



STEINERT 1975 STATE CHAMPIONS

Sandwiched between two of the greatest Mercer County high school champions, the 1975 Steinert State Champions deserve equal billing with the best. A blend of underclassmen and veterans, the Spartans delivered for HOF coach Paul Tessein by winning one of his four state titles in impressive style. Tonight we salute the 1975 Steinert State Champions and welcome them into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

In a team sprinkled with future Hall of Fame members, the perennial Spartan powerhouses gained another side in the form of the 1975 edition. Losing only once in regular season play to local rivals Hamilton and tying Lawrenceville, the Men in Green rolled through their opponents on their way to the title. Led in attack by underclassmen Jim & John Bowen, Rick Wiener and Gary McIlroy, the Spartan midfield was manned by Ruben Rivera and Dan Povia. An experienced defense consisting of All-State selection Joe Fink, Brian Welch, Henry Picatagi and Dave Andres shut down the opposition in front of keepers Sam Maira and Kevin Haney.

Coming off of the bench, outstanding players such as John Mc Dowell, Kenan McCoy, Tom Moffat, Dom Castaldo, Tom Fink, John Leigh, Dan Downs, Jack Blair, Bob and Mike McVicker, Steve Tondreau, and George Jolly made big contributions towards a hugely successful season.

Tessein, in his second year of coaching, relied on captains Fink and McDowell on the field as the team put together a stellar regular season coming into the state tournament. Starting with wins over Colonia and Neptune, the Spartans avenged their sole season's loss by beating Hamilton 3-2 before a crowd of over 3000 fans at Mercer County Community College to clinch the Central Jersey Group Four title. Gary McIlroy scored two goals to erase a 2-1 deficit to beat the Hornets. Against Shawnee in the state semi-finals, Jim Bowen scored the lone goal to push Steinert into the final against state powerhouse Kearny. A stalemate after a long match saw the Spartans share the state championship with a final 1-1 score with the Kardinals. A majority of the players went on to play college soccer and have coached at the high school and club levels over the years.

No longer in the shadow of their peers and for rightfully earning their place in Mercer County soccer history, we welcome the members of the 1975 Steinert State Championship team into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame