

Women's History Month



Kim DeGraw-Cole

Few people, if any, have had a better perspective on the evolution of female sports in New Jersey than Kim DeGraw-Cole.

She spent decades involved in athletics, in a career that launched during her days as an athlete at Dover High School and culminating with her service at the NJSIAA, where she joined the staff in 2010 and retired in 2022 as its Chief Compliance Officer.

Kim played field hockey, basketball and softball at Dover, graduating in 1972, which was the same year that Title IX, the federal legislation that granted unprecedented opportunities for female athletes, was signed into law.

She then attended Rutgers University, where she was a part of ground-floor collegiate competition as a member of the softball team.

Upon her graduation in 1976, she landed a teaching and coaching position at Southern Regional High School in Ocean County. She also earned a MA in Sports Administration from The College of New Jersey.

After coaching field hockey, basketball and softball at Southern, she became its athletic director in 1984. In doing so, she became the first woman AD in the history of the Shore Conference, and one of the few to hold the position in the state. During that time, she was also involved with the NJSIAA, serving on the Executive Committee, Controversies Committee, Finance Committee, Program Review Committee, Wrestling Committee and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Upon joining the NJSIAA, she became the third woman to work in a director capacity, following Florence Peragallo and Carol Parsons.



During her time with the NJSIAA, she was a very important part of the organization. Kim handled sports like field hockey, basketball, softball and lacrosse, and played an integral role in the introduction of wrestling as a girls varsity sport. She also handled transfer data and student-athlete eligibility. Kim was also involved with the association's increased use of technology to improve its overall efficiency. In addition to being in charge of transfer and eligibility issues, she set up a waiver system during the COVID period to help student-athletes return to sports if grades were an issue.

She was also the first person appointed to the position of Chief Compliance Officer at the NJSIAA prior to her retirement.

She has received many honors over the years, most notably her 2024 induction into the NJSIAA Hall of Fame.



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