



MIKE VAN WAGNER

One of Mercer County's leading advocates for youth soccer as well as possessing an impressive career resume, Mike Van Wagner is an overdue addition to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame and tonight we welcome him into the ranks of Mercer's finest.

A Ewing native, Mike began his soccer career in the West End Soccer Association. He played for Hall of Fame Coach Andy Greener at Ewing High School before moving on to Guilford College in North Carolina, where he was a four year varsity starter and captain of the Quakers in his senior year. He returned to the area after college, continuing his playing career with several club powerhouses, such as Post 313, Hibernians, and Three Seasons. He was a member of the legendary Trenton Power side from 2007 to 2011, winning the 2010 Cranbury Over-50's championship.

It is over the past 25 years where Mike's commitment to soccer has shown brightly. From 1993 to 2008, he was Volunteer Director of the Trenton Youth Soccer Program, helping to grow a program from 23 total players to over 300 participants and 22 teams, including spearheading Trenton's first-ever girls team in 1997. He, along with Paul & Lynn Welch, took that team, the Trenton Lightning, from scoring a lone goal in its first season at U-10 to being an undefeated league champion in its final season at U-17. For his efforts, Mike was named Coach of the Year by the New Jersey Soccer Association in 2008.

He joined with Hall of Famers Ken Andres and Charlie Inverso in 2008 to begin the Mooch Soccer Program in Trenton, honoring the memory of Glenn "Mooch" Myernick by offering advanced soccer training and opportunities as well as positive character development to the inner-city players of the Capital City. The program, now in its 10th year, is over 200 players strong and has one of their alumni, Matt Olosunde, playing for the Manchester United U-23 team. He also continued to coach in the Ewing United program from 2005 through 2017.

Mike is Vice President for Public Affairs for NJM Insurance Group and resides in Ewing with his wife and two daughters. For his career on the field and for his enthusiasm in bringing soccer opportunities to the children of our state capital, we honor Mike Van Wagner and induct him into the 28th class of the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.