

October 17th 2016

Biographic data for Larry Schwartz' induction into ND Soccer Hall of Fame.

I first got involved with soccer when Dale Heinert recruited me to coach my son's 2nd Grade BSL team in 1984. I coached his BSL team for 4 years. I attended a coaching clinic sometime during this period probably earning an E License. Those 4 years were the extent of my coaching experience.

The second BSL game that I coached had a referee no show, so after consulting with my opposing coach I agreed to act as referee for that game. I enjoyed the refereeing and started refereeing BSL when I wasn't coaching. During these 4 years of coaching BSL, I became the BSL Vice President in charge of assigning referees for BSL games.

In 1986, I attend a USSF referee clinic and became a registered referee. I got involved with teaching referee clinics and sometime in the early 1990s I became a USSF Referee Instructor. About that same time I also became a USSF Referee Assessor.

For more than 15 years as a USSF Referee Instructor I had the privilege of working with hundreds of kids and adults in helping them learn the rules of soccer at various referee clinics. Most of these refereeing clinics took place in Bismarck, but I also conducted several clinics in Minot and Jamestown.

Shortly after becoming a registered referee I became an officer of the Bismarck-Mandan Soccer Referee Association as an Assignor, as Vice-President, and in the early 1990's as President. I was President from the early 1990s until about 2007.

I became the North Dakota State Referee Administrator in 1994 and held that office until about 2007. During my term as SRA, I had the privilege of attending several meetings of all the state SRAs at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I also had the privilege of interacting with all USSF referees from North Dakota and making sure they were properly registered each year.

In 1995 soccer became a sanctioned sport of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. I became a registered referee with the National Federation of State High School Associations that year. I also started as a clinician for NDHSAA soccer referee clinics.

In 1995 I became registered as a referee with the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association. This was precipitated by the start of the men's and women's soccer programs at the University of Mary. I was a charter member of the North Dakota chapter of NISOA. I also served as the president of the North Dakota chapter from its start until about 2002.

When Bismarck started a Futsal league, I became registered as a US Futsal Federation

referee and officiated Futsal games for several years. I also conducted referee clinics for Futsal referees.

As an officer of the various soccer organizations I participated in referee assignments for hundreds of games, including Bismarck Soccer League, Capital City Soccer Club, boys and girls Junior High and High School, State High School Tournaments, University of Mary Men's and Women's games, Futsal games, and Prairie Rose State Games.

I had the privilege of attending two advanced referee clinics that were held in conjunction with the Regional Olympic Development Program that the North Dakota attended in the early 1990s.

Besides the many years of assigning, instructing, and administration work, I spent more than 20 years officiating soccer games. I've officiated over 1600 games in the various age groups from 5 year olds to adults. I have fond memories of enjoyable games and some that were not so enjoyable! My involvement in soccer was one of the most enjoyable activities that I have ever participated in and has introduced me to hundreds of people that I still consider friends.