

## J.B. Belzer

Inducted February 02, 2019

Belzer, a native of Edmond, Oklahoma, attended and played soccer at the University of Tulsa for one season before transferring to Oklahoma State University. While at OSU, Belzer served as the head coach of the boys' soccer team at Stillwater High School; he was only 19 years old, barely older than the boys he coached. Upon earning his Bachelor's Degree in Science Education from OSU in 1991, Belzer returned to Edmond Memorial High School, his alma mater, to teach science and coach boys soccer.

From his early years in Oklahoma, as a junior captain, Belzer played in the first sanctioned OSSAA State HS Championship in 1985 losing to Booker T Washington 2-1. After a brief varsity playing experience at the University of Tulsa in 1986, he chose a coaching pathway to fulfill his love of soccer. Ten years later he would return home to lead Edmond Memorial to their first OSSAA State HS Championship, a 1994 defeat of Broken Arrow, 1-0 on a golden goal OT thriller. While coaching and teaching at Edmond Memorial he seized the opportunity to become the Edmond Soccer Club's first part-time, Director of Coaching. While coaching at ESC he had his first opportunity to coach high school aged girls and parlayed that into a girls ODP coaching position for Oklahoma Soccer Association.

Belzer credits his coaching time with OSA, ESC and TU, on the girl's side with providing the experience to be selected for the Regis University Women's Soccer head coaching position, a position he has held for the past 23 years. J. B. credits fellow OSA Hall of Famer Sharon O'Connor (class of 2003) with providing mentorship and guidance to a young aspiring coach.

On top of his coaching duties at Regis, Belzer also serves on the United Soccer Coaches and NCAA II Women's Soccer Committee. From 1998 to 2001 and 2015 to present. Belzer served as the Chair on the NCAA II Midwest/South-Central Regional Rankings Committee and was the National Chair in 2001 and 2016-2017. Belzer holds both a United Soccer Coaches Premier Diploma and a US Soccer National "A" License. Even more, Belzer presently works as a Talent ID Scout and Scout License Instructor for US Soccer. J. B. currently resides in Aurora Colorado, with his wife, Trina, and their sons, Joshua and Sean.

"Be passionate while serving the game. It inspires many, awakens a few, and calls to task those less inclined to serve." -J. B. Belzer