

Frankie Mozingo Inducted January 22, 2010

If a volunteer is needed in Oklahoma Soccer, the first name on most everyone's lips is Frankie Mozingo. And it's been that way for thirty-two years because Frankie Mozingo believes that adults should volunteer to help youngsters.

When young Frankie left Ola, Arkansas after graduating high school, she entered nursing school in Ft. Smith where she met her future husband, Ivy, when she and her nursing school roommate went on a double date with the Mozingo brothers.

In Tulsa, Frankie began a nursing career at St. Francis Hospital and began her family. Her passion at that time was coaching a game she played in high school – basketball. Her sons Gene and David never played soccer but Marsha, the youngest, drew Frankie into soccer when her newly formed U8 team needed a coach.

Searching for knowledge, Frankie took all the state courses available and then the USSF C class. Thus began a long-term connection to the game of soccer that Frankie has never stepped away from even while facing cancer treatment. When her Broken Arrow Express '68 team won the state championship (the first of 5), Frankie was undergoing chemotherapy. "I believe those girls saved my life," says Mozingo. "I would go to the games, and try to run practice, but they would often tell me to just stay home because we'll run practice. I couldn't stay home so I forced myself to go. I couldn't stay home and feel sorry for myself." Her '80 team players and parents have also been supportive of her during these past years.

At Ivy's suggestion she agreed to cut back on her coaching and playing although she still finds time to hold training sessions for U8 and U10 recreational teams.

In 1995 Frankie was named National Coach of the Year and Olympic Development Coach of the Year in 1996. In 1999 she retired from St. Francis to enjoy her free time – volunteering. "And fishing," she laughs. Frankie loves to fish almost as much as she loves to volunteer. This past year she accepted a coaching position for a team that had no coach. She has kept her referee license current and officiates matches when called upon.

"When I was growing up parents did things for their kids and I think we need to continue that concept," says Frankie. She also thinks that volunteering means not getting paid to do those tasks that make a non-profit organization work. "I was never paid to coach, and I didn't expect to be."

If you visit Indian Springs Soccer Complex in Broken Arrow during the soccer seasons, you'll find Frankie Mozingo. She will be coaching a team, or officiating, or watching her grandchildren play. Dustin Mozingo is a referee and player and Cassie Bruce plays soccer just as her mother Marsha did on the fields at Broken Arrow.

Frankie has certificates from her coaching classes and state championship titles for her walls, but mostly she has fond memories of her teams, the parents, and the members of Broken Arrow Soccer Club. "I stick around because I enjoy the kids and soccer people are good people," says Frankie.