

Geron McGinnis

Inducted February 3, 2017

Geron grew up in an Air Force family that relocated often. He started life in Waco, Texas. After graduating from The University of Oklahoma and serving four years in the Navy Geron is proud to call Oklahoma home. He has two daughters, Molly, who is a nurse at St. John's Tulsa, played soccer throughout her youth, was named OSA Youth Referee of the year in 2003 and played college soccer at Oklahoma City University. Jamie, a Surgery Tech at Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City, also played youth soccer and went on to play collegiately with her sister at Oklahoma City University.

Geron first became involved in the game of soccer when his daughter Molly began playing U6 in the fall of 1990 and he never looked back. By 1994 he was hooked and volunteered to coach Molly's team. Geron has gone on to coach while holding many Broken Arrow Soccer Club offices such as Club Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Games and Discipline Committee, Small Sided Initiative Committee member, Field Day Coordinator, British Soccer Camps Coordinator, Director BASC US Program, and BASC Kickstart 4U Program Director.

Since the mid-1990s Geron has coached multiple teams for games and practice. Some teams have "reluctant coaches" that facilitate games while Geron coaches' practice. His assistant coaches often continue coaching the teams after they no longer practice with Geron. Typically, Geron has 65-100 players he coaches per season. With these many kids he always gets the parents to help with all facets of the teams. In the Fall of 2016, he had 10U, 8U, and 6U boys' teams as well as the 4U program.

With his impressive and extensive history on the administrative side Geron believes his greatest contribution to the game of soccer has been "teaching lots of children that soccer is something everyone can do and that you can have fun doing it." He is also known at BASC as a coach mentor, recognizing how important it is to continually bring new coaches into the game. When asked who were his soccer mentors, he is quick to give accolades to Suzi Page (inducted to the OSA HOF 2009), Keith Ash (inducted to the OSA HOP 2013) and Mike Vincent (with British Soccer).

Recalling memorable events from his soccer Geron pauses remembering the multitude of events, then he recalls standing on stage in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, at the U.S. Youth annual workshop, being recognized on stage as the Region III Boys Recreational Coach of the Year and wondering "how did this happen?" Another favorite memory was "under 5 at the end of the first session, where there is a parent out there for every child, I had for the ending activity that the kids kicked the ball through their parents' legs, then crawl through their parents' legs, then go to the next parent and do the same thing. Then I had the parents do the same thing, but they had to do it only once through their child's legs. The looks on the parents and children's faces were priceless. I yelled Go and the laughter and giggling that broke out was wonderful.

Through the years immersed in the development of soccer in Oklahoma. Geron has developed the philosophy of "Make it fun! Everyone, especially parents, can contribute in some way." He also sees getting people to help as the biggest obstacle he has had to overcome, and one of biggest successes. He encourages adults to get involved... "a little time goes a long way if there are others that help out too."