

Joseph Rosul

Mr. Joseph Rosul, better known as “Papa Joe” too many in the soccer community, has been involved with soccer his whole life. His involvement began as a player and developed into an organizer, coach, administrator, referee, instructor, assessor and mentor.

As a young boy in Ukraine, he learned, and fell in love with the sport. He came to Cleveland in 1949 and became a founding father and member of the Ukrainian American Soccer Club – Lviv. As a player in 1951, his team won the Ohio Senior championship.

In 1963, Papa Joe, help organize the first Ukrainian American Junior program, the first of two junior teams in the Cleveland area. By 1974, his teams had won 6 consecutive Ohio titles and advanced to St. Louis to participate for the National Youth title as Ohio’s representative.

He actively promoted soccer and helped Rocky River High School where his three sons; Roman, Alex, and Emil played. Both Roman and Alex are members of the Rocky River High School Hall of Fame. Alex and Roman continued their soccer careers locally at Cleveland State University. Roman is a member of the Cleveland State University Hall of Fame. Emil’s promising soccer career was cut short in High School when he shattered his ankle. Roman was the first round draft choice of the Miami Toros and played seven years in the NASL, while Alex was drafted by the Minnesota Kicks and play five years in the NASL.

With his sons advancing their soccer careers, Papa Joe turned his attention to Officiating soccer. He felt they could use his help. His officiating career included over 35 years with the United States Soccer Federation, 20 years with the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and 20 years with the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association. He was founding member of the Northern Ohio Collegiate Soccer Officials Association.

As he progressed with officiating, he became an instructor and assessor. He held the titles State Director of Instruction (SDI), State Director of Assessment (SDA), and was a USSF National Assessor for 15 years each. These positions brought him into contact with many of the current USSF National Referees and FIFA officials.

His willingness to travel, give time, share his experience, and work with many of today’s players and officials is widely recognized by many in the soccer world. Always be careful when you say something mean spirited about officials, you never know when Papa Joe is in hear shot, he will not be shy to correct your interpretation.

Wolfgang Urban

Way back in 1966, a father brought his 8-year old son to the Brookside Park soccer fields where the Donauschwaben youth teams held their practices and asked if his son could start playing soccer on one of their teams.

During those pioneer days of Ohio youth soccer, there were no tryouts! In fact, any boy was welcome as long as he was willing to work hard and had the desire and motivation to play soccer. There was a commitment to teach these boys about the game of soccer and develop them into useful players who ultimately would have fun playing soccer.

Mr. Hans Kopp, as one of the founders of the Olympic Development Program (ODP) for youth soccer and director of the Midwest Region, had the opportunity to work with many outstanding coaches, including Angus McAlpine, Bob Gansler and Lothar Osiander. Over the years, they had the opportunity to evaluate hundreds of youth players.

What were these ODP coaches looking for in a player as they evaluated them? First, they looked at a player's skills on the ball. Next, they assessed his speed, his ability to read the game, and finally his ability to play off the ball in support of his teammates. If all was equal at this point, they looked to see if a player brought a desire to win onto the field. If players were still equal, they then assessed a player's mental tenacity; how he could control the tempo of the game, impose his own will on the opponent, and use his wit, creativity, and mental toughness to achieve success.

Wolfgang Urban brought all those qualities to the field of play. He became a team leader of his Concordia youth team, his high school team at West-Tech, his college team at Case Western Reserve, the Ohio-North select team, and the Midwest Regional team. As a result of these exceptional qualities and accomplishments, he was selected to become a member of the first U19 national youth soccer team that was assembled by the USYSA to play in Europe in October 1975. Under national team coach Angus McAlpine, this team, which included Hall of Famer, Walter Schlothauer, toured Northern Germany where they successfully represented U.S. soccer against regional select teams and highly ranked youth teams from Concordia Hamburg, Werder Bremen, and Hanover 96.

The long list of accomplishments, both on and off the soccer field, did not end as a player. At the age of 15, he became the youngest soccer coach in Ohio, developing a championship U10 boys team. By 1978, he became one of the youngest men to earn a National C-license under the direction of the late Walt Chyzowych. Wolf became an excellent teacher of the game, working with the North Olmsted Soccer Organization as a youth coach and as a member of their Board in the role of Director of Travel Soccer and later as Soccer Advisor. He also has served, and continues to serve, as a Board member with his home club, SCD Concordia, where he has held the positions of Vice President, Youth Director and Treasurer.

Ted Williams

Ted has probably been more important to the overall development of Ohio Youth Soccer North over the past 17 years than anyone else I could nominate. He spent five years as President of the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Assn. in the early 90's. At that time, GAASA was the largest unaffiliated youth league in Ohio and Ted was instrumental in convincing the GAASA Board of Directors that affiliation with OYSAN (and indirectly to the United States Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer) would benefit the league in the long run.

In the mid-90's, he served a short term as Vice President of OYSAN, during which time he supervised a complete re-write of the Constitution and Bylaws. Retiring briefly, he was elected President of OYSAN in 1999 and was re-elected two more times, retiring in 2006. He was fortunate to be able to give much more volunteer time to an organization than most of us could spare, and presided at the critical time when OYSAN was changing from an organization run 100% by volunteers into a non-profit businesslike entity operated by a predominantly full-time staff. The key decision taken during this time was whether or not to make the President a paid chief executive, or keep the Board of Directors as volunteers and hire professional management. Ted guided OYSAN in the latter direction, laying the foundation for the existing OYSAN organization with a hired Executive Director, Director of Coaching, and support staff.

In addition to reorganizing the OYSAN structure, Ted was instrumental in changing the operation of OYSAN into a million-dollar non-profit, business-minded organization. He supervised hiring and budgeting and produced consistent operation surpluses, changing the organization from one with limited resources into one with significant reserves and dedicated accounts. I think he is probably most proud of the fact that during his tenure, OYSAN was always able to consistently increase and improve services; while operating under budget and generating surpluses to protect the future.

Ted also became deeply involved in soccer politics at the National level, providing advice and counsel to the officers and directors of both US Youth Soccer and the USSF. As one of the "elder statesmen" in the US Soccer national structure, many of his ideas have been implemented throughout the country. Through Ted's voice and vote, many of the ideas developed by the Ohio North Coaching Director and ODP staff have been implemented throughout the United States, becoming the standards by which youth soccer operates.

It should be noted that during his time in office, Ted, greatly supported by his wife, Mary Ann, who served OYSAN as Chair of the State Cup Committee, Tournament Director and often assisted in the planning of the Annual General Meetings and Workshops. Many people know that Mary Ann had a serious stroke in 2005 from which she has now fully recovered. Of course the family was further stressed during her rehabilitation, but neither OYSAN nor the State Cup missed a beat.

For all the contributions, time, and sacrifices Ted Williams has made in order to make OYSAN one of the model National State Associations in the US, it's my pleasure to nominate him to the OYSAN Hall of Fame.

Wayne Wilson

Wayne Wilson was not born with a soccer ball in his crib. He was introduced to soccer as a coach for his sons Munchkin team in 1986. In his attempt to learn more about the game of soccer, he took the advice of the league president to become a referee because, “it would help you learn the game”.

In March 1987, he successfully completed the referee course, took the test and paid his dues. The following month, he found himself in a referee uniform on the field with a whistle, and a set of red and yellow cards. His first taste of officiating came in June of that year at the Lorain tournament.

In 1989, Wayne retired from coaching and concentrated on refereeing. This new full time commitment quickly allowed him to progress through the referee ranks. In the early 90's, Wayne advanced to a USSF grade 7 referee, and obtained both his Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (NISOA) licenses. His refereeing career saw him achieve the USSF State referee level grade 6. He maintained this level until 2002, when he went State Emeritus with USSF. Wayne officiated many High School and College level games, often going deep into tournament assignments. He currently maintains his USSF State Emeritus, OHSAA Class 1 and NISOA officiating certificates.

In 1992 he assigned his first tournament, The Cleveland Cup, hosted at Hawken School. This opened yet another chapter of Wayne's soccer career. Gaining valuable experience working with various tournament organizers, he began developing a great reputation to many in the Greater Cleveland Soccer community. His current tournament portfolio includes: Westlake Invitational (WIST), North Olmsted Fourth of July (NOSO), Strongsville Soccer (SSO), the Internationals tournaments, The AFL, Midwest Regional League, Brunswick Adult, Lake Erie League, and many, many others. Wayne currently is a certified assignor with USSF, OHSAA, and NISOA and a member of the NISOA Hall of Fame.

In 1994, he was approached by the Paul Emhoff and the AASL to start a High School Summer League. This league just completed its 15th year. This requires him to organized all the teams, make a schedule, order the uniforms, and of course, assign the referees. In 2008 alone, Wayne was responsible for making over 15,000 assignments.

If that was not enough, Wayne Wilson is the current President of the Greater Cleveland Soccer Referee's Association (GCSOA). He has held an Executive Board position in the GCSOA over the last 12 years.

Many of today's referee's owe a great debt of gratitude to Wayne Wilson's effort in their development. I do not think any referee in Ohio – North can dispute the positive effect he has had on the game over the past 15 years. With a little luck, maybe we can get him to do something else, he just retire from the IRS this past August and might have some time.

Jon Wnoroski

Jon was the Head Coach for Cuyahoga Falls high School back starting in 1975. He was co-founder of the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association back in 1976. Formed the Cuyahoga Falls Soccer Club in 1976. In the beginning the Cuyahoga Falls Soccer Club made up of 25% of the GASSA, then. He was also the Co-founder of the Greater Akron Referee Association. Jon held the positions of Treasurer.

In the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association Jon was Scheduler and President. Jon assisted in community organization of local clubs and promoted the participation in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association. As soccer was growing the need for the referee association was needed. Jon saw that need and helped in getting it set up.

The next area, which he knew needed his assistance, was the coaching education of the coaches in the league, then, in the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North. In 1980 he was the Co-founder of the Greater Akron Scholastic Soccer Coaches' Association. He served as the Secretary of Ohio Youth Soccer Association North from 1980 to 1985.

In 1981 to 1992, he became the Director of Coaching School in Ohio Youth Soccer Association/ Ohio Soccer Association North. Jon was a member of the United States Soccer Federation National Coaching Committee from 1982 to 1984. Jon contributions were numerous to the coaching programs that have helped expand the coaches' education in the soccer community over the years throughout Ohio North. Coaches needed to teach how the game of soccer is played and why. Coaches learned by attending the coaching schools that Jon established. His tireless effort helped our soccer grow in Ohio North.