

## Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame – Class of 2013 Bios



**John Becker** - (b. Milwaukee) Player, Milwaukee Sport Club

Born and residing in Milwaukee, WI, John Becker began his playing career with the Bavarian Soccer Club from 1967-1975, where he was consistently the leading scorer each year. He also played for James Madison High School from 1973-1976, where he helped his team win the City Championship in 1975, and was selected All Conference in 1974 and 1975. During this time period he was a player for the Wisconsin Soccer Association Youth All Star Team from 1968-1977. After high school he played for the Milwaukee Sport Club U-18 team from 1976-1977, and went to play for UW-Milwaukee from 1976-1979. While there he was a 3-year starter, and helped his team qualify for the school's first NCAA tournament entry in 1979. John played for the Milwaukee Brewers from 1978-1979, and then moved to play for the Bavarian Soccer Club from 1980-1981, where they won the State Championship and Open Cup Championship in 1981. John then played for Milwaukee Sport Club (1981-1988, and 2001-2008) where they won various Cup Championships and State Championships, Victoria F.C. (1989-1990), and Mequon United (1995-2001), where he helped them win 3 State Championships, and Cup Championships. John was also chosen for the Wisconsin All Star Team in every position except Goalkeeper from 1979-1988, and from 1995-1997 where he served as captain in 1996 and 1997. He is currently a member of various over-30 and over-40 clubs, still very much enjoying the game. Throughout his extensive playing career he has scored over 300 goals. His coaching career began with the Medalist Soccer Camps from 1979-1985, and helped initiate Brookfield Central's first Varsity Soccer Team in 1980, reaching the semi finals in its' first year. He then moved on to coach Notre Dame High School Junior Varsity from 1982-1984, Wauwatosa West Junior Varsity in 1985, and then the Varsity Coach from 1986-1989. John went on to coach the Milwaukee Sport Club Majors and First Division teams from 2002-2006 (First Division State Champions in 2003 and 2004), and then the Women's Soccer Club Majors from 2006-2008.



**Keith Binns** - (b. Leeds, England) Overall

Keith Binns was born in Leeds, England, where he played for Leeds Nalgo in 1949 and Crossgate Rovers from 1950-1955 right before moving to Milwaukee, WI to play for the Bavarian Soccer Club in 1955. From 1956-1973 after moving to Madison, WI, he played for the Madison 56ers Soccer Club, and then Madison United Soccer Club from 1974-1991. He even currently plays for the Madison United Soccer Club Over 40 Recreational Team! After his competitive playing days ended, he continued to serve the soccer community by coaching (he possesses a USSF "D" License). He coached in the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association from 1966-1980. He also coached the very first Madison Memorial High School Girls Varsity Team in 1974. He then coached the Madison United Majors Team from 1975-1995, where they won the National Amateur Cup in 1988 and were the Major League Champions in 1989 and 1990, and also coached the Madison United Women's team from 1981-1990, where they represented our state in the National Amateur Cup in 1990. He coached at the Yahara United Youth Soccer Club from 1990-1995 as well. His administrative accolades include founding the Madison 56ers in 1956 and Madison United in 1974. He was also involved in the development of the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association in 1966, and the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association in 1976. Keith also was a Wisconsin Soccer Association Board Member from 1987-1992, and the President of the Capitol Region of the Wisconsin Soccer Association from 1987-1993.



**Stefano Carini** - (b. ? Italy) Referee

Steve currently lives in Greenfield with his wife Catherine. He has five children, Sergio, Giorgio, Angelo, Isabella, Antonio, 8 grandchildren, number 9 due in May, 3 wonderful daughter in-laws and a great son in-law.

Steve started playing for the Verdi Sport Club Youth Division in 1960 at the age of ten. Was twice a WSA Junior Division State All Star Player. Began playing in the WSA Adult Division in 1966. Played high school soccer at St. John Cathedral in downtown Milwaukee, where he helped the team win a State Championship and was selected all American High School player in 1968. He attended the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and was a starter for one half of the Phoenix regular season schedule in 1969. Also attended UW-Milwaukee and MATC.

Played with Chicago Polish Lightning in 1975, Milwaukee Polonia S.C. in 1976 and returned to Verdi in 1977. Coached Verdi youth and reserve teams and won a WSA State Reserve Championship. Held many positions on the Verdi Club board of directors, and even became the President for a year. In the later 1990's helped lead a Croatian Eagles SC Youth movement, coached teams and started their youth tournament which is still going strong to this day. Steve also helped coach teams in the Mitchell Street Community Soccer league.

Steve's Referee career began in 1989, and he quickly moved to a USSF Level 5. He traveled throughout the Midwest as a Wisconsin Soccer Association Referee for Youth Region 2 games, Adult Cup games tournaments, International games, USISL games and Wisconsin Adult Majors, Reserve championship games, High School and college games. He was put on the Wisconsin Referee list for the USSF National Referee Program, he passed the final Assessment by USSF National Assessor Casimir ( Casey ) Mitchel to go on to the National Referee test and eventually become a Grade 4 – National Referee if you passed but because of family interests could not continue the program.

He served on the WYSA Metro District Board as the Referee Administrator for almost 10 years and its District Referee Assignor, the Vice President of the Metro Referee Unit and the Referee Assignor for all State Adult games. He worked with SRA Will Peters, Mich Jovic, Douglas Haag, State Assessors and Instructors to develop many youth and adult Referees and some who went on to become National Referees. Steve helped to develop Referee Units in the Delevan, Ozaukee areas and developed young Referees unit for one of the Milwaukee Catholic Soccer Youth leagues .

With Richard Williams, Bill Sandoval, Mich Jovic and Douglas Haag he recruited many adult and U23 teams from many areas of Wisconsin to join WSA. He has also been active as an elected vice President and Secretary of the WASA, an elected board member of the WSA, Inc. and elected officer of the WSA, Inc. Executive Board.



**Tommy Comiskey** - (B. Milwaukee, WI) Player

Tommy was born in Milwaukee, WI, and is married to Kathleen Comiskey, with their four children Jack, Eileen, Matthew and Patrick. In high school he blossomed as a star player, helping Marquette High School win the State Championship in 1981 and 1982, and was 1st Team All State. He played for Marquette University following high school from 1983-1986, and became their 3rd all time leading scorer. He also played for the Milwaukee Kickers Majors Team from 1983-1984, and 1992-1993. His most successful period was with the Milwaukee Serbian Soccer Club from 1985-1988, where he helped them win the Major Division Championship in 1986 and 1987, and the Challenge Cup Championship in 1987. He then moved on to play for Polonia S.C. from 1989-1991. He was selected to play for the Wisconsin All Star Team from 1985-1992, and was also selected to play for the North Team on Sports Festivals in Baton Rouge (1985) and Houston (1986). He holds a USSF "D" Coaching License, and has coached at Milwaukee Kickers Youth (1983-1985, 2000-2006), the Tosa Kicks (1987-1990), and the Bavarian Soccer Club (2007-present).



**Patty Mesdjian** - (b. Madison) Player

Patty was born and currently resides in Madison, Wisconsin. She is married to Ara Mesdjian, with their two children Dominick and Noah. While attending Middleton High School she started playing on the boys varsity soccer team in 1981. Once a girls soccer program was established at Middleton, she played varsity for the next three years, where she was a team captain for the remaining three years, and voted MVP for her last two years. During this time she also played for the Madison 56ers Women's Team, up until 1991. She moved on to play for UW-Madison from 1984-1988. Her accolades included Most Improved Player in 1985, Team Captain in 1988, "Soccer America" Player of the Week (November 1988), North Olympic Development Team in 1987, and an NCAA Final Four Appearance in 1988 (the first Wisconsin college soccer team to do so). From 1993 to 2008 she has played for the Madison United Women's Soccer Team. She gained so much experience that she wanted to share her knowledge and expertise by becoming a soccer coach. She began at the Capitol Sports Center where she coached youth and women's classes (and also did a bit of refereeing as well). She went on to coach the Madison West Girls High School Varsity Team from 1988-1994, where she went on to win the WIAA State Championship in 1988 and 1991, an appearance at the State Championship in 1992, and won the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year award in 1991. From 1996-1997 she coached the Madison 56ers U-17 Girls Premier team, and the Magic Mustangs from 2002-2008. She has also worked at a variety of soccer camps in the Madison area, including the Capitol Soccer Camps, UW-Madison, and Wisconsin Soccer Academy, and even assisted Team USA with travel arrangements for 23 teams throughout 7 different countries.



**Mitch Nedeljkovic** - (b. Serbia) Player

Mitch was born in Nis, Serbia, and moved to the United States in the late 1960s. He currently lives in Racine, WI with his wife Snezana. He has three children, Robert, Anita, Ivana, and three grandchildren Tijana, Tamara, and Ognjen. He started playing soccer in 1969 with Racine Soccer Club, and joined the Milwaukee Serbian Soccer Club in 1971, where he played till 1973. Wanting to better his life and further his education, he attended U.W. Parkside where he played soccer from 1972-1973. His most successful soccer achievements were with the United Serbian Soccer Club from 1973-1982, where they won the State Championship in 1980 as a left wing, and many other amateur tournaments in Wisconsin, as well as playing for the Wisconsin All Star Team. In 1983 he joined the newly formed Racine Strikers and played for them till 1987, winning the Milwaukee Auditorium Indoor Championship in 1984. He began his referee career in 1987 as a high school referee up until 2000, and in the Wisconsin Adult Soccer Association Division from 1988-1995.



**Jesus Santos** - (b. Mexico) Player, Club Latino

Jesus was born in Matamoros, Mexico, and currently lives in Milwaukee, WI with his wife Bernie and children Andres and Paulina. He won his first trophy at the age of 8 with the Novatos Amateur team in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. He moved to Milwaukee in 1980, where he played for the Milwaukee Brewers from 1980-1981 right before starting his high school career at South Division High School. While at South Division he helped them win their conference four years in a row. He was the team's leading goal scorer in his second year (42 goals), and helped his team reach the state semi-finals in 1984. He played one season at UW-Milwaukee for Coach Bob Gansler, and was offered a spot on the Milwaukee Wave professional indoor soccer team, but rejected the offer to pursue other academic goals (he currently possesses two Bachelor's degrees and a Masters in administrative education). Since the mid 1980s he's played for the Club Latino Reserves and Majors teams, and then moved on to pioneer the first Azteca First Division team, promptly moving up to the Reserves division in one season. After a few seasons with Azteca, he moved back to Club Latino, where he currently plays for the Reserve team, and the Old Timers Over-40 league. He continues to impact his community by working as a Bilingual Curriculum Specialist for Milwaukee Public Schools.



**Adolf Wilke** - (b. Wartegau, Germany) Player, Milwaukee Sport Club

Adolf was born in Wartegau, Germany. He presently lives in Colgate, WI with his wife Pauline. He has two children, and two grandchildren. He moved to Wisconsin at 15, and began playing for the Milwaukee Sport Club Majors Team in 1962. He primarily played as left wing, however his versatility in playing other positions on the field made him a valuable asset, granting him the nickname "The Prince" by his teammates. Up until 1974, he was selected numerous times to the Wisconsin All Star Team, and led his team to numerous Cup Championships. After his playing career, he went on to coach many different age groups for Milwaukee Sport Club for six years, his most successful being a U-18 boys team which won numerous tournaments. Besides being a major contributor to the MSC Majors Team's and the MSC Youth Clubs' successes, he has been a major asset both on and off the field to the Milwaukee Sport Club as a whole.