

Marypat Bell

Inducted January 28, 2005

Marypat Bell may hold the record for longest service to Oklahoma Soccer Association among all its members. Since 1975 when her oldest daughter Jennifer began playing for South Tulsa Soccer Club until today when her grandson Greyson plays U6 Soccer, Marypat has been involved in administering the game. A native of Billings, Montana, Marypat arrived in Tulsa and graduated from Bishop Kelley High School. She attended Benedictine College for one year and saw her first soccer match there. Returning to Oklahoma, she enrolled at OU and graduated with a major in political science and history. She returned to college after her younger children Gretchen, Stephen, and L'mily, reached school age and completed her work on a Masters Degree at TU in Special Education.

In between, Marypat devoted her life to soccer in Oklahoma. Working with Harriett Peacher and coaching the Eliot Green Hornets for two years. Marypat learned that coaching was not her forte and when Harriet asked her to become registrar for South Tulsa, Marypat agreed. Soon she was elected Secretary of Green Country and began her climb through the administrative ranks of OSA.

Marypat moved into the secretary's office and eventually completed a term as GCSA president. When Tom Iadevaia approached her to run for the chairmanship of OSA, Marypat agreed and in 1984 she became OSA's sixth Executive Board Chairman a position she held until 1987. Following her election loss, she began her involvement with the adult division of OSA that led to her election as treasurer of Region III of the United States Adult Soccer Association. She returned to the Chairmanship of OSA from 1987 to 1996, becoming the longest serving Chair in OSA history.

During the 1980's, Marypat was highly involved in the selection of Tulsa as a site for the United States Youth Soccer Association's regionals. Tulsa hosted the 1982 regional tournament and Marypat co-chaired them when they returned in 1989. She also worked with the Tulsa Parks Department and other sports organizations to create the Westbank Soccer Complex that would eliminate many of the conflicts between youth baseball and soccer teams in the Tulsa area.

In 1996, USASA elected her to Deputy Director of Region III, a position she still holds. She was elected to the United States Soccer Federation's Board of Directors representing the adults and has been a member and chair of the USSF's Rules Committee for several years.

Her activities now include not only Greyson, but also Jennifer's daughter, Delanie and Gretchen and Chris Clark's son Ford. Stephen is single and living in Casper, Wyoming. Emily and Jeff Zachary live in Tulsa with Marypat's granddog Max, and grandcat Maddie. Traveling, reading, bridge, family, and friends fill her spare time. Marypat presently teaches Government and History at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa, where she is the senior class sponsor. She continues to use her thirty years of soccer administrative experience to the benefit of Oklahoma Soccer Association.