Steve Earle

Inducted January 22, 2010

Sieve Earle's journey to Oklahoma for the Feltham, Middlesex native began with his playing days for various school teams and eventually signing with Fulham. Finishing his English Premier days with Leicester City after playing more than 425 matches. Steve came to the United States to play in the North American Soccer League for Detroit. After a year with Detroit, Steve joined the Tulsa Roughnecks and eventually became an assistant coach with Terry Hennessey. “The progression to coaching was a natural one for me,” says Earle. He earned his English Football Association badge early and often coached school age teams in the afternoons while he was a professional player. Steve was with the Roughnecks when they won the 1983 NASL Soccer Bowl and stayed in Tulsa to coach the indoor team. With his professional experience and insight into the game, Steve began to share that knowledge with young players. He began putting on camps and coaching teams at the club level. He continues to coach today with the Tulsa Soccer Club and works with the Olympic Development Program in OSA as a scout identifying up and coming talent.

Referees respect Steves’ knowledge of the game, and many came to appreciate his humor from the touchlines. With his infamous pith helmet, Steve patrols the area using motivational strategies to boost his team’s play. One example of this technique came with an ODP team trailing South Texas 3-0 at the half. Steve told the team “I don’t mind losing a match but I do mind losing because you didn’t show up- so far, no one has shown up.” The team went out and tied the match in the second half.

The Earle family of wife Jackie and sons’ Steve Jr and Jamie remain close to Tulsa area and the Oklahoma soccer scene. Jackie commented that “Steve is proudest of placing over 300 young men on scholarships over the past 25 years.”

Steve’s history of coaching includes coaching his Tulsa Pride Club for 14 years as well as winning 50 state championships. During his career he has also taken Oklahoma teams to numerous regional competitions and the national championship with his Tulsa Pride team in 1999.

Steve’s philosophy for coaching soccer combines hard work, dedication, and education. “Education, whether high school, technical school, or college, is the most important means to obtaining one’s goals. Soccer is a powerful tool in reaching those goals” he says.