



## **EWING 1975 STATE CHAMPIONS**

**1975 was a banner year for Mercer County high school boys soccer and the Ewing Blue Devils team were a big part of the county's rich soccer history. A group of players who grew up together in the West End Soccer Association, the team, coached by Hall of Fame coach Andy Greener, earned a share of the 1975 Group III State Championship and we welcome them into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.**

**The Ewing program, which started as a junior varsity team in 1963, made state tournament appearances in seven of the twelve years from their inception leading up to the 1975 season, winning a state championship in 1968. After losing in the 1974 Group III final the previous year, Ewing joined three other Mercer County teams in 1975 in winning state titles, an unprecedented accomplishment in New Jersey high school soccer. The Blue Devils compiled a 13-3-0 regular season record, with their only losses coming against fellow title winners Steinert and Lawrence, along with Toms River North.**

**Led by tri-captains Mike Cacciabauda, Joe Russo, and John Gusz, the Ewing side started their march to the state title with a 2-1 win over Manasquan on goals by Gusz and Ed Winsor. They followed this with a victory over 9<sup>th</sup> ranked Ocean Township, going ahead on a Rick Robinson tally and breaking a tie when Gusz scored to give Ewing a 2-1 win and a berth in the Central Jersey Group III Championship.**

Against Basking Ridge, another win followed with goals by Gusz, Robinson, and Winsor to capture the title 3-1, which set up the State Group III semi-final against Lakewood. In an outstanding team effort, Ewing defeated the Piners, 1-0, on another goal from Ed Winsor. In the final game of the season against Tenafly, the Blue Devils fought throughout the game to find an opening, but ended up tying the Tigers, 0-0 as senior goalie Buff Munley kept the clean sheet to earn the Parkway Avenue school a share of the 1975 Group III State Championship at Mercer County Park, ending their season with a 17-3-1 record.

Fellow players Jim Prunetti, Jeff Pageau, Bill Klank, Eric Bone', Mike Van Wagner, Joe Angelini, Mark Forst, Jeff Hill, Lou D'Angelo, Richard DeBlasio, Dan Morocco, and Chris Franzoni all made strong contributions towards the team's success while assistant coach Tom Patterson and team managers Rick Hanquist, Kathy Fox, and Robin Bartasawitz helped to guide the team over the successful season. A number of the Ewing players garnered post-season honors at the local and state level.

In a year that showed the prowess of Mercer County high school soccer, tonight, joining Steinert, Lawrence, and Notre Dame, we are proud to induct the 1975 Ewing High School Boys Soccer State Champions into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.