



## **TONY KARCICH** **St. Joseph Regional HS** **Football Coach**

Few people have had as great an impact over the state football scene over the past 50 years than Tony Karcich.

A product of Hackensack High School, where he was an All-Bergen County linebacker, he played collegiately at Syracuse, where he graduated in 1969. Karcich started his coaching career as an assistant at Hackensack in 1969. He became head coach at Bergen Catholic in 1974, where his teams won three sectional championships in nine years.

Karcich then stepped away from coaching to work on Wall Street. After sitting out the 1983 and '84 seasons, he realized his heart belonged with athletics. He returned to football coaching, and became the head man at St. Joseph in Montvale in 1985. The team there had gone 4-5, 3-6 and 1-8 in the three seasons prior to his arrival. His first season produced a 5-3-1 record, and two years later, the program won its first sectional championship. In all the time since Karcich arrived on the scene, St. Joseph has had just one losing season.

He remained coach through the 2013 campaign, and during that time won 17 sectional and group championships. Six of his teams finished No. 1 in state rankings.

His final tally was 338 victories, which is a Bergen County record and ranks among the best in state history.

He's received numerous prestigious honors, including his induction into the Hackensack, Bergen Catholic, St. Joseph, State Coaches Association and Region II Wrestling Halls of Fame.

Karcich also served as St. Joseph Athletic Director for 25 years until he retired in June. As a show of appreciation for all of his service, St. Joseph held "Tony Karcich Day" in October, fittingly on the day when Green Knights hosted Bergen Catholic. As part of the festivities that day, the field at DiNallo Stadium was named in his honor.