

John Timmons

Inducted February 7, 2014

In 1981 John Timmons arrived in Oklahoma from his home state of Texas to continue coaching the two sports he loves: American football and World football (known as soccer to most Oklahomans).

From 1981-1995 he was a member of OSA's state coaching staff and worked with Hall of Fame coaches Tom Iadevaia and Ernie Brown. He spent many of those early years traveling across the state as an ODP coach and building the game of soccer by coaching players, parents, and new coaches.

John and his wife, Jana, along with son Colin and daughter Erin moved to several locations in Oklahoma before settling in Bartlesville. Both children played soccer and now his granddaughter Kinlee is playing as well. Being a native of Denton, John's first connection to soccer came from playing futbolito with foreign college students. He played while he attended the University of North Texas in Denton. Upon graduation from the university, John took up the career that he has held since - teacher. A science teacher and coach, John has taught and coached both football and soccer at Tahlequah, Pryor, Catoosa, Bartlesville, and Jenks. He also coached club soccer at many of those venues. In 1983 he volunteered to do pre-season training for the Tahlequah High School and assist in starting that club program.

Not only has John coached at many locations, he has also coached club teams at Central Tulsa, Tulsa United, Tulsa Thunder, and Washington County (Bartlesville). His first club team in Oklahoma was co-coaching with Gene Jackson in Central Tulsa. John held the USSF National B Coaching license and has influenced numerous coaches and players throughout his career in Oklahoma, including Hall of Fame Coach, Brian Elliott.

John is recognized as a leader in the creation of varsity soccer in Oklahoma in 1985 and was one of the founders of the Oklahoma Soccer Coaches Association. John has been associated with Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association as a soccer advisory member since 1993 and was made a lifetime member of that board in 2010.

"Soccer development in Oklahoma has improved a great deal," says John, "Players, coaches, and officials have continued to evolve, and the future is very bright." His positive outlook on coaching, teaching, and players is infectious. His philosophy reflects that in his statement on teams: "Winning championships is great, and teams that overachieve are special. Observing socio-economic boundaries evaporate in a team sport is a life-changing experience."