

Walter Schlothauer

When we speak of youth soccer pioneers in Northern Ohio, we need to mention Walter Schlothauer.

Walter began to play soccer at the age of 4, and by the age of 6, he was one of the regular players on the Danube Swabian U10 teams. He became a feared left winger and is perhaps credited to score the fastest goal in youth soccer history, when he scored from a kick-off during the first seconds of a game in Chagrin Falls.

As Walter grew older, his technique developed at a rapid pace. He became one of the leaders of the Concordia U19 team representing Ohio in the Regional State Tournament in Oakbrook, Illinois in which the team players were named the best team of the Midwest.

Walter along with three other teammates was selected to play on the first Regional Select Team of the Midwest. At the National Tournament in Dallas, Texas he was one of two players from the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North to earn the privilege to be selected to play on the first US National Youth Team (U19) ever assembled by the United States Youth Soccer Association. The team traveled to Germany in October, 1975 where he played under the guidance of National Youth Coach Angus Mc Alpine.

While playing in High School and College he became a pioneer in the sport of soccer there, too. He became one of the best known All Americans while playing at Mentor High School and at the Cleveland State University. Walter was not only trend setting with his tactical and technical game, but with his left foot which made him one of the most feared players by his opponents.

After his college years he played professionally for 12 years for several teams both indoors, as well as outdoors.

His great skills and dangerous left foot earned him a place on the US National Indoor Soccer Team that participated in the first FIFA "5 A Side" Indoor World Cup held in Hungary in 1986 where the team took 6th place among eight.

Upon retirement as a player he became a coach and administrator. At the present time he is the Director of Operations of Soccer Sportsplex and Excalibur Premier Soccer Club.

Walter has earned places in the hall of Fame at the Mentor High school. In 2002 he was selected by an Ohio-North committee as one of the top 75 soccer leaders of Northern Ohio.

Phil Seil

PHIL SEIL is nominated for the OYSAN Hall of Fame for his impact on all areas of soccer during the past 5 decades. Phil was one of the founders of the Broadview Hts. Soccer Program around 1965. Having come from Austria, Phil brought a knowledge and passion for the sport.

Phil was one of the “founding fathers” of community youth soccer in Northern Ohio. He was one of the members of the Danuschwaben Club who fought to move youth soccer from the ethnic clubs into the communities. He saw only the positives of such a move such as greater numbers and with the numbers, better quality of athletes. The benefits of starting high school programs would provide resources for fields, paid coaches, stadiums, newspaper coverage, community support, peer recognition for the players and three to four training sessions per week. Phil’s impact on the early growth makes him eligible for consideration.

Phil was involved in the early decision-making and the critical “foundation” work of establishing policies, procedures, structures and leagues. But his greatest impact was as a COACH. He was an apostle of the “indirect” game as play by the Germans and the Dutch. We used to say that Phil was only happy when his would make 20 consecutive one-touch passes and could walk the ball across the line.

He forced the entry of the Broadview Hts. teams into the Lake Erie League. It was faith in Phil that made people stay the course while losing every game at every age-group for three years. In 1970, the teams were rewarded with better results and by 1971, even crowned some champions in the ethnic-dominated league. The youth players who still idolized Phil for his contribution to their soccer success include Sam and Mike Patterson, Alan Jefferis, Mike Chojnicki, Roby Stahl, John and Tim Tyma, Jerry Shutway, Phil Imbrigiotta, Henry Korecko, Mike Dosen, and dozens of others. He was a patient mentor to a young coach by the name of Tony Niccoli who hung on his every word and who was driven to someday win his approval.

With Tony and Phil coaching, those players, wearing the colors of Brecksville-Broadview Hts. High School, captured a State Championship in 1975 and followed that with a 20-0 trip to a second final where they were upset by Finneytown. They posted 28 straight wins without a loss or tie. Their four-year record was 70-9-0. In that same year, 1976, the team advanced to the semi-finals of the McGuire Cup and after outplaying Emo’s Pizza from St. Louis at the Broadview Hts. field, lost in the second overtime. Emo’s traveled to California and had an easy victory in the final. The letter from their team manager graciously stated that our team was quite superior to them and deserving of the National crown. These were all Phil’s players. He had coached them since their start in soccer.

Many of these players became impact players in the college ranks and even some had professional careers. During a contentious Akron University-Cleveland State University match, there were 7 players on the field from Brecksville-Broadview Hts. High School. Both college teams were ranked in the Top 20 in the country.

Phil became involved with the referees. He helped Earl Patterson write the first Handbook for Referees and started the courses for referees. He served as an officer in the Northern Ohio Referees Association and was even the Rules Interpreter for the organization.

Phil continued to coach throughout the 1980s and even into the 1990s. As recently as 2002, he coached his granddaughters travel team