

Paul Scott

Inducted February 3, 2017

Paul was born in Lawrence, Kansas. His family moved to Tulsa in the mid-seventies. He is a graduate of Tulsa Edison High School and Langston University. Paul's children, Alex and Nik were both soccer players. Nik's U12 team won a State Championship. Nik in continuing to immerse himself in soccer, currently pursuing a degree at the University of Oklahoma with hopes of working in the management of soccer upon graduation.

It has been said that "Cream doesn't rise to the top: it works its way up." Well, when speaking of Paul Scott's career, we can certainly say the same. In the late 1970s Paul began refereeing in the Tulsa area to earn a few extra dollars and soon realized that there was an opportunity to make a career out of the game. Forty years later ... he has indeed made an extraordinary career of it. His accomplishments and experiences encompass everything from the grass roots level of refereeing up to the international level. His most recent accolade was being named CONCACAF Manager of Refereeing. An abbreviated list of his achievements includes:

Referee Experience

- CONCACAF Manager of Refereeing Aug 2015 - Present
- 2014/16 Attendee FIFA Futuro Instructor Course
- MLS Cup Championship 2013
- MLS 2013 All-Star Match Official
- US Open Cup Official 2010
- 1996 Official in the inaugural year of the MLS
- 1993 US Soccer National referee
- 1980 Joined US Soccer National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Assoc ., attaining national referee grade.
- 1978 Joined US Soccer as a referee
- Providing instruction throughout the country

Referee Administrative

- NPSL Director of Officials 2015 - Present
- Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Referee Coordinator 2016- Present
- Professional Referee 1996-2015
- PRO Assessor for MLS and USL-PRO
- US Soccer National Instructor
- US Soccer Local Area Coordinator for Utah and Colorado 2014-2015

- US Soccer National Assessor
- Past USYSA Region 3 Mentor Program Manager
- Past OSA SRA, SYRA, Youth Board 3rd VP
- Past President Eastern Oklahoma Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (EOISOA)
- Past EOISOA VP and Secretary
- 2014 MLS AR of the Year
- NCAA Division 1 and 2 Finals Tournament Official
- NAIA Finals Tournament Official
- OSA Referee of the Year

With a career as vast as Paul's, you can imagine the stories he has to tell! In an interview for PRO he recalls one such moment, "Another highlight was being on David Beckham's first game with the Galaxy versus Chelsea. I was AR1 and there was a mob of reporters along the sideline. The next morning as I sat down for my flight home I noticed my seat-mate reading the LA Times and there on the front page a picture of me and Beckham. I was shocked and immediately pointed to the photo and said to the guy, 'Hey that's me! I made the front page and didn't even commit a crime!' Another memorable moment was doing the 2013 MLS Cup Final and the All-Star game, Scott recalls. "Being the first to have done both in the same season and experiencing the mental toughness required to this double."

As with any great career there are many people behind the scenes supporting and encouraging growth. Paul's grateful for all who have supported him along the way, particularly his parents for helping him with the obstacles that being a single parent presents. Other crucial referee mentors were Peter Aradi, Robert Scott, Russell Staurovsky, Richard Brook, Manny Ortiz Sr., Rill Scholfield and Frank Jewell.

Reflecting back on his MLS career, in humbleness, Paul is quoted as saying, "I'm just a ref that did my job to be prepared for each match to the best of my abilities. OFF the field, my only goal was to be a role model to the newer referees to live what it means to be a professional." Advice for upcoming soccer generations? Paul encourages all to embrace the passion and joy of this game. Find a way to participate as a fan, player, ref, owner, and/or administrator. And then work at passing your passion on to the next generation."