

Bright Dike

Inducted March 12, 2022

Bright Dike has represented Oklahoma Soccer Association with the utmost professionalism since gracing the Edmond Soccer club as a 7-year-old youth. Currently residing in Washington DC where he works as a computer engineer. Bright stays very close to the game, most noticeably mentoring his younger brother Daryl and his younger sisters in many ways. Bright is the oldest child of Vincent and Jacinta Dike and was born February 2, 1987. He has four younger siblings. Bright graduated from Edmond North High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society. Bright is also a graduate from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

Bright's soccer highlights could fill volumes; some of the highlights are;

Edmond North High School

- 4 Varsity letters in soccer.
- 2 Varsity letters in track.
- 3 All-City and All Conference soccer player, named MVP.
- All-City player 2004.
- State Champion, scoring a hat-trick in final in Junior year
- Scored in 9 consecutive matches in one season

University of Notre Dame

- Named College Soccer News 100 Freshman to watch.
- Four-time monogram recipient.
- Opened the season with the first hat trick of his career as he netted three goals in a 5-0 win over Michigan
- 27 goals from 38 starts.
- Finished his Irish career with 66 points on 27 goals and 12 assists
- 2008 and 2009 First team all-Big East honors.
- 2009 Big East Offensive Player of the Year.

Professional Career

- 2010 Drafted in the first round (12th overall) in the 2010 MLS SuperDraft by the Columbus Crew.
- April 7, 2010 signed with Portland Timbers.
- 27 goals in 60 games in all competitions in first 3 professional seasons.
- 2013 traded to Toronto FC. Scored his first goal for Toronto on 9/28/2013 which was the game winner.
- In 2016 played in Russian Premier League for FC Amkar Perm
- 2017 signed with Pahang FA in the Malaysia Super League, scoring in his debut game as well as the game after.

International Career

- November of 2012 Called up to the Nigerian National Team
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- February 2014. suffered a torn Achilles during practice, forcing him out of the running for playing in the World Cup in Brazil for Nigeria under Coach Stephen Keshi who had confirmed he would have been in the team.
- Scored goals against Italy and a Catalonia side that featured Puyol, Xavi, Pique, and Busquets

Of course, a career like Bright has enjoyed doesn't happen alone. Dike is grateful and indebted to the many people who have contributed to his success both on and off the field. Some of the amazing coaches that were really influential in his development and career were Bobby Clark, Steven Cargill, Billy Martin, and Brian Harvey.

Final thoughts ... "I've played soccer since I could walk. I remember when I was in-kindergarten and filled out a paper for the top 3 jobs of what I wanted to be when I grew up. Most kids said things like doctor or nurse. I put professional soccer player for all three slots. It's a passion that I always had and will never let go of. I am the oldest of 5 kids. My sister Courtney played in the World Cup for Nigeria. My Brother Daryl plays in England and also plays for the US Men's National team. I was blessed to play professional soccer for 9 years. My advice to future generations is to keep learning in every training session and every game. Enjoy playing because your professional career goes by so quickly."