

Bill Boevers

August 2, 1933 - October 28, 2000

Inducted January 25, 2003

Bill Boevers, longtime Union Soccer Club coach, referee, and administrator, devoted his life to promoting soccer. Graduating from Union High School, Bill stayed close to the community that he grew up in and involved himself in its activities.

The family legacy of public service continued with Bill's constant attention to the development of the Union Soccer Club. Even though he was a husband, father, and grandfather, soccer was his family too, and he would spend endless hours at his beloved soccer complex. He was the first to arrive every Saturday morning during the season. Brewing coffee for the concession stand and opening the gates were his rituals during the season. When the last car left the complex of an evening, Bill was there to lock the gates. During the week he would mow the fields, clean bathrooms, and do routine maintenance work. During the more than two decades of service to the Union Soccer Club, Bill held every elected office of the club: President • 6 years; 1st Vice President • 2 years; 2nd Vice President • 1 year; Treasurer • 1 year.

Not content to just be around the game, Bill studied coaching and refereeing so as to make himself more knowledgeable about a sport that he never played as a child. His focus was the eight and ten-year-old boys' teams and he would always volunteer to coach that age group. He was looking forward to coaching his grandson in a U6 league before he passed away. Within the past few years, it made Bill proud to have former players bring their children back to the soccer fields where they had played for Coach Bill.

In honor of Bill Boevers, the Union Soccer Club renamed its complex the Bill Boevers Fields and created a science scholarship for a graduating senior soccer player. As a research chemist for Phillips Petroleum, Bill was internationally known for his expertise in oil well cement injection. The scholarship benefits Bill's love for science.

Oklahoma Soccer Association's Youth Board named the U10 Boys' finals match the Tide American Cup as the Bill Boevers Championship. Appropriately, the first two U10 boys' teams to win the trophy received the award at the Bill Boevers Fields. The trophy bears Bill's statement of purpose about the game he loved: "It's for the kids."

Bill Boevers is survived by his wife, Lee; two sons: Matthew and George; three daughters: Stacy Blackwell, Julie Boevers, and Elizabeth Boevers.