

Keith Ash

Inducted February 2, 2013

"My first volunteer position was as a coach," says Keith. When he and his wife, Dana got involved in soccer it was due to daughter Courtney signing up to play. "That was 1993 and I've been involved ever since." Courtney (who played for her dad through the U19 group in 2004) and Ashley (who played through the U19's until 2002) kept Keith busy with soccer.

Keith never played the game when growing up in his hometown of Catoosa. "The only soccer I knew was watching Soccer Made in Germany on television and starting in 1977 attending all the Tulsa Roughnecks games."

Keith's success as a recreational coach spans twenty years now and during that time, he has coached girl's teams to 7 state finals and 3 championships. Currently he is coaching a U13 boys' team in Broken Arrow. Keith also utilized the US Youth coach training by attaining his F and E coaching licenses. In 2008 he was named OSA's Recreational Coach of the Year for Girls.

As a coach, Keith believes that the players need to play the game for the fun that it brings to them. Everything else will take care of itself. But he is not content to coach and leave the tasks of running a club to others; instead, he has volunteered for nearly every club office in Broken Arrow and has served Green Country Soccer Association as their president from 2008 to 2012. For his many years of service, he was selected as US Youth Soccer's Region III Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and OSA's Volunteer of the Year as well. Keith was the first Oklahoman to win the Volunteer of the Year award at the regional level.

Currently, Keith is Broken Arrow's club president (his second time in the office) and a member of the tournament committee and other committees. In the community, he has been a member of the Broken Arrow Elks Soccer Shoot Committee for two years and is now their chairman.

When US Youth awarded Broken Arrow the President's Cup Regional Tournament in 2010, it was Keith who was in charge of field preparations and on-site communication. At the state level, he has been representing GCSA on the OSA by-laws committee.

Keith attributes his willingness to serve to his parents. "It was how I was raised," says Keith. "We were expected to help our neighbors if they needed a yard mowed or some task completed. When I finished helping others, it made me feel good."

With his 20 years of service to Broken Arrow Soccer Club and to Oklahoma Soccer, Keith's comment concerning his volunteer status explains his dedication: "I have been willing to help out in all areas of the game and have done about everything I have been asked to do."