



KURT BERGEN  
CLASS OF 1992

A 1992 graduate of the Point Pleasant Borough High School, Kurt was a varsity letter winner in soccer and was named to the B-South All-Coaches Team his senior year. He was also a 3 year varsity letter winner in indoor and outdoor track. Upon graduation, Kurt attended Ocean County College, where he played two years of soccer and was a member of Circle K while pursuing an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Kurt continued his education at Richard Stockton College, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice in August of 1999. He also attended the Brick Computer Science Institute, receiving a Certificate in Computer Programming in 2003.

While attending Richard Stockton College in October of 1996, Kurt suffered a spinal cord injury racing bicycles, leaving him paralyzed. Kurt spent two weeks in the hospital and the next 2 ½ months in rehabilitation. In rehab, Kurt had to learn how to

adjust to his new life, living from a wheelchair. The adjustment was tough and took a lot of hard work, but Kurt was determined to get home in time to see his son born in February.

In 2003, Kurt's son, Alexander, showed an interest in playing soccer in the local recreation program. After seeing his son play, Kurt decided he wanted to coach. In August of 2004, Kurt received his "F" License and was on his way with his coaching career. After first coaching in the Point Pleasant Soccer Association, Kurt served as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President from January 2007 to December 2008.

Wanting more of a soccer experience, Kurt approached the Point Pleasant Soccer Club about starting a boy's travel team. He formed the Point Pleasant Freedom in the spring of 2005. He now serves as a Vice President of the PPSC. Kurt also started a new U-8 girl's soccer team in the fall of 2009.

In 2006, Kurt, along with Deb and Scott Conklin, started a program called TOPSoccer. TOPSoccer is the Outreach Program for kids with physical and mental disabilities. The TOPSoccer program, which is part of the Point Pleasant Soccer Association, runs during the fall season. The program was an instant success and continues to grow every year.

Kurt currently works full time in the Point Pleasant School District. He works as a dispatcher in the transportation department and helps maintain databases in the technology department. Kurt really enjoys working in the district and being part of a team that serves the community he lives in.