

Alumni

# He Loves Italian Soccer So Much He Bought a Team

Fall 2019



Rocco B. Commisso (left) recently bought the Italian soccer team ACF Fiorentina, shown above visiting Columbia. Photo: Columbia Athletics / Mike McLaughlin

**Rocco B. Commisso '71SEAS, '75BUS**, a lifelong fan of Italian soccer, is the new owner of the Florence-based team ACF Fiorentina. The founder, chairman, and CEO of cable provider Mediacom bought the club in June.

A Columbia men's soccer alumnus, Commisso grew up in Calabria, Italy, and moved to New York when he was twelve. At Columbia he earned All-Ivy honors three times and was captain of the first team to make it to the NCAA tournament.



Columbia Athletics / Mike McLaughlin

Commisso has stayed close to his alma mater. He served as the chairman of Friends of Columbia Soccer from 1978 to 1986, and the home stadium was named in his honor in 2013. He was [inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame](#) in 2016.



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