

Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame – Class of 1986 Bios



Gene Edwards (1917-2000, USA), Overall, WSA & USSF & Falk

Gene played for the Swedish American team in Chicago and for the Milwaukee Sport Club, winning Wisconsin championships in 1953 and 1955. He was President of the Wisconsin Soccer Association from 1959-69 and moved to serve as the vice-president of the USSF from 1969-74, when Gene assumed the presidency of the USSF in 1974. He served FIFA and worked to bring Olympic Games to the Soviet Union and to Seoul, Korea. He served as a member of the Executive Committee of the US Olympic Committee and the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Board in 1984. The success of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games laid the ground work for future World Cup bids. In 1982 FIFA had rejected the USSF bid to host the 1986 World Cup. When the USSF had its office in New York and couldn't meet its payroll, Gene went to the bank and took out a mortgage on his home to keep them open. In 1984, Gene lost the presidency of the USSF and served as Vice President to CONCACAF and Past President of the USSF. He worked to bring the World Cup to the United States, and the dream that had eluded the USASA in 1982 was finally realized in 1988 when FIFA awarded the World Cup for 1994.

Gene is a USASA HOF Member, Class of 2006



Ferdinand Goetze (1906-1993, Germany), Player, Deutscher SC & Wackers & Bavarian SC

Ferdinand Kurt Goetze was born in Muhlhaueh i. Thuring , Germany, in 1906. At the age of eighteen, he immigrated to America, eventually settling in Milwaukee where he met and married Mary Lewein and where he played soccer for nineteen years. Ferdinand, "Fritz," first played for the Deutscher Sport Club in 1926, and then later played for the Eagles, the Wackers, and the Bavarians. In a tournament held in Sheboygan in 1928, Fritz scored six goals and was named the tournament's most valuable player. From 1948 through 1968 he served on the Grievance Board of the Wisconsin Soccer Association. In 1986 Ferdinand Goetze was inducted into the Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame.

Ferdinand Goetze passed away on December 10, 1993. He is survived by his wife, Mary Goetze; his son Gregg and daughter-in-law Irene; his daughter Linda and husband Barry Braender; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Photo circa 1933, age 27



Walter Habel, Sr. (deceased), Player, Bavarian SC



John Joachimczyk (deceased), Referee, Polonia SC



Mirko (Mike) Kabanica (1925-1997, Yugoslavia, State Serbia), Overall, WSA & Serbian SC Milwaukee

Mike Kabanica was an outstanding player and served as the Wisconsin Soccer Association State Coach, coaching all-star teams in the 1960's. He coached Serbian SC Milwaukee to the state championship in 1953 and 1954. As an administrator he served as the Wisconsin Games Commissioner and was elected the Wisconsin State President in 1972, serving in the position until his death in 1997. Mike expanded leagues for adult and youth programs as well as coaching programs. He served as a State Association Board Member from 1972-1997 and as a member of the USSF Appeals Committee. The Midwest Region Tournament of Champion Men's Trophy was named after Mike for his work in Region II, until Wisconsin retired the trophy after three championships. Inducted into the Wisconsin Soccer Association Hall of Fame in 1986, he was also inducted into the United States Soccer Hall of Fame in 1997 for his contributions to the growth and development of soccer. Mike served as the Wisconsin State Association President for 25 years, working continually to improve and expand the growth of the game in Wisconsin.

Mike is a USASA HOF Member, Class of 2006



Henry Koller (deceased), Player, Milwaukee Brewers SC



William Reddan, Player/Coach, Madison 56ers



John Reega (deceased), Player, Falk & Hungarian Tigers



Frank Trimmel (deceased), Player, Bavarian SC



Henry Wawrzyniak (b. Poland, deceased), Administrator, WSA & Polonia SC