

Brian Elliott

Inducted January 27, 2012

Brian Elliott began playing soccer as a nine-year-old in Sedalia, Missouri, when his best friend encouraged him to sign up. Although Brian would travel to Omaha, Nebraska, and play soccer there, it wasn't until he returned to his hometown of Midwest City in 1979 that he began his connection to Oklahoma soccer. Brian touts Aladino Cassar, his coach of the Midwest City Phantoms, as a mentor who guided them to a city championship and to Danny Webb who as Brian says, "Was a father figure through my high school days."

By 1983, Brian was enrolled and playing soccer for Northeastern State University where he was elected team captain and an all-district player. While a student at NSU, he coached a recreational team in Tahlequah and was the high school assistant coach for another of his mentors: John Timmons. After graduating, Brian became head coach at Ponca City High School and began attaining his USSF coaching licenses. In less than ten years, he obtained the USSF National "A" license and had coached at Moore High School as well as working as an ODP staff coach and conducting OSA coaching schools.

In 1991, he returned to NSU as an assistant coach and also served as NSU's interim head coach. "My most memorable event from that time." says Brian. "was winning the District 9 Championship for the first time." On the club level, Brian was coaching the Blackwatch 80's girls' squad to a state championship and still working with the OSA coaching staff and ODP. Following his time at NSU, Brian moved to Tulsa and became head coach for ORU as well as Tulsa Thunder Soccer Club's head coach. He coached the Tulsa Thunder boys' 80 and 84 teams. While at Northeastern, Brian met and married his wife Kathleen and in due time they settled in Bristow, Oklahoma to raise their children: Joshua and Avery. Never far removed from coaching, Brian assisted Timmons with the Jenks High School boys through 2005. In 2008 he was named the head coach for the Union High School girls' program, and he continues in that position today. As an indication of his coaching ability, Brian has been selected All-State coach twice and president of the Oklahoma Soccer Coaches Association.

During the past ten years, Brian has worked to create and develop a soccer program in the Bristow area. He currently coaches Joshua and has done so since the youngest was 4. His daughter, Avery, attends all of her father's camps and joins in on the activities. Not one to shirk his duties, Brian is also the club's president and head coach. A firm believer in soccer, Brian has devoted endless hours of his time without compensation to grow the game of soccer in Oklahoma. His philosophy is summed up by his statement: "Soccer is a game to be played to have fun and compete. It's not striving to win; it's striving to get better every day because every emotion you feel in soccer you will feel in life."