

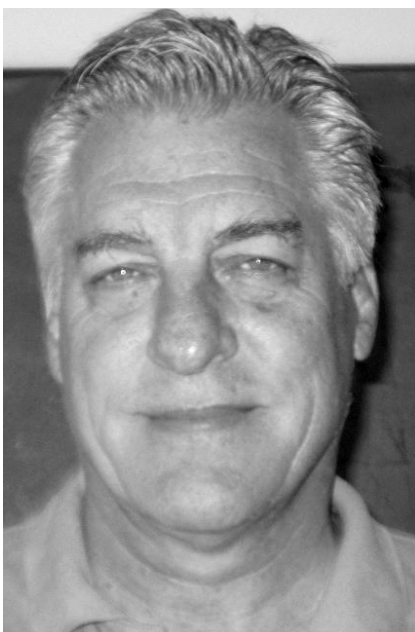
## Mercer County 2012 Tennis Hall of Fame

### Township icons Howland Sr. and Strandskov to be inducted March 10

The Mercer County Tennis Council, an organization dedicated to uniting the diverse segments of the tennis industry and expanding the popularity of tennis, has announced the names of five outstanding ambassadors for the sport who will be inducted into the Mercer County Tennis Hall of Fame on March 10 at the Trenton Country Club.

Two of those honorees happen to have huge ties to Hamilton Township, as long-time Steinert tennis coach/township resident Bob Howland and long-time resident Rick Strandskov will both be inducted, along with Colleen Cosgrove, James E. Cryan and Scott Stoner.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame dinner are \$75 per person, and invitations will soon be in the mail. For more information or to receive an invitation, contact Ann LoPrinzi at [annloprinzi@gmail.com](mailto:annloprinzi@gmail.com) or 609-890-8295.



*Former Hamilton Tennis Club instructor Rick Strandskov once beat John McEnroe.*



*Bob Howland's tennis contributions go far beyond that of Steinert tennis coach.*

Howland is a successful high school coach and grassroots organizer who has held leadership positions in volunteer-based tennis organizations; and his son became the first tennis player to be inducted into the Steinert Athletic Hall of Fame. Strandskov is an accomplished college player and former teaching pro who is known locally as “the man who beat John McEnroe” in a satellite event on Long Island in 1976.

Cosgrove is a distinguished teaching pro with top USPTA and PTR certifications who has given back to the sport through significant volunteer service. Cryan, being inducted posthumously, was a talented competitor who was instrumental in making Mercer the home of the nation’s first municipal indoor tennis facility. Stoner is a former junior and college standout who coached varsity tennis at Rider, became Head Pro at an area club, wrote tennis columns for *The Trentonian* and served as treasurer for the National Junior Tennis and Learning of Trenton.

Hall of Fame Committee Chair Ann LoPrinzi, one of New Jersey’s most knowledgeable and best tennis writers (and herself, an HOF inductee), noted that “This year’s inductees reflect the breadth and depth of tennis talent and activity here in Mercer County. The Hall of Fame should be an exciting and inspirational. We encourage everyone to come out to celebrate the joy of tennis.”

The following is a closer look at the Hamilton Township inductees:

#### **ROBERT HOWLAND SR.**

- From 1978-1992 he was a founding member of Kuser Tennis League with over 300 participants where he served as player, captain, coordinator, President and member of the Executive Committee.
- 1985-1989 served as USTA/NJ President and Sr. VP 1982-1984.
- 1988-1993 USTA/NJ Representative and founding member of the Mercer County Tennis Council and created and produced a Tennis Directory.
- 1990 USTA/NJ Family of the Year.
- Has coached High School Tennis since 1994 at a variety of Local High Schools in Mercer

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- Named 2010 Mercer County High School Tennis Coach of the Year.
- Volunteer involvement with the NJTL, Bob brought tennis to cable TV in Mercer County
- Served in many volunteer positions in Mercer County and initiated a Dominos TeamTennis League.
- Haddonfield Men's Open.

## **RICK STRANDSKOV**

- Forever and fondly recognized locally as “the man who beat John McEnroe” (May, 1976 during a Satellite Circuit event in Long Island, NY).
- Graduated from Rider College with a record of 45-3; named Rider's “Athlete of the Year”.
- Ranked #2 in USTA-Middle States Men's Open Division in 1975.
- Teaching Pro at Hamilton Tennis Club in the late 1970s.
- James Cryan Memorial Singles and Doubles Champion in 1976. 4-time singles finalist.
- Mercer County Men's Singles Champion a record nine times (1971-73, 75, 80-83, 89).
- 2004 Rider University Hall of Fame Inductee.

## **MERCER COUNTY TENNIS HALL OF FAME MEMBERS**

**1992:** John Controy; Marty Devilin, Bill Hughes, Eve Kraft, Bill Stoner

**1996:** Richard J. Coffee, Jack Geisel, Bayard Jordan, Paul Napolitano

**2000:** David Benajim, Daniel Haggerty, Roberta Harper, William Humes

**2004:** Nicole Arendt, Anne Baxter Humes, Fritz Kuser, Ann LoPrinzi, Eddie Moylan

**2008:** Carl “Ace” Abbott, Stan Dlugosz, Louise Gengler, Dave Haggery, Jay Lapidus