



Eddie Gaven

Youngest player to start an MLS All-Star Game. Youngest “goalkeeper” in MLS history. Youngest player named to the MLS Best Eleven. This just scratches the surface of the stellar career of one of Mercer County’s best. Tonight, we welcome Eddie Gaven into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

A Hamilton native, Eddie’s journey started with the Hamilton Rec programs, followed by club soccer with Hibernian FC, coached by his father, Ed Gaven Sr. and Tom Fink. After attending Steinert High School for one year, it was clear that there were bigger opportunities awaiting. He moved to the residential program run by the US Soccer Federation at IMG Academy as a part of the U-17 national team program, where his start continued to rise.

In 2003, he was drafted by the MetroStars as a 16 year old, going on to play for the NJ-based team for three years and establishing himself as an automatic starter in his second year and being named to the league’s All-Star team for the year. In exploiting a vague rule in substituting for a goalkeeper,

MetroStars coach Bob Bradley inserted Ed into the goal for Tim Howard, making him the youngest goalkeeper in the league's history before sliding back him into midfield after ten seconds between the pipes and scoring his first league goal in overtime. Traded to the Columbus Crew, Ed played over 200 games for the Ohio squad, cementing himself as one of the MLS's best and winning a league championship in 2010 where his goal in the semi-finals propelled the Crew to the title winning match. Injuries began to take a toll and after ten years, Ed retired from professional soccer in 2013, but not before he played 278 games over the course of his MLS career.

Ed's international career was equally impressive. He played every minute of the U-17 team at the US World Championship team in 2003, and was a part of the 2005 U-20 team that represented the US at the World Championships in the Netherlands. He was a member of the U-23 Olympic Qualifying team between 2003 and 2008 and made eight appearances with the full National Team between 2004 and 2010.

Taking a short break, Ed jumped back into the game, this time as the Men's Head Coach at Ave Maria University in Florida from 2016 to 2022, being named Sun Conference Coach of the year in 2018 before stepping away from the game.

Currently living in Indiana with his wife and five children, Ed had a career that most can only dream of. Joining Mooch, Smitty and the hundreds of other Hall members, we are proud to induct Eddie Gaven into the 2025 class of the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.