

Brian Crookham

Inducted February 2, 2019

Brian has come a long way from his soccer roots as a player at Jenks Soccer Club and Jenks High School. Brian can currently be found in Denver, Colorado working for the MLS team the Colorado Rapids as the Senior Director of Soccer Development/USL General Manager. Like many in the area, he was strongly influenced by the addition of the Tulsa Roughnecks to the local soccer scene in the late 1970s. He credits this influence with the importance he places on the role the Colorado Rapids play in their community. He also credits the Oklahoma soccer community and several of its key members for providing him the opportunity to advance in the sport and represent his home state all over the world. Brian discovered his passion for coaching when volunteering to help coach his younger sister's team while recovering from a knee injury in high school.

Brian attended the University of Oklahoma where he played and coached in the club program then transferred to USAO where he graduated with a degree in Natural Science. He is married to Michelle, a Deer Creek, Oklahoma native. The couple has 3 children, 16-year-old Connor and 13-year-old twins Beth and Sean.

Crookham is a USSF A licensed coach, and his resume is long and varied, below is just a sample of some of the positions he's held and the contributions Brian has made to the beautiful game.

- 1988-89 Norman Soccer Club, Coach
- 1990 Moore High School, JV Coach
- 1991 Moore High School, Girl's Head Soccer Coach
- 1992 - 95 Moore High School, Boy's Head Soccer Coach
- 1990 Oklahoma Soccer Association Instructional Staff
- 1990 Oklahoma Soccer Association ODP Staff
- 1990 Moore Soccer Club (now Southlake's SC) Head Coach
- 1994 Commendation by Oklahoma Governor David Walters for his contributions to youth sports
- 1995 - 2004 Metropolitan State College, Denver. Head Men's Soccer Coach and Assistant Athletic Director
- 2004 Colorado Youth Soccer, Assistant Technical Director
- 2004 - Present TV Analyst for Colorado Rapids on Altitude Sports Entertainment Network, also has worked college and pro games for Fox Sports Network, Mountain West Conference Network, CHS College Sports and ESPN3.

- 2007-Present Colorado Rapids, Senior Director of Soccer Development/ USL General Manager; Brian joined the Rapids staff full-time in May of 2007. As Sr. Director of Soccer Development and USL General Manager, he is responsible for all of the club's programming related to player development. Crookham serves as the General Manager of the club's affiliate Switchbacks FC (USL Championship) and has direct oversight of the academy and the Rapids Adidas Alliance programming. He also serves as the primary contact for the club's international partnerships.

Brians, philosophy toward the game? “Clearly define the objective of your work and ensure every decision you make puts you closer to achieving the objective. If the objective of your work is player development, the player must be the driver of each decision.