



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, NJ, September 29, 2026—Coach Bridges Records 200th Career Win for Pennington Boys' Soccer

On Saturday, September 26, the Pennington Boys' Soccer program reached a monumental milestone as Head Coach Chad Bridges '96 secured his 200th career victory. The landmark achievement came during his 17th season at the helm, earned through a hard-fought performance against St. Thomas More (CT) at the NXT LVL Showcase in Albany, NY.

Since taking charge of the program in 2010, Bridges has built the team into a national powerhouse while embodying the values of his alma mater. Under his guidance, the program has earned a reputation as one of the premier high school soccer programs in the country, consistently earning spots in the national rankings, including multiple top 10 finishes. The crowning moment of this sustained run came in 2023, when Bridges led the squad to a National Championship, highlighted by a victory over St. Benedict's Prep out of Newark, NJ.

According to Interim Director of Athletics Caitlin Nielsen, this success reflects the countless hours and relationships Bridges has forged with his student-athletes and Pennington's larger athletic community. "We are incredibly proud to celebrate this achievement," said Nielsen, "and grateful for the dedication, heart, and leadership Coach Bridges brings to our school every day!"

Bridges' championship résumé reflects a culture of elite excellence. Over his tenure, he has guided the team to nine Mercer County Tournament titles and four NJISAA Prep A State Championships. His tactical mastery and leadership have earned him widespread acclaim, including being named New Jersey State Coach of the Year twice, in 2012 and again in 2016. He has also been honored on several occasions as both the Area Coach of the Year and Prep Coach of the Year for Mercer County, and in 2017, *The Trentonian* named him Sports Person of the Year for his extraordinary impact on local athletics.

Head of School Bill Hawkey offered his congratulations as well, noting that Bridges' legacy is, "so much more than what can be measured in wins and losses." Hawkey, who also serves as head coach for Pennington's Varsity Girls' Soccer team, went on to praise Bridges as a, "great teacher and coach at heart, a dedicated alumnus, and a great colleague and friend. I'm thrilled for him, his family, the coaching staff, and our soccer program."

Following this weekend's win, the Varsity Boys' Soccer team presented their coach with a signed game ball. Bridges took a moment to thank his players and the entire School community, stating, "Reaching 200 wins is a special milestone, but for me, it's really about the people and memories behind those wins. I've been incredibly fortunate to coach so many amazing student-athletes and to share this journey with my family, assistant coaches, parents, and friends over the years."

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Photo Caption: Coach Chad Bridges celebrates his 200th win for Pennington Soccer.