

Brian Harvey

Inducted January 22, 2010

"I'm a soccer parent/coach." Brian Harvey proudly states. Just like many of the parents in Oklahoma soccer. Brian began his soccer at the age of five in Liverpool, England. Harvey played for Sheffield Wednesday as a Junior in school and eventually signed with Chester Soccer Club staying with them until his move to the NASL in 1968. He signed with the Dallas Tornados owned by Lamar

Hunt and stayed with them until 1970. "I moved back to Dallas in 1978 after a stint with the Minnesota Kicks and began teaching at private schools in the Dallas area." Harvey worked with Club America and took a U16 boys' team to the national championship in 1979. He stayed in the Dallas area until 1981 when he moved to the Oklahoma City area to coach the Oklahoma City Slickers professional team.

Brian has established roots in the Oklahoma City area. His wife, Judy, is a teacher at the Learning Tree Center and his daughter Nicole, was a member of the Shockers '82 squad and the Putnam City North High School team.

Brian's professional coaching career led him to Tulsa in 1985 to work with the Tulsa Tornados. "It was a strange situation," he says, "because you had two professional soccer teams in Tulsa for a year. We were in Skelly Stadium and so were the Roughnecks. After the NASL folded, I moved to Oklahoma City and formed the Spirit Soccer Club as a competitive boys' program. We added the girls in about 1988. In 1986 I took the job at Oklahoma City University as boys' coach and been there since." In 1994 Brian began coaching the girls' squad at OCU.

"I think that with youth soccer," says Brian, "the main focus must be on development." Brian doesn't consider winning to be the goal that so many of his parent/coach colleagues get caught up in. "If you are a youth player, you'll play a thousand games in your career. You can't win all those games. You're not going to lose them all either. Bottom line- you've got to enjoy the game. It's more about how to win or lose with class. If the game is fun, they will stay with it."

As with most coaches, Harvey has a few quotes that he lives by. One of his favorites: "Your last game is your last practice." Another one is: "The best coach in the world is the game. The more kids play the game, the more likely they are to figure it out. That little player on the field, he is the decision maker; there is very little a parent or coach can do- the player has got to figure it out."

OCU teams under Brian's coaching have never had a losing season, and Brian's graduation rate is 90 percent. His college players have gone on to be lawyers, doctors, and college coaches and model themselves after the dedication and perseverance of their coach.