

Suzi Page

Inducted February 6, 2009

Suzi Page exemplifies the "can do" spirit of Oklahoma Soccer. Arriving in Oklahoma with her husband Bob and sons Chris and Patrick, the Overton, Texas native quickly became immersed in a game she had never seen or played. Within a few years she was not only playing the game, but she was coaching it, refereeing it, and administering it. When Chris asked to play soccer, Suzi turned to Bob and pushed him to coach their oldest son. When Patrick wished to play, Suzi decided it was time for her to coach. "There were few women coaches in those days, but Bobby Bryant and Charlie Fox put on seminars and I attended." says Page. She followed those early classes with F and E certificates as well as attending a USSF National C class. Her desire to learn all she could about the game of soccer drove her to attend clinics around the region and nationally. The training paid off and her success at coaching in the Broken Arrow Soccer Club would be phenomenal. Her teams included recreational, Competitive, and Olympic Development squads. Boys or girls' teams didn't matter to Suzi as long as she could coach soccer.

1987 was a banner year for Suzi. OSA named her Girls' Coach of the Year. US Youth Soccer recognized Suzi as both the Region III Girls' Coach of the Year, and as the National Coach of the Year. The National Soccer Coaches Association added her as their Girls' Coach of the Year in 1987 as well. Suzi was selfless helping other coaches by administering the State Select program (predecessor of ODP), working as an ODP staff coach, and as a member of the Coaching Instructor School. She assisted Earnest Brown and the BA Knights in their state championships. Her Zenith Express '78 team was state champions twice and a Regional runner-up.

When not coaching, Suzi played soccer on the BA Kicks (first women's team to be formed in Broken Arrow) for ten years and also played for the GitNGo Gogetters indoor exhibition team that played before the Roughneck matches. As if coaching and playing weren't enough, Suzi added refereeing and administration to her resume. She was one of the original Broken Arrow referees and officiated matches for Broken Arrow throughout her coaching and playing days. As an administrator, Suzi was Green Country's secretary, USYS youth representative, registrar, and office employee.

"I was one of the Broken Arrow representatives to the city on the design of Indian Springs Soccer complex." In 1988, Broken Arrow proclaimed May 10 as "Suzi Page Day" for her service to the club and the city. No longer actively coaching or playing, she looks forward to watching her grandchildren grow up. Chris and his wife Elise live in Rogers, Arkansas and their daughters are Allison and Lauren. Patrick and his wife Lynn live in Palatine, Illinois with Suzanne and Evelyn. Suzi feels her impact on the sport is best stated by a former player who approached her one day and said, "I had so much fun playing for you!" Having fun and enjoying the game is the underlying principle by which Suzi Page has devoted her life to soccer.