

Unsung Hero

Tonight the Bergen County Soccer Coaches Association wants to honor each team's Unsung Hero.

Each award winner is unique to his own team in terms of personality and role. Our goal this evening is to attempt to identify some of the characteristics an Unsung Hero might possess. By no means do we think we have identified all of the benefits this type of player brings to his team. When the award winners are announced momentarily, you the families, coaches and teammates get to add your personal thoughts to your special Unsung Heroes. What makes a player an "Unsung Hero?"

He comes to play every game. He might be a starter and a steadying force on the field...or he might be a substitute off the bench to add a calculated and needed energy boost.

He may not get stats or his name in the paper, but coaches and teammates know what an important contributor he is. He will do the dirty work---like marking an opponent or sacrificing his body to make a play. Gritty. Team before self. He is a player who consistently steps it up. Reliable.

An Unsung Hero has a passion for the game. He may not necessarily be the most technically skilled player, but he has an uncanny nose for the ball. He always seems to be in the right place at the right time. He has a knack for making his teammates better. He works hard to improve himself and his teammates. He often has the biggest heart and the will to win. Plays tough---plays hurt. Resilient. He wears his emotion on his sleeve.

An Unsung Hero makes his mark every day of the season. He sets the example by practicing hard. He's coachable. He can be counted on to do the little things. He grabs the med kit and water---without being asked to do so. Good role model and mentor to young teammates. He has a good sense of humor to keep everyone loose.

An Unsung Hero is a special player coaches hate to lose to graduation. A player coaches would love to clone. A player whose name brings a smile to his coach's face a couple of years after he graduates.

An Unsung Hero often does not get the attention or the accolades. Coaches come to "expect" their Unsung Hero to do the right thing. Finally, the coaches get to do the right thing tonight: Give the attention and a most deserved award to their "Unsung Hero."

Bergen County Soccer Coaches Association