

Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame – Class of 2009 Bios



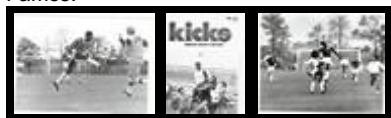
Dr. Christian Akiwowo (b. 1947, Nigeria), Player, Milwaukee Kickers

Currently resides in Flossmoor, IL with his wife Gladys and children Christopher, Taiwo, Kehinde, and Idowu. He was born in Lagos, Nigeria in 1947. His successful playing career began in Nigeria at St. Peter's College from 1962 to 1966. In 1966 and 1967 he played for Nigeria's Western Region Academicals and was the team Captain. From 1967 to 1970 he played with the Nigerian Ports Authority team, winning the league championship in 1970.

Dr. Akiwowo's career moved to Wisconsin in 1971 where he played for the University of Wisconsin Green Bay from 1971 to 1973, where he was an NAIA All-American in all three years, and an NSCAA All-American in 1972 and 1973. He was selected to the Wisconsin All State Team all three years and in 1972 was also selected as one of the Outstanding College Athletes of America. In 1973 he was selected UWGB MVP. During the college off-season Christian played for the Milwaukee Brewers SC in 1971 and 1972 before going to the Milwaukee Kickers in 1973, where he played until 1977. While with the Milwaukee Kickers he was selected to the Wisconsin All-Star team three times from 1975 to 1977.

In 1978 Dr. Akiwowo moved to the Chicago area where he played until 1993 with the Gazelle Soccer Club in Chicago's National Soccer League. Since retiring as a player, Christians has continued his involvement with soccer with coaching and administrative roles with the Gazelle SC and the World Soccer League.

Dr. Akiwowo is already a member of both the UWGB and the Illinois Soccer Hall of Fames.



Gerard Averill, Player, Madison 56ers

Currently resides in Madison, WI. He has one son, Zephyr. Gerard was born in Madison, WI in 1964. His playing career as a goalkeeper began as a youth with the Madison 56ers SC and at Madison West HS where he led his teams to numerous league and state championships. In 1979 he was selected to try-out with the U.S. U16 National Team and from 1980 to 1981 played in Austria with the First Vienna FC.

Gerard returned to Madison to play with the University of Wisconsin from 1982 to 1986. As a collegian goalkeeper he was the UW's MVP for three years from 1984 to 1986, an All-Mideast selection in 1986 and 1986, a NSCAA All-American in 1986, won Academic All-Region honors in 1985 and 1986, and a College Senior Bowl All-Star Game selection in 1986. Over twenty years later he still holds the UW record for career wins (40) and career saves (299). From 1985 to 1986 he was a U.S. Senior National Team Pool player; he was selected to the 1987 U.S. Sports Festival North team; and was an alternate with the U.S. Olympic Team in 1988. When not involved in national or regional team competition, Gerard played in the Wisconsin Major Division with the Madison 56ers, winning numerous conference, national cup, and Region 2 Tournament of Champions championships, and later with the Amira/Blackhawks FC.

Gerard continues to play competitive soccer, although he is now does so as an accomplish field player rather than a goalkeeper.



Marko "Boz" Bosnjak (b. 1955, USA), Player, Serbian SC Milwaukee

Currently resides in Franklin, WI with his wife Barbara and daughter Brianna. Marko was born in Milwaukee in 1955. Marko "Boz" was a life long member of the Milwaukee Serbian Soccer Club from the age of 8 until he retired as a player thirty years later.

In addition to his play with the Milwaukee Serbians, Baz played for MATC in 1974 and then transferred to UW-Milwaukee where he was a three-year starter and selected Defender of the Year in 1976 and 1977. A fixture in the Milwaukee Serbian defense during his entire adult career, he was instrumental in their winning numerous Major Indoor Championships in 1977, and Wisconsin State Championship in 1984, 1986 and 1987, Wisconsin Cup Champions in 1978 and 1987 and Wisconsin Open Cup Championships in 1977 and 1984. His defensive capabilities were recognized by his selection to the Wisconsin All-Star team in 1983 and 1984.



Michael Cox, Player, Milwaukee Sport Club

Currently resides in Brookfield, WI with his wife Anni and children, Rachel, Elizabeth, and Lauren. Michael "Paco" was born in Milwaukee in 1959 and began his playing career as a youth with the Milwaukee Bavarian SC, winning a number of championships, cumulating in 1977 with advancing to the U.S. finals for the U19 McGuire Cup. He played in high school at Marquette High School, was a three year starter, a three time All-Conference selection, led the team to three private school state championship finals, including winning the 1975 final. Michael was selected both Team Captain and team MVP as a senior.

After playing for one year at Miami University of Ohio, Michael returned to Milwaukee and played with the Milwaukee Bavarian Major team from 1979 to 1984, being a key factor in their championship successes, including two trips to the U.S. National Amateur Cup finals in 1981 and 1982. In 1984 he signed with the Milwaukee Wave Indoor Profession team for their inaugural season.

In 1986 Michael returned to Wisconsin Major Division soccer with the Milwaukee Sports Club, which he lead until 2000, including a return to the U.S. National Amateur Cup finals in 1997. He has continued to play with the Milwaukee Sport Club Reserve team until 2007. In 2002 was part of a select team that reached the finals of the U.S. Veterans Cup (Over 40).

In addition to his playing, Michael has coached youth club soccer for both Mequon United and Brookfield SC, coached high school at both Nicolet and Dominican High Schools, and adults with the Milwaukee Sport Club.



Stefan Heffner (b. Germany), Overall, Racine SC

He currently resides in Racine, WI. Stefan "Steve" was born in Germany in 1931 and was an enthusiastic soccer player from an early age. He immigrated to the United States after World War II and eventually settled in the Racine area. His passion for the sport of soccer quickly drew Steve to the Racine Soccer Club, first as a player in the 1950's and later as a coach and administrator starting in the 1960's. Under his leadership the Racine SC was transformed into a soccer power that challenged the established teams for dominance by the early 1960's.

Having realized the benefits of immigration to the U.S. from post-war Europe, Steve worked with then Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire, to establish a successful program to bring to the U.S. deserving individuals and families from Europe. Mr. Heffner was tireless in his campaign to identify appropriate individuals, getting their immigration approved and most importantly, finding them employment in Southern Wisconsin upon their arrival. Many of these persons brought with them their love of the game and soccer skills with them. Wisconsin soccer benefited immensely from the talent and energy that flowed in as players and eventually coaches and administrators.



Stanisa Markovic (b. Yugoslavia, State Serbia), Coach, Racine Strikers SC

He currently resides in Racine, WI with his wife Jamie. Stanisa was born in Gracanica, Serbia, in then Yugoslavia in 1941. He learned the sport of soccer as a youth player for Buducost of Valjevo, Serbia. After coming to the U.S. Milan played for UW-Parkside from 1969 to 1972. He played in the Wisconsin Major Division with the Milwaukee Serbian SC for ten years from 1967 to 1977. Milan finished his playing career with the Racine Steel Castings team.

Stanisa began coaching at Saint Bonaventure High School in 1972. During his tenure at Saint Bonaventure the boy's team won back-to-back state championships. From 1978 to 1985, Stanisa was the boy's coach at Racine Horlick High School that won a greater Milwaukee area conference title and twice advanced to the Boy's High School State Championship. Stanisa also coached club soccer at the adult level with the Racine Steel Castings and the United Serbians SC. Stanisa's coaching has been recognized by his selection as a Racine County Coach of the Year and in 1982 awarded a medal by the Racine Journal Times newspaper.



Milan Misuta (b. Czechoslovakia, State Slovakia), Player/Coach, Bavarian SC

He currently resides in Boulder, CO. Mr. Misuta was born in Slovakia in 1943. His playing career began in 1953 at Slovan Solcany, first with the School Team and later with the Junior team in 1957 and the adult Division 1 team in 1959. In 1962, Milan began his professional playing career with Dukla Uherske Hradiste in Czechoslovakia. He also played for Iskra Partizanske and V.T.Z. Chomutov, both in Czechoslovakia. His last European professional team was Semperit Treiskerchen in Austria in 1973.

In 1974 and 1975 Milan played the Cleveland Stars in the American Soccer League and also with Slovak A.A. of Chicago. From 1975 to 1982 he played in Wisconsin with the Milwaukee Bavarians SC, including winning the 1976 USSF National Amateur Cup, and with the Milwaukee Sport Club and United Serbians. A career move to Colorado saw him finish his playing career with the Denver Kickers SC. Milan's talent as a player has been recognized throughout his career. He was a Regional Junior Select Team player from 1960 to 1962 in Slovakia. A Regional Adult Select Team player from 1964 to 66 in Czechoslovakia. A Chicago All-Star Team selection in 1975 and a Wisconsin All-Star Team selection in 1976.

Milan currently continues to participate in soccer as a coach in the Boulder, CO area as a club youth coach, high school coach and Head Coach for both the Men's and Women's teams at the University of Colorado.



Karen Toussaint (b. 1954, USA), Administrator, Referee Administration

She currently resides in Menomonee Falls, WI with her husband Noel. Karen was born in Chicago, IL in 1954. Karen began her career with the Wisconsin Soccer Association in 1970. Working with former WSA President Mike Kabanica for many years, she was the State Association's Secretary and Treasurer from 1970 until 2002, a tenure of 33 years. In 2001 Karen took the position of Office Administrator for the WSA State Referee's Unit. A position she currently still holds. For all those who have worked for and with the Wisconsin Soccer Association since 1970, Karen has been an invaluable source of knowledge and assistance. She has always been there, every ready to help and assist, and all to often, to help solve the problems that always occur.

With a total of 39 years of state level administrative service to Wisconsin soccer, Karen is one a very few long serving individuals who have directly participated in the growth and development of club soccer in Wisconsin to the success that it is today.