



EUGENE CHYZOWYCH* **Columbia HS** **Soccer Coach**

Eugene Chyzowych was synonymous with success throughout his lifetime.

Born in the Ukraine, he settled in Philadelphia along with his family in the wake of World War II. He became a standout soccer player in the city, first at North Catholic and then at Temple University, earning him the nickname "The Educated Toe."

His search for a teaching job brought him to North Jersey, where he first landed an assistant coaching position at Chatham in 1961 under another legend, Otto Haas. In 1964, he accepted his first head coaching position at Columbia, where the South Orange-Maplewood school had a young soccer program that wasn't very good, having won a total of four games in its first three years.

After his first team went 4-8, Chyzowych took the step of doing something that was a new concept for soccer in 1965 - he established a community-based feeder system, with the creation of the Cougar Soccer Club.

In a community loaded with large post-war baby boom families, kids began to accept and grow up on soccer, and the Columbia program soon took off. Chyzowych never left the school - he coached up until he had to resign due to health reasons at the start of the 2013 season. Along the way, he even served as coach of the United States National Team in 1973. His final 50-year record was 757-216-73, which makes him the third winningest coach nationally and first among public school coaches. His teams won four NJSIAA Group 4 state titles, 16 sectional championships, 13 Essex County Championships and 24 conference titles.

Chyzowych's coaching success also extended to girls volleyball. When Columbia began to offer the sport in 1977, he was the founding coach, and the program went 247-0 before losing its first match in 1988.

His success also spawned a coaching tree comprised of ex-players that includes highly-successful college coaches like Dave Masur (St. John's) and Lenny Armuth (Drew) as well as high school coaches such as David Donovan (Delbarton), Marty Berman (Seton Hall Prep) and Jack Weber (Verona).

**Eugene passed away on May 10, 2014.*