He is currently a volunteer assistant coach at Moorestown High School.

He can also boast of being the Competition Manager at the NJ/NY venue for the 1994 World Cup, where he was involved in the on-field coordination of all games held at Giants Stadium. He is also on the executive board for Mooch Soccer. A life well-spent in the service of the Beautiful Game brings Rick Kraemer to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame and we welcome him as a part of the class of 2017.