

Earnest Brown

Inducted January 28, 2005

Earnest Brown is best known to Oklahoma Soccer Association as the state's first head coach. The native Oklahoman's first involvement in the sport came when his son, Blake, announced he wished to play soccer. As with many unsuspecting parents during the sport's early years, Earnest checked the box "helper" and two weeks later he was named coach of a soccer team.

In 1975, Earnest was pursuing his career in automotive repair and teaching at the Pryor Vo-Tech School. His background in education was to serve him well over the next decade. Knowing very little about soccer, Earnest did what many "volunteer" coaches did -he bought a book and a ball and began to teach himself the game.

As a basketball player in high school, it wasn't long before Earnest discovered the similarities of the two sports. Always enthusiastic and positive in his manner, Earnest attracted the attention of several OSA founders who convinced him to sign up for a USSF coaching school in Shawnee in 1977. The course drew only 4 candidates, but Earnest was one of them and he used his training at the course to spread the word about coaching instruction.

In 1978, Earnest and his staff developed the states first coaching instruction curriculum and set about training coaches across the state. By 1980, he and his small staff had trained over 800 coaches across the state in the "F," "E" certificates and "D" license. At one session in Oklahoma City, Earnest trained 145 coaches and it was not uncommon to have over 100 candidates sign up for the course.

Because he believed that the best teachers "show and tell," Earnest attained the USSF "B" license in 1978 in order to develop his own soccer skills and training background. He used those skills in coaching the Broken Arrow Gladiators, the Broken Arrow Knights and playing on an adult team. His youth teams won two state championships during a four-year span. Earnest also coordinated the Oklahoma Select Teams and coached the U19 Select Team in 1984. Assisted by his wife, Sandra, daughters Mendee and Kristi, and son Blake, the Brown's became the states coaching family.

Earnest now uses his education background as Minister of Education at Frink Baptist Church in the McAlester area where he continues his philosophy of "every student can achieve." Earnest's legacy to Oklahoma soccer is seen in nearly every corner of the state. Every parent who signs up to coach his/her child and attends a coaching course owes a debt of gratitude to the vision of Earnest Brown -the coach's coach.