



NICOLE DENNION

Tonight we honor the memory of one of Mercer's best, Nicole Dennion. A standout scholar-athlete at every level, Nicole blazed a trail for future players to follow in her far too short time with us. The Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame is proud to welcome Nicole Dennion into the 2022 class of honorees.

A product of the storied Ewing youth programs, Nicole excelled at both the club and school level. As a member of FC Bucks Xtreme, she led the Pennsylvania team to a top-10 national ranking. A four-year starter at Notre Dame, her stellar career with the Irish included being named captain as a senior, while also garnering All-County and All-State honors. She was the leading scorer in Mercer County while leading the Lawrence Road school to a co-conference championship in her final season, also being named as one of the top-20 players in Central New Jersey. A standout in the classroom, Nicole was a member of the National Honors and Spanish Honors Societies.

Heading south to Elon University, she played in 15 contests for the Phoenix women's squad as a freshman, making 11 starts and while scoring once and collecting an assist. Her sophomore season saw her explode onto the Southern Conference scene, playing in 22 matches while collecting an Elon single season record 15 goals, also notching 6 assists, leading the team to a 13-3-6 record. She tied for the conference lead in goals, four of which were game winning tallies, and finished second in total points with 36. Nicole was named as the 2013 Southern Conference Player of the Year as well as being selected to the All-Conference first team while also earning All-Region honors. She was awarded the Stein H. Basnight Outstanding Athlete

Award following later that year, Elon University's highest athletic award. Again showing her prowess off of the field, she was named to the Southern Conference All-Academic team in 2013.

In 2014, Nicole was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. However, this diagnosis did not deter her from continuing to live life to its fullest, carrying a full course load and coaching a girls soccer team. In 2016, she was awarded the Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Award by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletes, which honors student-athletes who have overcome great odds to achieve academic success while participating in athletics. She was also honored by the Colonial Athletic Association with the John H. Randolph Inspiration Award, given to individuals who serve as an inspiration to all to maximize their ability for success. She graduated from Elon with a BA in Exercise Science in May of 2016.

Sadly, Nicole lost her battle on November 5, 2016. The hashtag "#StillKickinItWithColie" continues to be used to this day to show support for Nicole and the brave battle that she waged. We are honored to induct Nicole Dennion into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame's Class of 2022.