

Larry Gullette

Inducted March 12, 2022

Larry's name is synonymous with Oklahoma Soccer. Larry has worn many diverse hats since his initial indoctrination into the world of soccer. He has been a player, administrator, referee, and referee assignor. In addition, he has been an advocate for soccer by writing articles for both the OSA's newspaper, Smoke Signals, and The Tulsa World.

Gullette's soccer talents were identified by fellow Hall of Famer, Wes Jones (inducted 2020). Wes saw Larry playing basketball and thought he would make a good soccer goalie. Wes put him in the south end zone of what is now the Case Soccer Complex on the ORU campus.... And from there he started taking shots and as they say, the rest is history. In addition to Wes, Larry would include, Ileene Cypert-Kelly, and Dale Deuvall (Hall of Fame 2020) as mentors.

Larry's soccer highlights include:

Player:

- Played 3 years at Northeastern State
- Played on the original NEOASA All State Team ('81-'82).
- Goalie in the NEOASA league (16 years).
- Played in 3 consecutive Region III Championship games.
- State Championship record was 8 wins out of 8 attempts.

Referee:

- Refereed 23 professional games.
- USSF State Level Referee (25 years).
- College Referee (23 years).
- High School Referee (31 years).
- Participated in Regionals (3 years).
- Referees over 4,000 games.
- Worked the final in the first coed Adult National Tournament (1999).
- Only person to referee and play in all 33 Socktoberfest's.

Larry will tell you his greatest contribution to the game is "having a kind heart and listening ear while taking on the responsibility I've been told is the "second most powerful position on the planet next to playing God." You do test a man's character by giving him power. The nicest people I meet in the real world now are players that stopped playing 2-5 years ago. They seek me out and start conversations with me. Some of them still call me "sir."

Larry's advice for future soccer generations? Stay involved! He went from 205 pounds in his 30's as a goalkeeper to 192 pounds in his 60's because he had to learn to run long distances and work on his endurance.