



## **LAWRENCE 1975 STATE CHAMPIONS**

**“We’ll be competitive” said HOF coach Lou Angebranntd at the start of the 1975 soccer season of his Lawrence High School boys soccer team. Perhaps a bit of an understatement of a team that scored 109 goals and brought the Cardinals their seventh state title in nine years. We welcome the Lawrence 1975 State Champions into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.**

**Tasked with a rebuilding project going into the season, Lawrence blended seniors with experienced underclassmen to establish themselves as one of Mercer’s finest. Led by co-captains Dom DiMeglio and John Zimmer, the Cardinals rolled through their regular season with only two losses while scoring goals at a high rate. Defensively solid as well, they allowed a stingy 17 goals over 20 games while amassing 11 shutouts. The front line terrorized opponents, with DiMeglio, Angelo Bossio, Chris Fallon, Rob Lowthian, Ed “Mooner” Myslinski, Jim Slavkovsky, Gary Gladwell, Dan McGroarty, Joe Pascarella, and George Tiger all lighting up the nets. A solid midfield of Bruce Brodowski, Joe & John Zimmer, Doug Darby, Scott Andres, Ron Kraemer, Kevin Fecak, and Peter Lins provided crucial links between the line and defense. The defense, anchored by goalies Ralph Angelotti and Jeff Mehler, were led by Tim Snyder, Rico Scardelletti, Lew Wolfe with Chris Carpenter, Ron Bannister and Dennis Tramontana adding valuable support in holding some of the state’s most potent offenses at bay.**

After compiling a 13-2 regular season record, Lawrence were coming off of two losses in three games heading into the state tournament when they took on Metuchen at home. Showing the traits of true champions, the Cardinals hammered the visitors 8-2 in the Central Jersey Group II semi-finals, with Lowthian, John Zimmer and McGroarty all scoring twice while Bossio and Slavkowsky notched single tallies. The finals started on a negative note when Lawrence lost a 2-0 lead to tie North Plainfield 2-2, forcing a replay on the next day. Seeing the return of Tim Snyder and Joe Zimmer to the lineup, they prevailed over the Canucks with a 3-1 victory, outshooting the opponents 23-4 on the day to take the Central Jersey Group II crown.

They traveled next to South Jersey to take on Haddon Heights, who had been one of New Jersey's top-ranked teams all season in the Group II state semi-finals. Bolstered by an outstanding defensive effort, the Cardinals blanked the Garnets 3-0 on goals from John Zimmer, Lowthian, and Bossio. The state final, on a day that saw four local boys soccer teams play for titles at Mercer County Park, ended as a blowout as the Cardinals trounced a strong Garfield team, 8-1 to win the Group II state title and give coach Angebrannt his 140<sup>th</sup> overall career victory. For the remarkable season, Lawrence ended up ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state.

John Zimmer, Angelotti, Snyder, and Bossio all earned All-State honors and Angebrannt was named Central Jersey Coach of the Year. Managers Carol Smith and Michelle Iorio helped push the Cardinal booters to final victory.

In a historic year for Mercer County soccer, the Lawrence 1975 State Champions continued a tradition of winning soccer and tonight we welcome them in to the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, Class of 2023.