

North Dakota Soccer Hall of Fame Class of 2011



Erv Johnson

In the late 1970's Erv Johnson began his soccer involvement in Minot area at the local YMCA. As soccer participation in Minot grew Erv was instrumental in organizing the local Minot Soccer Association (MSA). MSA gave Minot the area the opportunity to have both recreational and competitive traveling soccer teams.

Erv was also involved in the early days of the North Dakota Youth Soccer Association (NDYSA). He held many state organization positions including President from 1988 to 1989. Erv says that he held "more positions then I can remember – actually everyone except secretary / treasurer". Johnson also served as volunteer Director of Coaching (DOC) for NDYSA for almost 10 years. He attended coaching clinics in both Colorado Springs and St. Louis. Over the years Erv taught several coaching license F, E and D clinics around the state. His efforts help to raise coaching levels throughout the state.

Erv was instrumental in starting High School soccer in North Dakota. In the early years High School Soccer was not sanctioned by the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA). Prior to 1994 High School Soccer was directed by NDYSA and played under their competitive rules. Erv served as the first Minot High School (MHS) Boys soccer coach. He coached MHS from 1985 – 1995. Minot won the North Dakota Western Regional Championship in 1987 and was the state

runner-up in the same year. Erv coached and won his 1st High School championship in the fall of 1990. Erv's son was a senior on the team making the championship that much more exciting.

It is hard to describe all the time Erv spent coaching in the sun, the rain and the snow. He spent many hours learning the game, numerous hours of practicing and encouraging the players, many miles logged driving to practice, games, tournaments and licensing clinics. Erv has always shown a big commitment to the sport of soccer for the city of Minot and the state of North Dakota. But for Erv it is more than all those things it's about the sport of soccer and his love of the game.

Erv Johnson had a major impact on the early days for both the Minot Soccer Association and the North Dakota Soccer Association (formally NDYSA). Neither organization would be what they are today without people like Erv Johnson who give so much of themselves for the development of the great game of soccer in North Dakota.