

## Clay Randolph

Inducted January 28, 2011

Although Wichita Falls, Texas native Clay Randolph saw his first soccer game in Germany in 1964, it wasn't until son Russell came home from kindergarten in Moore, Oklahoma and announced that he was going to play soccer that Clay became enthralled with a sport he had seen but a few times. Clay and Judy Randolph met while in Wichita falls and their 45-year marriage is filled with soccer involvement in Oklahoma. Both eventually played adult soccer, coached, and became volunteers in the Moore Soccer Club.

After Russell's announcement, Clay began coaching his son's team in 1977 and that led to years of coach training, refereeing, and club administration. Daughter Jennifer joined the Randolph family's soccer enthusiasm as a player on club and high school teams. Russell followed his father's footsteps and after playing for Moore and Westmoore, became a high school coach first at Westmoore and now at Mustang High School.

Clay spent nearly thirty years coaching in Moore Soccer Club (now South Lakes Soccer Club) and during that time obtained both USSF National C and B coaching licenses. With an advanced coaching license. Clay was soon coaching in the Frontier Country classic league and led teams to championships. He also became a state coaching instructor and conducted coaching clinics throughout western and southern Oklahoma. When high school soccer became a varsity sport, Clay coached the Moore boys' team.

Oklahoma Soccer utilized Clay's expertise and named him head coach for the U16 Select team (now called ODP) in 1988. Oklahoma Baptist University contacted Clay to coach their team and from 1989-1990 he was the Bison coach.

Early on, Clay knew he would have to play the game to better understand it and so he and Judy signed up to play adult soccer. Clay played for the Zebra Soccer team and the Moore Football Club (he also coached them). According to Clay, "Every soccer match I coached or played - every one was a blast!"

As if Clay didn't have enough to do while maintaining his position as a professor at Oklahoma City Community College, he agreed to serve as Moore's president from 1979-80, their head coach, their Referee Coordinator and Instructor, and as an Age Commissioner. After demonstrating his ability as an administrator, FCSA named him chair of their Rules Committee and he revised the rulebook. In 1980-81 Clay served as FCSA president.

Clay now focuses on his grandchildren and their games. Rebecca, South Lake Cosmos 97 girls, Parker Clay, South Lakes Cosmos 01 boys, and River, South Lakes U6 Mustangs. Jennifer's daughter, Jada, does karate and plays ice hockey in Arizona.

Clay's most proud of the number of his players who became coaches. "We need more training for the coaches of younger teams." says Clay. When he was on the OSA coaching staff he felt he was able to influence new coaches and saw the importance of coach training.

Although retired from coaching and teaching, Clay remains involved in soccer by watching English Premier League, high school, college, and his grandchildren's games. "Learn to play the game well as an individual and as a teammate." says Clay. "Then you will learn to love the freedom and pleasure soccer can give you."