



CLIFF KEARNS

Cliff Kearns' soccer career started by playing in the alley behind his home in East Trenton. In 1956 Cliff played Varsity for Trenton High School under the leadership of the legendary Lou Angebrant. After Trenton High School Cliff went on to play for Olden AA which was a city league. Their home field was Hetzels field. Olden AA went on to win several championships.

In the 60's Olden AA moved to play in a Philly league. The team also played for the NJ State Cup Tournament, which they won several times. Additionally, Olden AA played for the NJ Amateurs Cup which was a National Tournament. Although the team one NJ several times, they did not win the Nationals. The team also played in the Challenge Cup Tournament, which was an All Professional Tourney. They came close, however never succeeded in winning.

During the late 50's, through the 60's and 70's Cliff traveled all over the East Coast playing in the Six a Side indoor/outdoor soccer league. The league started as an outdoor tournament at the Scottish Games with 5 players and a goalie. The league also played indoor which was called the Six a Side tournaments at the National Guard Armory behind City Hall in Trenton. Cliff played in several leagues at the same time, playing 2-3 games a day. In the late 50s, a Six a Side Tournament was held to help raise money for Cliff's parents at Hetzels field. Cliffs' sister Loretta had contracted polio.

Cliff mostly played for Olden Bar and Extension Tavern through the years. Cliff also coached the little bigger league teams at Hetzels field in the original Tommy Hamment league. Cliff started the First Columbus Youth Soccer Tournament with Gene Flynn which was refereed by his brother Art and the MCCC team. It became and still is one of the biggest Columbus Day soccer tournaments in the country.

Cliff played soccer until 1975. He retired because one of the neighborhood kids, Stevie Reid, yelled over to Cliff during a game and said "Mr. Kearns pass me the ball". That's when he knew it was time.

It is an honor to be placed in this great hall of fame.