

The NY Ramblers Soccer Club

by Jim Soriero and Charlie Welch



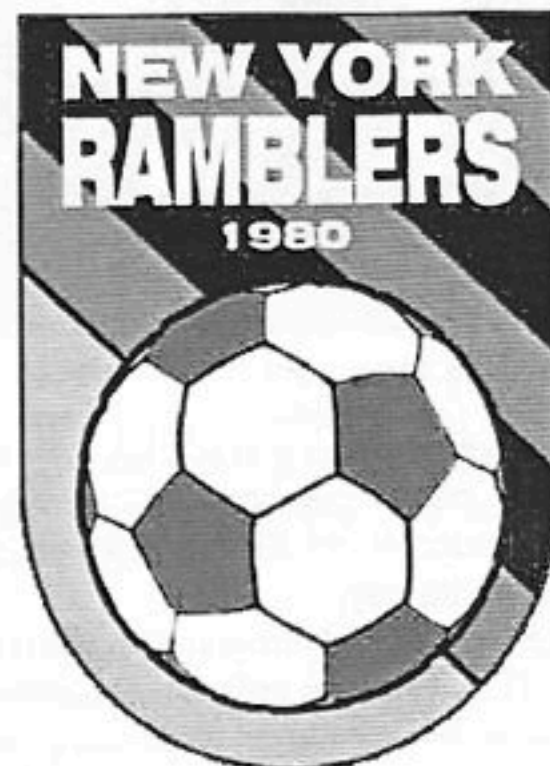
Twenty-five years ago the New York Ramblers Soccer Club was founded by a handful of guys with two things in common: they were gay and had a passion for soccer. The name Ramblers comes from The Rambles, a section of New York's Central Park where they met for their first practice. The area was notorious then, and still is today, for being a gay cruising ground. Since then we have moved our practices to actual soccer fields. Our membership is now over 150 players with approximately 75 active playing members. We hold two weekly practices and have both an indoor and outdoor season. Our club is currently recognized as a not-for-profit organization.

One of the greatest aspects of soccer is that it truly is a unifying sport. Regardless of your ethnicity, age, economic background, sexual orientation or skill level, you can participate. Within the larger world of New York's gay community organizations, the Ramblers is perhaps the most diverse group. On the field, our differences are put aside, and we all become one, unified "team."

Our team has participated in many tournaments during the past twenty-five years. We have had many losses and some exciting wins, but no matter what the final result is, we always walk away with the most important award: a stronger sense of friendship and community. In addition to participating in various tournaments around the world, we host our own annual Indoor Classic and 2006 will mark its 10th anniversary.



25th Anniversary



Many faces have passed through the ranks of the Ramblers. Some have stayed with us and some have moved on and started other gay soccer clubs in other cities. One thing remains for sure, whether you have been with the Ramblers for all twenty-five years or just for a day, you will always be a part of our family. We give great thanks to the original founders, including Bob Whitmore, William Mohs and Leslie Randolph, for their courage and hard work to start what has ultimately become the team that participates and benefit from the IGLFA organization. If you are ever in New York, feel free to stop by one of our practices. For more information on our team, go to

www.NewYorkRamblers.org.