

Hamilton native Bob Stevens takes over TCA girls soccer team

Aug. 29: If Bob Stevens can do as a coach what he did as a player it won't be long before the Trenton Catholic Academy girls' soccer team is among the tops in the area.

Stevens, a Hamilton Township native and an All-State player at The Pennington School in the early '80s, has been named the new girls soccer coach at TCA, athletic director Mark Eckel announced today.

"I'm very excited to give back the knowledge I have and learned to the girls here at TCA," Stevens said. "I'm also looking forward to the challenge of building this program to where I feel it can be. I read and saw what the boys team did last year at Trenton Catholic and I hope we can do the same with the girls."

Last year TCA's boys soccer team went 21-1, won the Burlington County Freedom Division, and made it to the South Jersey Non Public B championship game before falling to St. Rose (Belmar). Just two years prior to that, the team was mired in a 43-game losing streak.

TCA's girls are coming off a 6-11-1 season, their second consecutive six-win season. The Lady Mikes were 6-3 at one point before going 0-8-1 in their last nine games.

Returning from that squad are 20-goal scorer, sophomore Isis Young, junior goalie Marissa Jenkins and defensive stalwarts Kelechi Okpara and Satta Gol.

"I like what I see here and I think there is a good nucleus in place," Stevens said. "I can't wait for the season to get started."

Stevens, after a brilliant high school career at Pennington, received a soccer scholarship to the University of Virginia where he played for head coaches Bruce Arena and Bob Bradley. The Ewing native, who now resides in Hamilton, was a four-time member of the New Jersey Select Team and was the U-17 National Team.

As a coach, Stevens has had success with the Hibernian Honeybees and will guide the Ewing Fusion team this year.

"I've known Bob since he played in high school," Eckel said. "When I found out he was interested in coaching, it was an easy decision to make. His knowledge of the game, his ability to get the most out of his players and his demeanor on and off the field make him perfect for TCA. I'm very confident in the job he's going to do here."