



DANA DeCORE FALCONI

A multi-talented athlete in Mercer County and New Jersey during the 1990's, Dana DeCore Falconi was one of the most prolific goal scorers, woman or man, to step on the fields of Mercer County. Tonight, we salute her outstanding career and induct her into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Dana grew up in a sports loving family in Pennington, NJ, chasing her older brother Dennis and his friends around in various sports. She began her career playing on boys soccer teams on the Hopewell Valley Recreation program, which she continued with until age ten. Her talents started others to take notice when she eventually moved on to play for teams in Marlboro and in the Twin County program, where she won state championships with both. She flourished as a member of the NJ ODP team for six years as well as playing on the Region 1 ODP team, which covered thirteen individual states, for four years, three years as captain of the side.

It was at Princeton Day School where Dana made her explosion onto the local and state scene in multiple sports. She was a four year varsity soccer player for the Panthers, where she amassed 134 goals, including 51 in her junior year, a tally that still stands in the PDS record books. She was the leading goal scorer in Mercer County girls soccer for all four years. She was recognized as an All-Prep first team player four times, an All-Area selection from 1993 through 1995, and a 1st team All-State player in 1994 and 1995. She led the Panthers to two Prep B state championships and was captain in 1995.

She continued her success as a four year varsity basketball player, once again captaining the team in her senior year. The accolades continued to roll in as she again garnered All-Area recognition on three occasions and Prep All-State all four years. She achieved a childhood goal of scoring 100 goals on the soccer field and 1000 points on the hardwood, mirroring Hall of Famer and early influence Misty

Cregar's mark while at Ewing and remains as the only PDS player, boy or girl, to have achieved this impressive mark.

Dana's excellence continued onto the lacrosse field, where again she was a four year varsity player for the Panthers, amassing over 200 career points. She continued to compile numerous All-Area and All-State honors as well as leading the Panthers to the 1994 Prep B Championship. Dana was named to the 1990's Decade All Area 1st team. She was inducted into the PDS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 for her amazing career.

Moving just a few miles north, Dana joined Hall-of Fame coach Julie Shackford at Princeton University, once again playing four years of varsity soccer while captaining the Tigers in her senior year. She was awarded the Don Betterton Women's Soccer award in 1999, signifying that player being deemed an unsung hero for the Tigers. After graduation from Princeton, Dana earned her law degree from Catholic University.

A successful entrepreneur and mother of three daughters, Dana and her husband Kyle reside locally and spend time back on the athletic fields watching their kids play, much as her parents did with her over the years. With a resume that would be hard to match in multiple sports, we welcome Dana DeCore Falconi into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.