

Hall of Fame Class of 2007



Front Left to Right: Carmello Capurro, Nick Capurro, Roland Bedard, Dave Long
Rear Left to Right: Paul Scheurmann, Vince Pecarro, Herman Kraft, Pat Smith, Jack Hermans, Carl Wright

Nick Capurro



Nick Capurro began coaching “Italia” in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana association in 1966 and obtained his “A” coaching license sponsored by FIFA and directed by FIFA coach Dettmar Cramer.

In 1972, a group of investors asked him to coach the Cincinnati Comets, who he promptly guided to two consecutive American Soccer League championships in 1973 and 1974. Capurro was named ASL Coach of the Year following both seasons.

Capurro was born in New York in 1926 and began playing soccer in 1931 when his father took the family back to Italy. At age 12, he went for a tryout with Napoli’s youth team and was signed to a tentative contract. At age 16 he was signed to his first professional contract and loaned out to a Third Division team on the island of Ischia where he played until 1943 when league games were suspended due to World War II air raids.

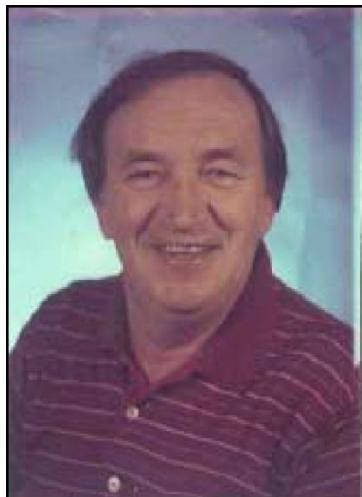
Since Capurro was born American, in 1944 he was drafted and sent to Fort Benning Georgia for Paratroopers school and upon graduation was assigned to the Military Police unit in Naples. In his free time, he resumed playing on another Third Division island team in Procida and spent six months on a Second Division team in Livorno, where he was stationed until his discharge from the US Army.

In 1946, he received a free transfer of his contract to the Brooklyn Italians Soccer Club, a three-time champion in the now defunct National league. Capurro played in the summer months from June to September and returned to school in Italy where he played amateur ball off and on until his graduation

from Medical School in 1954. Soon after graduation, he started a surgical practice while remaining on the teaching staff of the Department of Surgery of the Good Samaritan Hospital.

Capurro is now retired and resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, with his wife Rose.

Paul Scheurmann



Paul Scheurmann was born in Novara, Italy, in 1930 as a Swiss citizen and came to the United States in 1946.

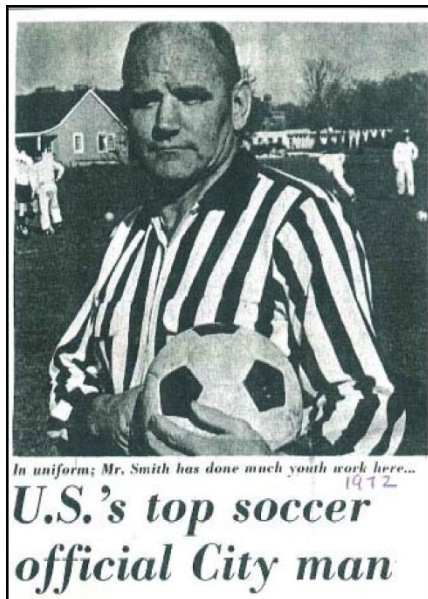
Scheurmann played soccer for Edelweiss Soccer Club in Englewood, Ohio, and in 1953, he helped form the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky Soccer Association. Teams were from Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.

Scheurmann became Secretary of the League and affiliated with USSF. He was responsible for all of the association's administrative duties, including registration, issuance of passes, referee instruction and scheduling of matches. He also served as hearing officer for all complaints.

The association was administered from the basement of his home, where he would type the newsletters and schedules on carbon, print them out on a drum roller and send them to the various leagues.

Scheurmann is married to Lilly and has four children. He worked for the *Dayton Daily News* in the printing department. He now resides in Novara, Italy, with his wife.

Pat Smith



Pat Smith was the first soccer coach at the University of Dayton in 1958. He also refereed in the North American Soccer League, served as Director of Assessment in the NASL and Director of Officials for the American Soccer League.

For his efforts, Smith has been inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame, National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association Hall of Fame and Ohio High School Coaches Hall of Fame. He was the first official to be awarded the Eddie Pearson Award in 1979 by US Soccer and the first recipient of Ohio Coaches Award for Referees in 1997.

Born in Birmingham, England, on November 10, 1923, Smith emigrated to the United States with his wife Maureen in 1953 and worked for General Motors in Dayton, Ohio for 31 years. He and his late wife have three daughters.

Vince Pecoraro



Vince Pecoraro ran the Youth Select League in Cincinnati for many years and was the Referee Administrator for all tournaments in Cincinnati. He was also president of the local high school referee association for three years.

Pecoraro was also a longtime coach (1967-91), for various recreational, select, high school and college teams. He has coached Ohio South champions at the U-14, U-16 and U19 levels.

As a referee (1969-92), he officiated at the club, men's amateur, high school and college levels. He worked many high school championship matches, the 1985 U-19 national semifinals and finals in Omaha, Neb., and the 1990 NAIA women's national championship match.

Pecoraro was born on April 5, 1939 in Jeannette, Pa. He has a wife, Johanna, and five children, Vince, Johanna, Mike, Jon and David.

Herman Kraft



Herman Kraft played in the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky soccer association for the German Club Edelweiss out of Dayton, Ohio from 1957 until 1992. He continued playing in the over-40 league and is still active and playing in the Over-50 League sponsored by the Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association.

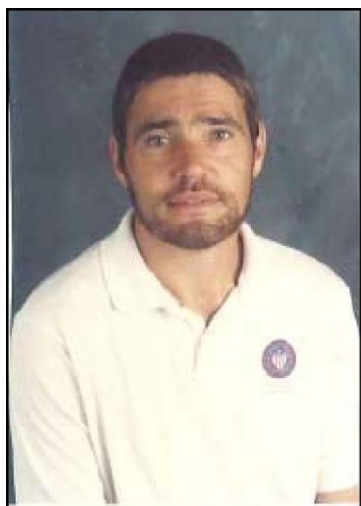
A goalkeeper, Kraft was voted onto the Association All-Star team six years in a row. In 1962 he was invited to try out for the Olympic team.

He was awarded a Most Valuable Player award by the German Club Edelweiss, which won the Regional Amateur Cup finals three years in a row with him in goal.

During this time, he coached the Precious Blood CYO team for 12 years and won many championships.

Kraft was born in the Bavarian town of Diespeck, Germany, on Sept. 7, 1940. He played youth soccer in Germany before coming to America with parents and siblings in 1954. He and his wife, Beverly, and two children, Michael and Deborah, currently reside in Brookville, Ohio.

Jack Hermans



Jack Hermans spent 14 years as the Xavier head men's soccer coach. He was the winningest coach in XU history at 102-154-19 for his 14 seasons. Hermans, 52, who runs a popular series of local summer soccer camps called Soccer Unlimited, is heavily involved in the local soccer scene as a director of training for various clubs in Cincinnati and works closely with Ohio South.

Xavier's best season in the Atlantic 10 Conference under Hermans came in 1997, when the Musketeers placed second in the league with an 8-3 record. Prior to its Atlantic 10 affiliation, Xavier competed in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference where Hermans was named 1992 MCC Coach of the Year. In 1994, Hermans orchestrated a 12-win season, the most victories in one season in XU soccer history.

Hermans, who was born in Breda, The Netherlands, played youth professional soccer in Holland until his career was cut short by an injury. Hermans then focused his soccer energies on coaching and coached several youth teams in Holland. Hermans spent two years as an assistant at XU in 1989 and 1990 before taking over as head coach in 1991. Prior to arriving at Xavier, Hermans was named Coach of the Year in Cincinnati while coaching at Anderson High School.

In addition to his XU coaching duties, Hermans has been very active in Ohio's Olympic Development Program and is a former boys state coach with ODP.

Carl Wright



Carl Wright rose to a State Class 1 referee in 1979 and is a registered official for Ohio high school and collegiate soccer. He served as State Director of Assessment for Ohio South from 1981-2006 and was USSF National Referee Assessor in 1983.

After graduating from Lima Senior High School in 1951, Wright joined the United States Air Force. While on temporary duty in England, Wright played soccer with his squadron team. In 1955, he began refereeing on the advice of his English coach/referee.

Wright's passion for the game lay dormant until his son began playing with his friends at the age of five in 1970. He coached his son's team until attending his first refereeing class in 1976.

Wright was born on January 14, 1933 in Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife of 49 years, Joey, reside in Huber Heights, Ohio.

Roland Bedard



Roland Bedard became involved in SAY Soccer in 1969 as a coach and referee. He joined the Board of Directors in 1972 and was elected as Vice President and also served on an Expansion and Affiliation Committee that dealt with requests to join SAY. In his first year, Roland took on the job of putting together a manual with the information necessary for running a SAY organization. In September of his first year, he was appointed Director of Officials and Rules.

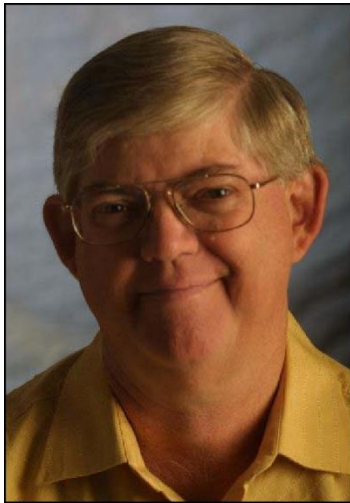
In 1973, Bedard was elected to the first of six terms as President of SAY's Board of Directors. He served as President from 1973-75 and 1980-82. He has also held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. He has served three times as the Interim Executive Director during periods when the National Office was seeking a new Director. Bedard continued to serve as a member of the Board until 1996.

One of his greatest contributions to the SAY organization is the Referee Handbook entitled "Refereeing Youth Soccer," a manual that deals with some of the more complicated laws and concepts of soccer and explains them in a language that is easy to understand. It has periodically been updated to stay current with the new laws as they are introduced. For his work on this manual, Bedard received the Silver Ball Award, which is the highest possible for work within the SAY organization. His latest accomplishment is "The History of SAY," which was published in 2000.

Bedard was selected by Major League Soccer as one of Ohio's Top 100 Soccer Leaders in 2000 and was recognized at the MLS All-Star Game Skills Challenge at Crew Stadium on July 27, 2000.

Bedard and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 59 years and have six children. The couple now resides in Springfield, Mass.

Dave Long



Dave Long has been a sportswriter at the Dayton Daily News for nearly 38 years. He began writing for the News in 1970 while stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and became a full-time reporter with the paper in 1972, covering high school sports, which is still part of his myriad responsibilities.

Soccer had been played in the Miami Valley for years as an "ethnic" sport in adult amateur leagues and at the University of Dayton, but was not a widely accepted.

Though he initially didn't know a direct kick from a penalty kick, by his own admission, part of his writing assignment was to cover soccer at every level from youth programs, to high schools, colleges and the pros.

Over the years, he has covered all phases of the sport around Dayton, from the rise and fall of the Dayton Dynamo pro indoor team and the establishment of the Columbus Crew to the University of Dayton women's team making the NCAA tournament and Fairmont High School's Chris Rolfe playing in MLS with the Chicago Fire.

A 1978 graduate of University of Dayton, with a degree in communications, Long spent six years in the Air Force, including two tours in Vietnam as a language specialist. Long has been married to his wife, Karen, for 35 years.