



1988 STEINERT BOYS STATE CHAMPIONS

Sixteen shutouts. Outscored their opponents 74-10, Record of 23-1-1. Nineteen game winning streak. This all describes the 1988 Steinert Boys State Champions and the dominant season they produced to, once again, bring a state title to the Klockner Road school. We are honored to induct them into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.

Led by Hall of Fame coach Paul Tessein and assistant coaches Rich Giallella, Tom Buzinski, and Jim Giglio, the Spartans were a work in progress in the early season, with a mix of veterans and newcomers, but persevered to put together a championship winning team. Led by tri-captains Shawn Gardiner, Eric Hastings, and Anthony Vigorito, the Spartans stormed through the regular season to win the Colonial Valley Conference title. Goalies Mike Rentner and Stew Miller limited their opponents to ten goals while Gardiner, Vigorito, Shawn Zauner, Matt Crivelli, and Paul Meyer formed an impregnable defensive unit. Brothers Randy and Todd Jacobs made a strong impression, with Randy leading the county in scoring with twenty-six goals for the Spartans. Marcello Pisapia and Tony Scharko added crucial late season goals. Seniors Mike Mix, Jeff Riefler, Mike McGrath, Mark Kavulak, Dave Newsham, and Chris

Schipske all made strong contributions while undergraduates Stu Whitman, Bill Adams, Eric Bliefernich, Curvin Miller and Dominick Pisapia contributed to victory with impressive style.

Following their success on the local scene, The Spartans continued their winning ways, winning the Central Jersey Group III Championship before defeating West Morris-Mendham High School, 3-0, before a heavily partisan crowd at Trenton State College to capture the 1988 New Jersey Group III Championship. This gave coach Tessein one of his four career state championships and helped to cement his reputation as one of the premier coaches in New Jersey high school soccer.

Unlike some of their predecessors, this was a Steinert team that had to learn their roles, gain more confidence, grow as a team, and get better with each game. The captains and others kept the team focused under the coaches' pressure and pushed each other to play better. The 1988 Spartans achieved great success from a superb team effort with a group of kids that bought into the program and learned to play as one.

Tonight, for their outstanding season, we are honored to welcome the 1988 Steinert Boys State Champions into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame., Class of 2024.