



NOTRE DAME 1975 STATE CHAMPIONS

How do you follow up winning a state championship? Do it again! That is exactly what the 1975 Notre Dame boys soccer team did in after triumphing in 1974. Led by a group of senior holdovers from the previous championship side, the Irish joined three other local teams in bringing a state title home to Mercer County that year and we welcome them into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

Having high expectations entering the season, tri-captains Bob Ploof, John Zegarski, and Dave Dorozinsky led the Irish to a strong start to the season, winning four times and tying twice, while scoring 23 goals on the way. Forwards Dave Ungrady, John Rugarber, and Zegarski helped provide the offence, along with Bobby Rhodes and Don Schuler on the flanks.

After hitting a slide mid-season which saw ND losing three of their next five games to eventual fellow state champs Steinert, Lawrence, and Ewing, they rebounded to get back to winning ways. Midfielders Mike Wenczel, Don Schuler, Jim Springer, Paul Ungrady, Jerry Meagher, Joe Martilotti and Ploof supported the attack in midfield while defenders Jack Woods, Tim Meagher, Tommy Barlow, and Dorozinsky shielded the goalkeeping tandem of Jim Ciccone and Joe Immordino.

After suffering their final loss to another state winner in Ewing, the Irish rolled into the state tournament as a battle-hardened unit. Facing South Jersey power Holy Cross in the semi-finals, Springer netted twice while Dave Ungrady added a third in a 3-0 win

over the Lancers which set up a final against Seton Hall Prep. A hard-fought effort yielded a 1-0 victory over the Pirates on a lone goal by Rhodes and brought home a second successive state championship to the Lawrence Road school for HOF coach John Wagner, who himself won successive state titles as a player in 1960 and 1961 at Notre Dame, and assistant coach Vince Ardery.

Ploof, Zegarski, Dorozinsky and Dave Ungrady all garnered All-County and All-State honors for the season while helping Notre Dame to a final 13-4-3 record, bringing a unprecedented fourth boys soccer state championship to Mercer County in 1975. For their outstanding season and their place in high school soccer history, we are proud to induct the Notre Dame 1975 State Champions into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.