



## **JIM KING**

**Born into a soccer family, Jim King made his initial Mercer County soccer mark as a standout player both in high school and college before donning the stripes and whistle as a respected high school and collegiate referee for over 30 years. Tonight, we welcome him into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.**

**The son of 1993 inductee Thomas King, Jim grew up playing in the highly competitive Hamilton Rec programs before moving to the Hamilton Travel program, where his teams compiled numerous championships. He moved on to Notre Dame in the early 1960's, playing for the legendary William "Stu" Clarke and with a number of future Hall members, during which the Irish made five appearances in the state title game in ten years. He joined his East Trenton friends to form tournament teams that had success throughout New Jersey.**

**Graduating in 1965, with All-County honors, he moved to the University of Maryland under coach Doyle Royal, where the Terrapins won four successive conference titles and three NCAA tournament appearances.**

**Wanting to stay involved with soccer upon graduation, he received certification as a referee and started officiating high school games in 1970. A constant presence on the pitch for over 30 years in the Mercer County area, he earned the reputation as a tough but fair referee. It was not unusual for Jim to cover six games a day during the week, while spending his Saturdays on the fields of Lawrence Hamnetts or Hamilton. He also took the reigns of many college matches, handling multiple conference finals and NCAA games.**

**Under the mentorship of Dick Giallella, he became a referee assignor and teacher of the cadet referees. Many of his students became accomplished referees under his tutelage. He trained teams in the Hamnetts and St. Ann's CYO programs while juggling his always busy refereeing schedule. In his late 60's, he once again picked up the whistle and returned to the field to once again to cover local high school matches in the area.**

**A devoted grandfather who, while watching the grandkids play, never missed an opportunity to let the referees know what they needed to do. A lifelong supporter of Mercer County soccer as a player, referee, and volunteer, we are honored to induct Jim King into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.**