

Peter Koskovich

Inducted February 5, 2016

Peter Koskovich, who was from Greendale, Wisconsin, met his wife, TJ through the company they both worked for- American Airlines, but she was in Dallas and he worked in Raleigh. TJ would be looking for lost cargo as a trace agent for AA, and he was one of the cities she would call looking for lost cargo, but he could never find it. They met and went to a baseball game in Dallas. It has been a ride for them as they have lived in and built three homes together for their family and in the process raised three outstanding children, Zackary, Viktoria (Tiki), and Makayla. Peter isn't sure how they have survived all of life's adventures and remained involved in soccer as well, but he is thankful for TJ and his family, and for his wife's patience and understanding for all these years.

Peter's occupation is Sales Engineering with Level 3 Communications, but he is also a dedicated soccer volunteer who has served the beautiful game in a variety of roles. He has coached all three of his children in soccer, and coached at a variety of levels: Recreational, Rec+/Select, Academy, and Competitive. He, like many, started out as a volunteer coach for his son Zak's team, and gladly embraced the role. Peter has also not only been a Head Coach, Tournament Director, Secretary, Vice President, but also President, and he also is currently in his 4th year as Club president for the Owasso Soccer Club. Over the years Peter has refereed both competitive and recreational games as well as games in the adult Hispanic league. He has trained U5 and U6, also TOPSoccer, mowed acres, been garbage collection many, many weekends, cleaned restrooms too many times to recall; hung countless nets on goals; and collected many corner flags.

Peter has had several memorable events from his soccer life from watching his two older children play high school and college soccer to the special needs (TOPSoccer) players practicing and playing the game! He is particularly fond of seeing smiling faces on a player (any day) and has been able to support local charities through the clubs -Small sided tournament held every summer for the past nine years. There are two players that will always stand out for Peter who have influenced him and helped to make him a better person: Haley Palmer who passed away at age 12 to CF after raising more than \$115 thousand while fighting to breathe easy, and Aurora 'Bella' Leddy who battled cancer bravely. He remembers watching a girl cry after scoring her first and only goal in soccer. She had played since she was 5 years old, and at 17 years old, she scored on her final and last game of her youth soccer career. He looks back fondly at coaching many amazing players and has built friendships with their families that will last a lifetime.

While Peter has enjoyed soccer, it's not always been easy. He has had to overcome such obstacles as working with people that are not in the sport for the right reason and knowing how to deal with them to find a workable solution, if possible, as well as educate parents about teamwork- the activity of the sport and not just scoring goals. He also recognized that a club cannot be successful without a solid and dedicated group focused on clear goals and objectives, and he is grateful and blessed to work with an awesome team of dedicated and fun individuals on the OSC board and staff. There are many people that have provided Peter with input and guidance through the years and he hopes he was able to learn and convey these lessons to improve the sport of soccer to many players and parents. He feels he has been

able to contribute to the game by being able to get youth athletes involved in soccer for fitness, team building, learning the game, believing in themselves, and supporting TOPSoccer!

He feels the future of soccer in Oklahoma is investing in player development through better coaching and education. "We all have a clear role and that is to provide players and coaches the best environment to excel in the sport. Consistently delivering a solid and positive influence to our youth to help create players for life as well as give back what they have learned to others." His advice to upcoming soccer generations is to do one's best to be realistic and set positive goals. He says, "Balance your life with more than just the sport. Look at what you want the end result to look like and then deliver quality over quantity. Give back as you grow older and help as much as you can afford, and if it makes you happy, keep giving, it's contagious."