

David Yockel

Inducted January 31, 2004

David Yockel has devoted over eighteen years of his life to Oklahoma soccer and has been rewarded for that commitment by numerous players, parents, and administrators who valued his love of the sport.

After a term of service with the US Army and a job in Houston, the Nebraska native moved to Oklahoma along with his wife, Nancy. When their son, Scott, reached 4, David became involved in soccer and began a journey that continues today. From 1984 to 1989, David coached boys' teams at Lone Soccer Club and Northwest Optimist club. Lone asked him to coordinate their first Soccer Fest in 1989, and he oversaw that tournament for two years before moving into the 1st VP of the Lone club, an office he held for 2 years.

David became a referee in 1990, continued coaching his son's competitive team, coached a separate recreational team, and coached Scott's baseball team. In his spare time, David decided to form and lead the first booster club for Putnam City West High School. He was president of that organization for 3 years.

In 1994, David began coaching his now U16 boys' team in Lake Overholser Soccer Association. When Scott no longer wished to play competitive league soccer, David formed a recreational U19 team and coached them to championships in FCSA's Day of Champions and the American Cup.

The ability to organize and administrate caught the attention of both clubs and country officers. By 1996, David was site administrator for FCSA's Day of Champions at Lake Overholser, the FCSA Oklahoma Cup, and the OSA Youth Open. His U19 team captured the American Cup championship for a second year.

Elected president of Lake Overholser Soccer in 1997, David attended his first USYS National Workshop and discovered TOPSoccer, a program for mentally and physically challenged children that provides them the opportunity to play soccer. Upon returning from the USYS Workshop, he began forming TOPSoccer teams in the Norman area and eventually spread the program across the state. His inspiration for this program stemmed from his niece, Kimberly Finney, who always wanted to play soccer but had contracted cerebral palsy early in her life and was confined to a wheelchair.

With his interest in TOPSoccer and recreational development, David ran for the OSA office of 3rd VP of the Youth Board in 1998 and held that office for 3 years. During that period, he oversaw the growth of rural soccer in Oklahoma, raised the awareness of the American Cup as a state championship tournament for recreational teams, and increased the enrollment of TOPSoccer to over 100 players, drawing national recognition.

FCSA selected David as their TOPSoccer representative in 2001. He agreed and served that office for two years as well as again taking on the task of site director for the Oklahoma Cup and Day of Champions.

The Yockel family now includes Scott and his wife, Lauren. Instead of holidays at soccer tournaments, David and Nancy can spend those weekends traveling to visit their son and daughter-in-law in Texas.

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