



## JOHN ZANGRILLI

One of the founders of the Garden State Soccer League, John Zangrilli has spent a life involved with soccer. A player, administrator, referee, and a passionate follower of Juventus and all things connected to the game, John has earned a special place in the Hall. Congratulations to John Zangrilli on his induction into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

John's roots are in Italy, where as an emerging player, he played for his hometown S.S. Ripi side until he came to the US in 1967. He soon brought his talents to such local sides as Ewing SC, Trenton Italians, and GAK. But going forward, John's skill in other aspects of the game began to emerge. He was the games commissioner for the Schaefer Soccer League in the early '70 while also becoming a referee in 1975. He received his national referee license in 1978 and over the years has refereed National Amateur Cup games at the state and regional level, hundreds of games in the North American Soccer League, American Soccer League, and the United Soccer League, and, in a career highlight, refereed the NY Cosmos against S.S. Lazio in front of 56,000 frenzied spectators in 1984.

In 1980, John, along with three others, founded the Garden State Soccer League. Today, GSSL has over 100 teams playing throughout the state from the semi-pro level to Masters competition. He has been the executive vice-president since the league's inception. He also continued his direct involvement with the game as the referee assignor for the New Jersey Soccer Association, a position he has held for 32 years. He has also been the NJ state assignor and the chairman of the NJ Referee Committee.

Currently, John is the president of the New Jersey Soccer Association, supervising the administration of all affiliated adult soccer programs in New Jersey. He has been the NJSA delegate to the USSF and USASA conventions since 1980. He is also a life member of the NJ and USSF Referee Program. He was the recipient of the Tobin Award, given to that individual that has shown outstanding dedication to the NJ Referee Program.

A devoted husband and father, John's guidance on and off the field has allowed the soccer journey for hundreds of adult players to continue. We welcome John Zangrilli to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.