

North Dakota Soccer Hall of Fame 2017

Dave Cook



Dave Cook has excelled in soccer as a player, coach, and administrator. His passion for soccer began as a young player. He would have been involved in the Olympic Development Program (he was signed up), if the program hadn't closed down for a few years in the mid '90s. He subsequently did play in middle school, high school, club (Capital City & Indoor Soccer) and at the University of Mary. While at U-Mary from 200-2003 he scored 32 goals (third best in the history of the program), and in 2003 he scored 22 goals (tied for second best in the history of

the program). During his 4 years from 200-2003 the University had a record of 52-30-3 and the team made the playoffs all 4 years.

However, the real reason I want to recommend Dave for the NDSA Hall of Fame is his contributions as a coach and administrator locally in the Bismarck-Mandan community, state-wide in North Dakota, and regionally in Region II of US Youth Soccer.

Cook's coaching career began in 1999 when, as a senior in high school the freshmen girls (middle school 9th graders), who at that time did not play at the varsity level. He continued coaching at the high school level as a JV and then high school varsity until 2008, when he became head coach at UMary.

However, his real introduction to serving the soccer community first came when he was asked as a freshman in college to join the board of the Indoor Soccer Association. He served on the board of ISA from 2000-2006, until he became Director of Coaching for NDSA. During that time he was able to learn first hand what it meant to be involved in a soccer community. He was fortunate enough to work with the likes of

Paul Stubbs, Dan Taylor, Gail Anderson, Dave Maier, Haddis Hailu, Mark Stockman, Mark Foss, Brent Geiss, Lana Curl and many other wonderful volunteers who build the foundation of the soccer community in Bismarck-Mandan. It was also during this time he was introduced to Dave Ripley while working with the Century High School girl's soccer program. Cook considers this time foundational in his current view of the role soccer plays in the life of any community.

He has been a head coach of teams for the former clubs of Bismarck Soccer League, Capital City Soccer Club, NoDak Soccer Club as well as current Dakota United Soccer Club from 2000-2015. Statewide he served as the NDSA Technical Director from 2006-2012. He also was a key person in the process of the formal consolidation of North Dakota ODP and South Dakota ODP into "Dakota ODP" of which he remains active (currently the serving as head coach for the 2003 Boys).

Since 2006 he has been a member of the Region II Olympic Development Program staff for both boys and girls. He currently serves as the head coach for the 2004 Region II Girls, and the as an assistant coach for the 2001 Region II Boys. He remains active at the annual regional camp as well as interregional, national, and international events.

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