

## **Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame – Class of 2016 Bios**



### **Mark Babich, Madison 56ers**

Mark Babich was born in Milwaukee and began his soccer career with the Milwaukee Serbian and United Serbian soccer clubs. Mark also played for the United Serbians state championship team in 1978, the same year he moved to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin.

While at the University of Wisconsin, Mark played for the Badger soccer team, earning a letter for four years. Mark was a two-time Badger team captain, including 1981, the year the UW received their first-ever national top 20 ranking earned their first NCAA tournament bid. Mark also won the "Bill Reddan Spirit of Soccer" award with the Badgers.

Mark continued to play for the United Serbians. After concluding his collegiate playing career, Mark joined the Madison 56er's and played a key role in the 56er's dynasty of the mid to late 80's, including winning the 1988 state championship. Mark helped connect Madison and Milwaukee soccer worlds during this period. Mark left the state of Wisconsin for career reasons and continued to play high-level soccer in Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Upon returning to Wisconsin in 2003, Mark has continued to play premier age group soccer, including national tournaments in Las Vegas, West Virginia. Mark and his wife Jane reside in Hartland and are the parents of Kyle and Alexandra.



### **Herbie Dundun, Brookfield East H.S.**

Herbie Dundun was born on June 14, 1957 in Sapele, Nigeria. His playing career highlights include: playing for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay from 83-85, where he helped the "Fighting Phoenix" reach the NCAA Tournament in 1984; playing professional indoor soccer for Fox Valley from 85-86, and professional outdoor soccer for the Milwaukee Wave in 1989; and serving as a player, captain and coach for the Milwaukee Serbians from 90-07. Herbie's coaching career spans over three decades, and includes coaching at the youth club (FMI 89-04, Brookfield 99-02), high school (Green Bay Southwest 86, Waukesha North 87-89, Brookfield East 94-95 and 04-present), and state adult Majors' levels (Milwaukee Kickers 92-94, Milwaukee Serbian 96-07). This career is decorated with countless accomplishments, including winning seven state championships, and being a regional finalist twice as a youth club coach. As a head and assistant high school coach he led his teams to eight state tournament appearances, a number one national ranking, and was named the 2010 WSCA Coach of the Year and the 2011 NSCAA Regional Coach of the Year. As an adult-level coach, his Milwaukee Serbian teams reached the semi-finals or finals seven straight years, and in 2004 were the US Open Cup Finalists at the state level. Herbie and his wife Gina have two grown children, Ryan and Rose Dundun. He and Gina live in Brookfield where he continues to coach at Brookfield East High School.



#### **Michael Huwiler, Bavarian**

Michael Huwiler was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and played youth soccer for the Milwaukee Kickers and Brookfield Acura soccer clubs. He was a 2 time Parade All-American in High School, leading Marquette High School to multiple state championships. He attended the University of Virginia on a soccer scholarship where his teams won back to back NCAA championships in 1992 and 1992. After college, Michael played professionally for the Richmond Kickers, Atlanta Ruckus, Milwaukee Rampage and DC United in the MLS, winning the A-League championship with the Rampage and the MLS Cup and Open Cup Championships with DC United. He was a member of US Soccer youth national teams from U15 through U20. He played for the U23s in the 1992 Olympics and was recognized as one of the top players in the Olympic tournament. Michael lives today in Milwaukee with his wife Molly and his three children Felix, Katahdin and Ida. He remains active in soccer as a youth coach in Wauwatosa.



#### **Jonathan Meersman, Referee**

Jonathan Meersman grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and moved to Wisconsin after meeting his future wife Sarah Kazlauskas at the 1995 Midwest Regional Championships. Jonathan quickly became involved with the referee program in Wisconsin. After implementing successful referee training programs at the club and district levels, in 1999 Jonathan began serving on the State Referee Committee as the State Director of Instruction. In the decade that followed, Jonathan guided the unprecedented growth in referee instructors throughout the state which led to an unprecedented 240% growth in the number of registered referees in Wisconsin. Regionally, Jonathan has been appointed US Youth Soccer Region II Referee Administrator. At the National level, Jonathan is a National Referee Instructor and has been appointed to the USSF National Referee Committee. He has been invited to participate in multiple FIFA Futuro III courses for referee instructors. Jonathan is married to Sarah and they have three children: Philip, Leah, and Jeffrey. The entire Meersman family stays actively involved in soccer in Wisconsin.



#### **Leslie Osborne, U.S Women's National Team**

Leslie Osborne grew up in Wisconsin, where she attended Catholic Memorial High School playing soccer. Osborne won 3 state championships and won Wisconsin Player of the Year Awards. Leslie participated in the WYSA Olympic Development Program (ODP) for 7 years, Regional ODP for 5 years and 6 WYSA State Championships. Leslie played with the Santa Clara University Broncos in California. With the school's National Championship team, Leslie was a three-time All-American and received the 2004 Honda Sports Award. Leslie is sixth on the school's goals list with 44 and ninth in assists with 33. Named to the 2001 and 2004 College Cup All-Tournament teams, Leslie won consecutive West Coast Conference Player of the Year awards and was also tabbed as the WCC's Defender of the Year. Santa Clara University retired her jersey and she is in the Santa Clara Hall

of Fame. Leslie was inducted in the West Coast Conference Hall of Honor. Earning 62 caps for the USSF senior national team and scored her first national team goal vs. Chinese Taipei in 2006. Leslie started five games in the 2007 Women's World Cup in which the USA team placed third. Leslie played with the Bay Area FC Gold Pride. She then played with the Boston Breakers, and in 2013 she joined the Chicago Red Stars of the National Women's Soccer League. Osborne was a team captain on all of her professional teams. The Boston Breakers also retired her jersey. Osborne works for Fox Sports and completed her first World Cup coverage as a studio analyst this summer in Vancouver. She currently works as an Assistant Athletic Director at Santa Clara. Leslie is also an owner and CMO of Sweat Cosmetics that just recently launched at the Women's World Cup.




#### **Bill Podewils, Milwaukee Kickers**

Bill Podewils was born in Milwaukee, and got involved in soccer when he coached his daughter's U-10 soccer team at the Milwaukee Kickers, and became actively involved managing competitive soccer, joined the board at FC Milwaukee Kickers, where he also served as Treasurer and President. From 1992 to 2006 he served as Treasurer and as President of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. He implemented coaches' passes and licensing, increased financial stability of the WYSA by increasing the reserves to over \$500,000 and hired the first full time Executive Director. Under his leadership, many protocols with regards to the ODP, USSF National coaching schools, medical symposiums, etc. have been implemented. In 2006, Bill was elected as Director to Region II, USYSA, Midwest Region, and is still serving in that capacity today. Bill developed Region II Girls and Boys ODP, the Midwest Regional League, and the Presidents Cup. His website innovations include, online registrations, credit card payments and use of social media to advertise and support the players at all levels of the game. Bill and his wife Patricia reside in Wauwatosa, where they raised three daughters, Jessica Thornhill, Julia Watson, and Jessica Podewils. Bill has committed himself to improve the soccer environment so that all soccer players have a great soccer experience, both off and on the field. He has encouraged all those who have worked for him and with him, to embrace the game of soccer for the benefit of those who play the game, especially the Kids. His insightful and innovative leadership has impacted not only those of us here in Wisconsin, but also at the Regional and National levels.



#### **Dan Stebbins, Bavarian**

Dan was born in 1969 and grew up in Milwaukee. Dan played for the Kickers, Tosa City and the Bavarians as a youth player. At Milwaukee Rufus King HS, Dan honed his soccer skills as a dynamic forward and was an all-state player. He then went on to play and graduate from the University of Notre Dame where he was team captain his Senior year. After college and for the next 12 years, Dan had great success playing professional soccer and scoring goals on every level. Dan played for the Milwaukee Wave from 91-93. In 94-97, Dan played for the Milwaukee Rampage of the USISL league. In the 96 season, Dan led the league in goals scored, was an all-star and league MVP. The following year

	<p>Dan led the Rampage to the USL A-League championship. Over the next 2 years Dan played for both the Dallas burn and the Miami Fusion of Major League Soccer. Dan also won a Championship in 2000 with the Rochester Rhinos of the USL A-League. Dan was also a star player for the Milwaukee Bavarians for many years starting at the age of 15. Dan was instrumental in numerous WI Major League State championships and 1 US Open Cup and 2 US Amateur Cup National Championships. Dan currently resides in Whitefish Bay with his wife Lisa.</p>
	<p><b>Jim Spielmann, Racine Soccer Club</b></p>
	<p><b>Gene Edwards Special Recognition Award: The Bisswurm Family</b></p> <p>For over fifty years, the Bisswurm family has been an iconic presence in the Wisconsin soccer landscape, beginning with John "Hans" Bisswurm, Sr., who played for the Bavarian Soccer Club and is a current member of the Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame. Hans was also President, Youth coordinator and coach at the Bavarian Soccer Club. Subsequent generations of Bisswurms involved in soccer include John &amp; Sally Bisswurm, Tom Cattani, Mike &amp; Jenny Bisswurm, Tim Bisswurm, Cathy Bisswurm-Vogel, Jim Miller, Anne BisswurmMiller and Rob &amp; Erin Bisswurm. They have been involved as players and coaches at the Bavarian Soccer Club, starting and coaching Catholic Memorial High School Boys Soccer program from 1980 to present, two have been members of the UWM Men's Soccer Program, coaches at several of the local club teams, including FMI, Pewaukee, and Strike FC. Additionally, grandchildren have played on local soccer club teams and for their high school teams.</p>