

Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame – Class of 2014 Bios



Toby Bares, UW-Oshkosh

Born in Port Washington, Wisconsin, Toby is considered one of the most successful soccer coaches in NCAA Division III history. Toby began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Heidelberg (OH) College and then UW-Platteville. In 1984, Toby was named Head Men's Soccer Coach at UW-Oshkosh. Over 26 years at Oshkosh, Toby amassed an amazing 344-99-38 record (.755 winning percentage) and had 25 consecutive winning seasons. Toby led his teams to eleven NCAA tournament appearances, seven NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearances and three NCAA Final Four appearances. In 1994, Toby was named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year and was also named NCAA Division III Central Region coach of the Year in 1994, 2000 and 2003. In addition to his on-field success, nearly 40 of Toby's former players have gone on to coach in either the high school or collegiate settings with many more at the club level. Toby has been active as a volunteer distributing soccer equipment on two mission trips to South America. Toby retired from coaching at UW - Oshkosh in 2009 and continues to work at UW-Oshkosh. A resident of Oshkosh, Toby is married to JoAnn ("Buzz") and has three children: Ellie, Katie and Ricky.



Michael King, Milwaukee Wave

Michael King was born in London, England and played youth soccer for Chelsea FC. He came to the United States in 1982 to attend Fairleigh Dickinson University on a soccer scholarship. He finished his college career as a 3-time NCAA All-American and in the top five all-time NCAA Division 1 goal scorers. After college, Michael was a first round draft pick for the Cleveland Force in professional indoor soccer. He came to Milwaukee in 1992 to play for the Milwaukee Wave, where he was team captain and helped win four professional championships for the franchise. His pro soccer career lasted 22 seasons. When he retired, Michael had played in over 900 professional games, most of any player at the time, and was in the top 8 all time with 768 goals. The Milwaukee Wave retired his #13 jersey in 2009. Michael lives in Mequon with his wife Niko and daughter Sophia. Michael works as director of developmental programs for the Milwaukee Kickers, a position he has held since 2007.



Kris Klassen, Bavarian

Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and raised in Milwaukee, Kris is a product of the powerful Milwaukee Bavarian Soccer Club of the 1970's and 80's. Kris was part of teams that won four state championships and back-to-back Midwest Cup titles. In 1987 he scored the winning goal to help the Milwaukee Serbians win his fifth and final state championship and established himself as the first player to score the winning goal in three state championship games. Kris is also the only player to win three state championships with three different Clubs. In 1984 Kris was selected for Team USA Indoor and participated in their six-game tour, which helped launch the American Indoor Soccer Association. It was from this tour that he was drafted by the Milwaukee Wave and became the first player signed in team history. He finished his playing career in 1995 with the Chicago Power in the National Professional Soccer League and the Milwaukee Rampage of the A-League. In 1998 he became the first ex-pro player to officiate games in the indoor league he played in. Kris currently resides in both Key West, Florida and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is a published author and in 2006 his book, SOCCERROCK was released.



Carl Murray, Madison 56ers

Carl was born in Manchester, England, where he grew up developing a tremendous love of soccer. As a young man, he joined the British Royal Navy and traveled around the world playing soccer for the Navy representative team. In 1985, after leaving the service, Carl moved to the United States to join his father in Wisconsin and took up residence in Madison where he joined the Madison 56ers Soccer Club and played in the WSA Major League for six years. Carl was a remarkably tough, quick, powerful and competitive soccer player. Additionally, he also had a great sense of humor and of enjoyment for the game. He was a leader with a powerful physical and vocal presence on the field. He won several WSA Major League State Championships, State Amateur Cups, and Region II Tournament of Champions in the late 80s and early 90s.

Carl was an instrumental part of the 56ers team in the build-up to the USSF National Amateur Championship in 1992, although a job transfer for his fire-fighter career meant that he had to leave Madison just a few months prior to the final victory. His powerful voice, volume, tone and accent combined with the way he carried himself on the field, so loud, confident and intimidating when playing the left back position, still resonates with all those in Wisconsin who remember him. Additionally, Carl earned his U.S. citizenship. In 1992 Carl relocated to Vancouver, Washington state, where he continued playing soccer and was a founding member of the Portland Kels F.C.

Sadly, Carl passed away prematurely, at the age of 51, on July 30, 2013, after an exhausting and heroic battle with lung cancer caused by countless exposures to toxic materials related to his career in firefighting. Carl is survived by his widow, Wendy and children Hailey, Olivia, Quinn and Sophie.



Milan Nikolic, Milwaukee Kickers

Milan was born in Petrovac na Mlavi, Serbia. Milan is one of the founders of the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club, now one of the nation's largest and most successful soccer clubs. He was also founder and administrator of Mukwonago Kickers and served as their regional director for 19 years. Milan played for Milwaukee Serbian and Milwaukee Kickers Major teams from 1954 to 1974. He also coached for both the Milwaukee Serbians and Milwaukee Kickers since 1965, including youth and adults, as well as male and female. Milan coached the Milwaukee Kicker Majors in 1976-1977. He also coached the first woman's team in state of Wisconsin. Milan has a D coach's license. He was a Wisconsin referee from 1989 to 2011 and was a Wisconsin referee instructor from 2000 thru 2012.

Milan currently resides in Muskego, Wisconsin with his wife Irene. Their children are Suzanna Tomich and Dianna (Milan) Kresovic.



Reza Namin, Multiple

Reza Namin has had a long and storied soccer career since coming to Milwaukee in the 1970's. Reza played Majors for more than 20 years with numerous teams including Milwaukee Serbians, Croatian Eagles, Milwaukee Kickers, Club Latino, and Bavarians. Reza's exceptional play in the midfield helped the Milwaukee Serbians win two State Championships in 1984 and 1994.

Reza played professionally for the Milwaukee Wave from their inaugural season in 1985 through 1988. Reza also coached for five years at Nicolet High School, one year with the Milwaukee Kickers Majors, then for five years with the Milwaukee Serbian Youth Teams.

Reza currently lives in Milwaukee and is busy running his construction company. Reza is married to Kerry and has three adult children. He is still playing soccer year-round.

Scott Santaga, UW-Green Bay, Croatian Eagles

Scott Santaga was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Scott was a top midfielder in college at UW Green Bay from 1982 to 1986. Scott was team Captain, top goal scorer, and 1st team All-Conference in his senior year. Scott played his amateur soccer with the Croatian Eagles from 1983 to 1990. During this period he represented the Wisconsin State Amateur Team and played for the North US Senior Select Team for six consecutive years. Scott also played professional soccer in Dallas in 1992. Along with a great playing career, Scott has coached youth soccer in the Green Bay area for many years.

Scott currently resides in Green Bay with his wife, Mary and three children Anna, Sara and Jonathan.



Steve Sendelbach, Croatian Eagles

Steve Sendelbach was born in Linz, Austria and moved to the United States in his youth. He played for the Croatian Eagles from age 8 to 16, then entered the ranks of the Wisconsin Soccer Association Major League. Between 1974 and 1992, he played at the Major level with the Milwaukee Brewers, Racine Soccer Club and Croatian Eagles. Steve won a WSA championship with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1974 and was named a Wisconsin All-Star when playing for the Croatian Eagles. He also played soccer for the University of Wisconsin-Parkside where he was twice named team captain and MVP. In addition, his play in college twice earned him recognition as a 1st team NAIA All-American. Steve also coached club and high school soccer, helping his teams win cup championships and earn trips to the state finals. He was named Racine County coach of the year in 1994 while coaching Burlington High School. Steve lives in Nekoosa with his wife Debbie. The couple has three children, Nik, Josh and Jessica, and four grandchildren.



Jon Szczepanski, Bavarian

Jon Szczepanski grew up in Milwaukee and started playing with the Bavarian Club when he was five years old. Over the next 35 years, Jon was an integral part of many championship teams from amateur soccer to professional indoor and outdoor teams. Jon was a dominating midfielder who was known to run from penalty box to penalty box all game long. Jon played with the Bavarian Majors for many years. He played in four National Championships, a US Amateur Championship team in 2001 and numerous State Championship teams. Jon enjoyed a wonderful college career at UW-Milwaukee. Some of Jon's college accolades were: All WISL 1987 and 1988, All Midwest 1st Team 1988, and team captain plus leading scorer 1988. His college career was followed by a stellar professional career with the Milwaukee Wave from 1989 to 1993, Chicago Power from 1993 to 1994, and Milwaukee Rampage from 1995 to 1999. During his Rampage tenure, Jon was Team Captain, assist and scoring leader and A League National Champion in 1997. Jon currently lives in Middleton with his wife, Lynn and three children: Madison, Joey and Eva.



Franjo Vukovic, Croatian Eagles

Franjo Vukovic was born in Cabuna, Croatia and immigrated to America in 1971. While attending John Marshall High School, he joined the soccer team coached by John Schisler, a fellow immigrant from Croatia who became a mentor. Franjo's first club experience was with the Milwaukee Sport Club Juniors. From 1973 to 1977 Franjo was a member of the Croatian Eagles Reserves team. 1989 was the beginning of an iconic administrative career for Franjo. The Croatian Eagles Soccer Club was declining and Franjo was asked to become President after previously serving as Youth President. From 1989 to 2011 Franjo created the legacy that Croatian Eagles Soccer Club is today. He was instrumental in improving Croatian Park; the first addition to the clubhouse in 1991 which is now the main bar, and the second addition in 2001 adding restrooms, locker rooms and a laundry facility.

It was more than the physical improvements that are Franjo's legacy. The youth program is now recognized not only by their checkered shirts, but their success on the field, winning three Youth State Championships since 2009. On the adult side, the Croatian Eagles went from mediocrity in the Major and Reserve Division to a National Championship in 2012. The club won Wisconsin Challenge Cup titles in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003; Major Division Championships in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012; Wisconsin Amateur Cup titles in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; Wisconsin Open Cup titles in 2006, 2012; United States Adult Soccer Midwest Region Amateur Cup Championship in 2008; United States Adult Soccer Midwest Region Open Cup Champions in 2012; and the United States Adult Soccer Association National Open Cup Champions in 2012.

Franjo currently lives in Franklin and is married to Iva (daughter of fellow Hall of Famer Luka Gale). They are the parents of Franjo Jr, Melissa and Kimberly and grandparents of Ardi and Mile. Franjo remains active in the soccer community, holding positions as the Cups Commissioner of the Wisconsin Soccer Leagues and President of the Supervisory Board of the Croatian National Soccer Federation of Canada and the United States.