

Joe-Max Moore

Inducted January 27, 2006

Joe-Max Moore, Oklahoma's first U.S. National Team player, grew up in Tulsa hanging around the Tulsa Roughnecks of the North American Soccer League and playing for Milan Dovedan, who influenced me most as a coach, says Joe-Max. Because his father, Carl, owned the Roughnecks, Joe-Max's early years were spent with international players from the NASL at his Tulsa home until the family moved to Irvine, California when he was 14.

While in California, Joe-Max attended Irvine High School and was a scholarship player at UCLA. In 1992, he scored a bending free kick (a skill he would be noted for) against Italy in the Summer Olympics and began a decade of appearances with the United States Men's National Team. In 1993 he led the USA in scoring with 8 goals, the most ever by a US player, and in the 95 Copa America he converted his penalty kick in a shootout win over Mexico.

Joe-Max scored 4 goals for the US in 1996 in qualifying play for the 98 World Cup and by the 2002 World Cup he had played in two of the USA's first three World Cup appearances in nearly 30 years. On the international stage, Joe-Max left the US in 1994 to pursue opportunities overseas, joining FC Saarbruecken in Germany where he scored a club-best 13 goals in just 25 games. Returning home in 1996, Joe-Max joined the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer and through 1999 was the club's all-time leading scorer and named MVP in 1996.

In 2000, Joe-Max signed with Everton in the English Premier League and scored 8 goals in his first season. During his three years with the Everton squad, Joe-Max played in two FA Cup and scored goals in back-to-back matches against Derby County and Leeds United. Rejoining the Revolution in 2003, Joe-Max played through the 2004 season and scored 41 career goals with 35 assists, a Revolution record. In January 2005, Joe-Max announced his retirement from professional soccer. His 24 goals for the US ranked him third in national history at the time of his retirement.

The future holds possibilities of coaching and continued charity work for the former Oklahoman who remains involved with Special Olympics. Joe-Max enjoys his retirement at home in Florida with his wife, Martha, and his four-year-old son, Tommy, who is enjoying the benefits of a World Cup veteran as a coach.