

Russell Stauroskey

August 20, 1937 – August 3, 2002

Russell Stauroskey began his long commitment to soccer in Oklahoma when he first registered as a referee in 1974. A lifelong athlete, Russell approached soccer officiating with the same enthusiasm he demonstrated when playing basketball and golf.

East Tulsa Soccer Club was Russell's home base as an official for many years. Through his allegiance to the club, Russell made many lifelong friends and acquaintances who also officiated and/or coached. When he was not refereeing, Russell would be on the touchline assisting his wife Anne as she coached. Within a few years he achieved the State referee badge and became a mainstay at tournaments at his home club and across the state.

Russell was the first Oklahoma referee to run the center at a United States Youth Soccer Association national match. In 1987 he drew the U19 boys match at the USYSA National Tournament and in 1989 he drew the U16 boys center. To assist his club and development of referees, Russell became an Assessor in 1981. By 1987, he was a State Assessor and spent time alternating between assessing referees and officiating his own matches. His ever-present professionalism was evident whether he was in the center of the field or on the touchline assessing.

When high school soccer became a varsity sport in 1985, Russell was one of the first to volunteer to officiate matches. He was among the organizers of Oklahoma's chapter of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association that provides referees for college games. As the college and high school games tripled in number, Russell was instrumental in providing leadership and insight into the officiating of those matches

During the 1980's, Russell was drawn to the North American Soccer League's indoor program. The Tulsa Roughnecks played their matches at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Pavilion and Russell was either a referee or assessor of officials.

Russell continued to support the development of soccer officials and the game itself until the last. He attended the 2002 State Finals as an assessor and provided many young referees with his valuable insight into the art of refereeing.

Russell's surviving family includes wife, Anne; son: Jason; daughters: Jill Roy and Jamie Martin.