



GARY HINDLEY

A devoted promoter of the Beautiful Game, Gary Hindley has influenced players from youth soccer to the professional level and continues to today. As a player, referee, and coach for over 50 years, Gary continues to share his passion for the game and tonight, for his decades-long association with the game, we induct Gary Hindley into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

A player for the Wall Soccer Club in the early 60's and a graduate of Wall High School, Gary was the first captain of the Knight's boys soccer program, for which he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2002 and Soccer Hall of Fame in 2009. He attended Trenton State College, where he led the Lions to the NAIA National Championship in 1965 and to the final again in the following year as the team's goalkeeper. He also played basketball, baseball, and was an accomplished gymnast while at TSC, graduating in 1969 and earning a master's degree in 1970. He was inducted into the TSC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

After briefly playing professionally in the American Soccer League, Gary became an assistant at Middlebury College in Vermont before returning to TSC in 1974 to coach both the men's soccer and baseball programs for eight seasons, compiling winning records for both Lions teams. It was at this point that he moved into the professional ranks as an assistant coach with the Pennsylvania Stoners of the American Soccer League for several years.

For the next twenty years, Gary coached at the professional level in many of the outdoor and indoor leagues as an assistant and head coach, being named United Soccer League Coach of the Year while taking the Houston Dynamos to the league final in 1984. After stints coaching in the NASL, ASL, and APSL, Gary joined the Maryland Bays of the American Professional Soccer League, again earning APSL Coach of the Year honors in 1991. He continued with The Cleveland Crunch of the NPSL, guiding them to the league championship in 1992 and 1994. In 1998, he once again won Coach of the Year honors while coaching the Mississippi Beach Kings of the Eastern Indoor Soccer League. His overall record as a head coach was 433-305-30.

After the professional ranks, he took a step back into youth coaching, working with the Knoxville Football Club and the Bay United Soccer Club in various capacities from 2002 to 2008. From 2009 until 2014, Hindley was head coach of both the boys and girls varsity teams at 1A Port St. Joe High School in Florida. His inexperienced squads have achieved tournament successes at the District and Regional levels of the Florida State Championship series. Since 2018, he has stayed active by coaching the Gulfview HS (Naples, FL) boys for one season and Marco Island (FL) Middle School girls for two seasons, compiling a winning record and one league championship.

For his lifetime of experiences promoting soccer at all levels, for his personal achievements as a player and coach, and for his on-going devotion to his passion for the game, we induct Gary Hindley into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.