

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Familiar Face Returns To The Catholic League Sidelines

August 20, 2018: Heading into the second week of training camp, *Tom Crossett* feels right at home on the pitch at Bridesburg Recreation Center. After all, he spent years in these parts standing next to his coaching mentor, the venerable *Jerry Brindisi*, helping to lead the *North Catholic Falcons* to four PCL Soccer Championships and a city title.

This time around, Crossett rejoins Brindisi as an assistant coach with the Cahillites of *Roman Catholic* under Head Coach, *Ray DeStephanis*. “There were a couple circumstances that came into play that made Tom really attractive to us” said DeStephanis. With his focus on the development of junior varsity players, Crossett is poised to lend his soccer coaching expertise and player development skills to the second level student-athlete at *Roman Catholic*.

“We found in recent years that our JV squad is dense with varsity level talent... we felt that we owed it to the program to bring in some additional support for *JV Coaches Mike Biddle* and *Mike Rector*” DeStephanis explained. “Both Mikes work demanding full time jobs and soccer season can be taxing on everyone, so when Tom emerged as an option, we wasted very little time in getting him on board.”

Crossett is definitely no stranger to taking teams on deep runs. His last coaching stop as the Varsity Assistant at *Council Rock North* yielded a handful of hardware. Two Suburban One National Conference titles, a state semi-finalist birth and two quarter finals appearances later, Crossett decided it was time to return to the city. “I always had a kinship with the Catholic League and city soccer” he affirms. “After my boys graduated from *Council Rock North*, it felt like the perfect time to reconnect the dots.”

A 1975 graduate of *North Catholic*, Crossett earned his BS in Finance from *Drexel University* and later, an MBA from *Temple University*. His approach to soccer as it pertains to *Roman Catholic* is simple and holistic in nature. He has a firm belief that all three teams must work in concert to achieve positive results program wide. That applies to endeavors both on and off the field of play. Soft spoken by nature, he’s to the point and makes it clear that it’s an obligation to help these young men be successful in their pursuits.

A native of the Juniata Park section of Philadelphia, where he played club ball as a youngster and won a state title with the neighborhood squad, he appreciates the Roman approach. Focusing on the neighborhoods that have historically fed not only Roman, but *North Catholic* as well, has not been lost on him. “I believe *Roman Catholic* emulates what soccer was at North” he says with conviction. “Roman has immersed itself in these neighborhoods and it helps these boys attend and stay in Catholic Schools.” For Crossett, and the rest of the Roman coaching staff, the sum of all these parts equals a perfect game plan for ultimate success.

###