

The story....

In June 1989 I ventured to the United States for the first time to undertake the exciting prospect of working summer soccer camps for youth players. Spending week after week with host families, coaching kids from 5-18 years old, visiting all corners of what I came to know as the Pacific Northwest, and playing in coaches "All-Star" Teams in various communities whet the appetite for coaching at a higher level and also teaching.

Upon returning to England and after undertaking my elementary teaching qualification and becoming a fully fledged 'sinner' (as my old math teacher came to call the great profession!) at the same time I qualified to coach many different sports; as well as being fortunate to win a National Championship with the University women's team before being invited to become the English Universities Women's National Team Head Coach. Combining these tremendous experiences of both coaching and teaching I took the teaching aspect and started to develop a curriculum with the English Football Association (The F.A.) to combine all facets of teaching with coaching football (soccer). This led to the establishment of the F.A. Level II – Teaching & Coaching Children and Adults course of which I was the lead course tutor. Undertaking both F.A. and European (UEFA) coaching qualifications, as well as spending time visiting professional clubs in Holland, France, Germany and Spain to further my learning and appreciation of differing coaching philosophies I started to develop my own coaching philosophy, utilizing what I had observed.

After becoming the Head of Department for the Sports Science Department at a Community College and implementing F.A. Courses as well as being and F.A. License Clinician, and developing a local youth soccer Academy. I was offered an opportunity to return to the United States in 1998, to direct soccer camps in the Pacific Northwest as well as become the Director of Coaching for an Oregon based soccer club with 3000+ youth soccer players. The soccer camps were a huge success, with over fifteen camps being run in a summer, with over forty coaches effectively implementing the camp curriculum.

At the club level I implemented a developmental, sequential curriculum and philosophy, and utilized the 5-8 year old age group to start a Developmental Academy. The 8-10 year old age groups were part of the Pre-Competitive Academy, and for the 11-14 year olds I implemented an age appropriate curriculum which took the form of Director of Coaching led sessions, increasing the knowledge base for both players and age group coaches alike.

Club coaching introduced me to the USSF Olympic Development Program (ODP) both on the boys and girls side; this led me to the United States Soccer Federation (USFF) Regional ODP Camp, initially as a staff coach and then as a Regional Age Group Head Coach, which I have enjoyed for over nine years now.

The opportunity arose at this time to get into College coaching, which I started initially as an Assistant Coach at the Women's Division 1 level, being a part of a Championship winning team with Portland State University women's program, before undertaking a Head Coaching position at the University of Idaho, where I have enjoyed five wonderful years.

Running camps through the University system opened up the fabulous opportunity to create a Limited Liability Company (LLC), which I undertook at the end of 2009. This saw the creation of the *NW Premier Soccer Academy*, a privately run academy and camp business.



“Devoted to Player Development”