

## Keith Eddy

Inducted January 28, 2011

For most Oklahomans, the name Keith Eddy is synonymous with Tulsa Soccer Club -the organization he founded to promote soccer development in Oklahoma. But the Barrow-in Furness, England native was an English footballer long before coming to the United States to play for the New York Cosmos or manage the Toronto Blizzard of the North American Soccer League.

At age 8, Keith began playing and by 17 was playing professionally. From 1962 to 1966, Keith played for Barrow, then spent six years from 1966 to 1972 with Watford appearing in 240 matches. In 1972, he was promoted to Sheffield United for the highest transfer fee paid by either club at the time and appeared in 114 matches before leaving in 1976 to become a member of the New York Cosmos. In every team he played for, he was named captain. Keith, who was selected captain, played in 30 matches for the Cosmos alongside teammates Pele, Beckenbauer, and Chinaglia. A defensive star during his career, he was a goal scorer too and put 9 balls in the net for the Cosmos. With his wife, Jacqueline whom he met while in high school, and daughters Nicola and Claire. Keith left the Cosmos after the 1977 season but not before he was selected as an NASL All-Star player. The Eddy's settled in Toronto through 1981, but when Keith visited Tulsa in 1982 to study a business venture, he never left. Ten years later, Keith founded the Tulsa Soccer Club, beginning with only four teams. Since then, the club has grown to include more than 30 elite teams and under his tutelage as Director of Coaching, produced numerous scholarship players at the collegiate level and state championships.

The impact of Keith's organization influenced clubs across the state as they began to pattern themselves after TSC. Among Keith's concepts was to create a tournament designed to showcase the talent of Oklahoma soccer players. The TSC Sam Shannon Challenge Cup and showcase kicked off in 2005 drawing teams from across the country to display their talent to college coaches. Another Keith Eddy concept was a golf tournament. The Don Figge Golf tournament raises money for the Tulsa Soccer foundation which then distributes scholarships to TSC players with financial needs.

Since Keith Eddy arrived in Tulsa in 1982, the development of highly competitive soccer players, clubs, and coaches has shown steady growth. The accolades for Keith and his vision bring awareness of Oklahoma's place in the national soccer community. Just a glimpse of the accomplishments during his tenure includes 70% of his seniors attending college on some form of financial scholarship; seven players named to the US National Team(s) Pool(s); and more Parade High School All-Americans than any other club in Oklahoma.

Since retiring as TSC's Director of Coaching, Keith has faced and overcome a truly frightening adversary-cancer. Having completed his treatments, he is now enjoying traveling and visiting family and 5 grandchildren; Katie and Hailey Hooper; Donovan, Drake and Miles Daubert. But for Keith Eddy, his most satisfying accomplishment is the growth of youth soccer in Oklahoma.