

DENNIS ALMEIDA



Growing up in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Almeida's soccer talent was quickly noted when he was asked to play in adult leagues at the age of 16. Almeida graduated from West Virginia University, where he earned All-American honors in each of his four years and was drafted by the Cleveland Cobras, an American Soccer League (ASL) team. In his eight-year playing career in Cleveland, Dennis was named team captain and also served as a player/coach for several years. He was an ASL All-Star and was named Most Valuable Player in several tournaments. After his playing career, he became a Special Education teacher at Lorain High School, in Lorain, Ohio, where he is still active after

35 years. In 1947, he became a soccer coach for Lorain High School and coached until 1999. He earned coaching honors when he was named Coach of the Year in the Erie Shore Conference. He also coached a Lorain County Community College for three years. In 2002, Almeida was inducted into the New Bedford High School Hall of Fame.

CARL DAMIAN

Damian was born in Romania and immigrated to the United States in 1970. He joined the German Central Club, one of the local Lake Erie Soccer League's premier clubs. In 1973, he was hired at Malone College, in Canton, Ohio as an Assistant Coach. Three years later, recognizing that the ethnic Cleveland league did not have Romanian based members, he started the Dacia Club, a new team with close ties to new Romanian immigrants. In 1977, he became Assistant Coach at the College of Wooster under Bob Nye for three years. While there, Carl started Wooster High School Soccer and recruited the Rotary Club to help build soccer fields for the school. He returned to begin managing the German Central Club, a



position he currently holds. He has also coached Cleveland area high school soccer teams including Shaker Heights, University School and Lake Ridge Academy. In 2010, he was elected as Vice President of the Lake Erie Soccer League and was asked to coach several Cleveland All-Star teams that played against similar teams from Southern Ohio and Illinois.

DON GREINER



From Dayton, Ohio, Greiner is credited with re-starting the soccer program for Edelweiss and helping to start the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky League in 1952.

Although a playing field for the Edelweiss club existed, it dated back to the 1930's and was in need of major renovations. Greiner helped prepare the field, cut the grass, painted the lines and gathered supplies. He also

organized Edelweiss to provide shirts with vertical blue stripes with solid blue pants for competition, which became a tradition and "the pride of Edelweiss." When the team began it had only 11 players, but as time went on Greiner was able to recruit more players from Antioch, the University of Dayton, Miami University, and from the local community. The players were as diverse as many immigrated from Europe, and South America. In 1953 and 1954 the team won the Southwest Ohio-Indiana Regional Championship with the 1954 final being played at Edelweiss Park.

PAUL ROCKWOOD

Rockwood has been involved in high level soccer since 1968 when he captained the University of Akron under head coach Bill Killen. He was named All-Ohio Most Valuable Player in 1969 and Best Defensive Player in 1970. Upon graduation, he played professionally in the American Soccer League with the Cincinnati Comets in 1974 and 1975. During his time there, the Comets were league champions. When his playing career ended, Rockwood began coaching. In 1977, he was Head State Youth Coach for the Ohio State Youth Soccer Association before leaving in 1983. From 1983-1989 he was the Mid-West Region Olympic Head Coach where he developed players from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and the rest of the mid-west. Currently Paul is the Director of Coaching for the Lakota Soccer Club in Cincinnati, the Director of Coaching for Cincinnati United Premier, and a videographer for the Columbus Crew in Major League Soccer.



MIKE TUCKER



Entering his 19th season as the University of Dayton's Head Women's Soccer Coach, Tucker has built the Flyers into a premier program of the Atlantic 10 Conference. His teams have been Atlantic 10 regular season champions ten times, tournament champions eight times, and have appeared in the NCAA Tournament eight times. Tucker has also earned a great number of individual honors. He is a four-time Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year and in 2008 he was named the Ohio Coach of the Year. Tucker's daughter, Lori, played for the University of Dayton while he was assistant for Tom Schindler. When Bill Glisson succeeded Schindler, Tucker stayed on as a top assistant. In 1995, Tucker became the

school's third head coach and the first full-time head coach. Before coaching at Dayton, Tucker graduated from the University of Cincinnati and coached the Cincinnati Cardinals, a club team, from 1983-1991 where he earned a record of 310-52-34. During his tenure, the Cardinals were Ohio South state champions twice and league champions eight times. He won 27 major tournament championships in his nine year span.

REGINA VANVOROUS

VanVorous did not consider herself a soccer fan until, at the age of 27, a friend asked her to play. After playing for the first time, she quickly fell in love with the sport. She became involved in soccer organization when she accepted the position of treasurer of the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association where she stayed for five years. In 1996, she joined the Ohio Soccer Association-North as the third Vice President and still holds that position today. She began refereeing in 1995 as a member of the Akron Referee Association and now serves as an adult representative on the State Referee



Committee. In 2002, VanVorous formed the Northeastern Ohio Amateur Soccer Association, the largest league in northern Ohio, holding 60-70 teams including an open men's division and an over-50 men's division. She also represents her league in the Ohio Soccer Association-North and the Amateur Soccer Association.

ROBERT WARZYCHA



Warzycha is in his fifth full season as the head coach for the Columbus Crew. He has been with the club since its inception and is currently in his 11th year as a member of the club's coaching staff. In his first full season in 2009, Warzycha guided the Crew to the Supporter's Shield title as the team with the best record in MLS (13-7-10) and entry into the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a finalist for MLS Coach of the Year in 2009. Warzycha was an assistant when the club won the MLS Cup in 2008. He joined the Crew as a player in the club's - and Major League Soccer's – inaugural season in 1996 and played for six years. He remains the Crew's all-time career assists leader with 61 and ranks fourth in points with 99. As a native of Siemkowice, Poland, Warzycha has become one of the most successful international signings in MLS history, was a two-time MLS All-Star, and was the Crew's team MVP in 2000. Prior to joining the Crew, Warzycha made 47 appearances with the Polish National Team from 1988-95 and played with the English Premier League side Everton from 1991-94. He and his wife Eliza have three children: daughter Olivia and sons Bartos and Konrad, who currently plays with the Crew.