



United Soccer Alliance of Indiana 1/4/24
Excellence - Character - Community

Dear USAI Family

We are pleased to recognize some of your Club's top volunteers and coaches in 2023 and thank you for your nominations and comments. If you know these folks, will you please help congratulate them?

Key to the Club's success is the army of parent volunteers who run the Club and welcome our 30,000 guests each year. Special thanks to the Club's Board of Directors and every Recreation League Coach for children ages 2-20! With 1000 children, 100 teams and 130 coaches each season, there are often too many great Rec Coaches to recognize each year.

Rec League Coach of the Year

Erick Zelaya

Jocellyn Dawson & Jessica Esters (Rec & Travel)

Daniel Rogers

Brea Williams, U3 Soccer Tots

Rec Plus Coach of the Year

Brian & Sarina Tearman

Volunteers of the Year (non-Coach, non-Team Manager, non-Board member)

These Travel parents each volunteered over 20 hours Fall 2023.

Jose Garcia, 2007B Red

Silvia Estrada, 2014G Red

Pat Cobb, 2011B Blue

Daniel Costa, 2012G Red

Josh Payne & family, 2010B Red

Katie Langlois, 2009B Red

Boys Travel Coach of the Year

Jose Molina & Cameron Shine & Nathan Herrera, 2012B Red & White

Martin Guise, 2011B White & Blue

Boys Assistant Travel Coach of the Year

Muyis Davis & John Morse, 2014B Red & White

Girls Travel Coach of the Year

Shane Chuvalas, 2012G Red, 2011G Red, 2011G White

Team Managers of the Year

Erin Turner, 2012B White

Gina Weaver 2011G Red

Tosha Baskin 2012G Red

Kristin Janeczak, 2014B Red

Allison Lowery, 2013G Red

Newly licensed Referee of the Year

Fernando Flores

Indiana Soccer Association state wide NOMINEES

Shane Chuvalas Girls Travel Coach of the Year 2024

Fernando Flores Young Referee of the Year 2024

Erick Zelaya Rec Coach of the Year 2024

Some of the parent input.

John Morse is one of the volunteer coaches on our 2014 Boys Travel Team. We love Coach Theron Smith and he is phenomenal, but this season he had a lot on his plate and he couldn't have done it all without Coach John Morse. Coach John is quick to step in when Coach T can't be at a practice or a game. He comes prepared and with a plan. He is able to maintain organization of 20-ish 9–10-year-old boys on the field at any given time. The boys respect him, learn from him, and have a blast with him. I've heard that soccer isn't his background but you'd never know that watching him lead the boys when Coach T is unavailable! Our family truly appreciates his time and willingness to step up or assist, no matter what the situation may be.

Kristin Janeczek has been the 2014 Boys Travel Team Manager since we joined the team. I have never asked a question she couldn't answer or get an answer to, and I have had a lot of questions over the last year! She is so patient with the parents and makes sure to communicate in several different ways so that all families are reached. We are always informed and reminded of upcoming games, practices, tournaments and schedule changes. She is active in organizing fundraising efforts to alleviate some of the costs of travel and I'm guessing there's been some cost on her end that has not been covered by our team. She is present and available to assist families, new and old. She's also a great sideline cheerleader! I am so grateful to have her as a resource on our team! I'd venture to guess that there's not a team manager out there more organized and dedicated than she is!

Silvia Estrada, who invariably shows up for each of the Club's score of Field Days and lines fields, install fields, mends nets, installs nets, affix's goal numbers and more.

Martin Guise. Coach Martin recruited many children and formed THREE new travel teams based in Brownsburg! Terrific job Coach Martin Guise.

Recreation League Coaches of the Year

Here are a couple plus some comments from parent survey.

Rec Coach of the Year Erick Zelaya coached 2 teams including U10B Pachuca and U8G Timbers. Parent comment: "My daughter played for the U8G Timbers and had a great experience. Coach Erick and Coach Jeff Jackson were awesome. This was Chloe's first-time playing soccer. The coaches were knowledgeable, patient and they built a team environment that helped the girls to thrive. I wish our team could stay together next season."

"Our Rec coaches were INCREDIBLE! **Jessica Moses and her sister Jocelyn** were unbelievable. They were great to my daughter and they helped her so much with technique. She is SO passionate about soccer and I think it's because she "gets it" - she is a good rule follower - when she is told what to do, she feels like she is succeeding - she has experienced much success under their coaching."

Stacie Haak coaches 2 Rec teams, U6G and U10G. USAI Rec Coach of the Year 2022 as well plus Finalist for Indiana Soccer Rec Coach of the Year 2023!

Parent comments: "Stacie Haak (Pike U10G Courage) is a wonderful coach. This is the second time my daughter has been on her team, and both times have been fantastic experiences. Coach Stacie is obviously an experienced, skilled player herself, but she's also able to generate a real camaraderie among the girls. It's obvious the whole team is not just developing their skills and playing well, but having fun and enjoying being together." "Coach Stacie was the best." "Coach Stacie was great! She had to many times wrangle the emotions of 4- & 5-year-old girls which is no easy task! Her practices from her were great and really help my daughter enjoy playing."

Rec Coach of the Year

Daniel Rogers coached U8G Revolution.

Travel Team Managers of the Year. The Club's volunteer travel team managers donate countless hours to help parents and players with all that is involved joining and playing for a traditional Club soccer travel team.

I am writing to wholeheartedly nominate **Erin Turner** for Manager of the Year. Erin is the indispensable heart and soul of the USAI 2012B White team. Her unwavering dedication extends beyond expectations, benefitting Coach Nathan, players, and parents alike. Erin's exceptional fundraising skills have proven instrumental, resulting in a remarkable achievement of over \$5,000 raised. This significant financial support has translated into the ability to participate in five additional tournaments. Moreover, Erin's strategic approach has alleviated costs associated

with referees and tournament fees. Her pivotal role in securing a resounding victory in the survey contest for the 2012b White team showcases her leadership and organizational prowess. Erin ensures that all stakeholders, including parents, players, and coaches, meet their deadlines, contributing to the team's overall success. In summary, Erin Turner is the driving force behind the team's achievements, embodying excellence in organization, fundraising, and leadership. Her remarkable efforts make her truly deserving of the Manager of the Year award.

Dear Awards Selection Committee,

I am writing to proudly nominate **Coach Nathan Herrera for the Boys Travel Coach of the Year Award**. As a dedicated member of our club and an exceptional coach for the 2012B White team, Coach Herrera has exhibited unwavering commitment, leadership, and an unparalleled passion for the development and well-being of our young athletes. Finding an extraordinary youth coach for any sport is no easy task...one who cares for the kids, wants them to succeed and grow, one who builds character, teaches class and sportsmanship, teaches how to celebrate the big wins, but always stay humble...the qualification list is never ending. Being a youth soccer coach is so much more than teaching kids how to play soccer. **It's about teaching kids how to be good humans.** Coach Herrera has been an instrumental force in fostering a positive and supportive environment for the players. Through his guidance, our team has not only demonstrated outstanding athletic achievements but has also grown as individuals, learning important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. Leading from the sidelines, Coach Herrera built this team into winners--- taking first place in ISL 4th Division, finishing 2nd in ISL 3rd Division, and promoted to 2nd division within one year. The dedication Coach Herrera exhibits both on and off the field is truly commendable. One of Coach's greatest strengths is his ability to instill a sense of camaraderie among the team members. Coach Herrera joined our club in fall 2022. He was handed a team of young athletes who just wanted to play soccer...a new team, a team of boys many of which hadn't even played together yet. He spent his first season building a foundation—building a brotherhood. Under his leadership, our players have developed strong bonds, creating a sense of family that extends beyond the soccer field. This sense of unity has not only contributed to our team's success but has also **left a lasting and positive impact on the lives of each player.** Coach Herrera has shown a commitment to player development, implementing innovative training techniques, and fostering an environment that encourages individual growth. His coaching philosophy emphasizes not only the importance of skill development, but also the nurturing of a positive mindset and resilience among the players. I wholeheartedly believe that Coach Herrera is more than deserving of the Mike Berticelli Boys Coach of the Year Award. His passion, leadership, and positive influence have left an indelible mark on our players and their families. I am confident that Coach Herrera will continue to inspire and shape the lives of young athletes for years to come. His devotion to his team and to his sport is immeasurable. He's a leader among leaders—an exceptional coach with grateful squad of young athletes eager to welcome new teammates to the brotherhood—a diverse, multi-cultural bonded group of young men who share a love of soccer. They are now and forever brothers!

Sincerely, Erin Turner
2012B White Parent
2012B White Team Manager

In 2023 Coach Erick Zelaya coached 3 teams in Spring 2023 plus 3 teams in Fall 2023 USAI Community Recreation League. Parents request him over and over again due to their children's soccer experience.

Parent Brenda Hernandez wrote: *"we've had a good experience with him as my kids' coach. We liked his training styles and the way he speaks to the kids."*
Rec Coach of the Year Erick Zelaya coached U10 Boys Pachuca and U8 Girls Timbers.

Parent comment: *"My daughter played for the U8G Timbers and had a great experience. Coach Erick and Coach Jeff Jackson were awesome. This was Chloe's first-time playing soccer. The coaches were knowledgeable, patient and they built a team environment that helped the girls to thrive. I wish our team could stay together next season."*

Coach Erick dedicates his time and efforts to USAI Community Recreational soccer. He promotes participation and fun to the players, as opposed to winning and losing. Players, parents and his fellow coaches recognize Coach Erick as an



influential role model, a person who is in the game for the kids to have fun and creates a positive playing environment.

From: Amy Blair

Subject: USAI Coach Erick nomination for ISA REC Coach of the Year 2023. Comments

Coach Erick is such a fun and caring coach. Coach Erick is knowledgeable about soccer but more importantly he is every child's biggest supporter. The kids on the team had a wonderful time playing, became better players and developed a love of the game.

More:

"Coach Erick creates a fun, positive learning environment for all of the players."

"Coach Erick create a fun atmosphere for each player."

"Coach Erick not just developing their skills and playing well, but having fun and enjoying being together."



Dear Angel Hall and Indiana Soccer Association Nomination Committee

We have a terrific candidate for 2024 ISA Girls Travel Coach of the Year Award! Shane Chuvalas is Head Coach of THREE USAI girls travel teams: USAI 2011G Red and USAI 2011G White and USAI 2012G Red. Coach Shane is obviously a hardworking and dedicated coach in USAI Travel Program.

Coach Shane arrives early to each training session well prepared with the day's lesson plan. Equally well prepared for each match, Coach Shane tweaks the line up based upon his knowledge of the day's competition's strengths. Coach Shane is knowledgeable about the game and teaches integrity, respect for self and all others, and sportsmanship to all players no matter the team. Coach Shane started as a volunteer Recreation League coach for many years. Coach Shane has gone on to take all the ISA offered online coaching courses and is in the midst of earning USSF National D coach license. Coach Shane believes in constant improvement from both the players and himself. As a Rec Coach, Coach Shane took it upon himself to train USAI Junior Referees each season. Many of those young people have gone on to become licensed referees. This year, after many years playing as a combo 2012-2011 team, Coach Shane split the 2012's into their own true age U12G ISL team while still keeping intact both 2021G teams as each moved up to 11v11 format! It's a remarkable and rare accomplishment to form a new team for ISL U12!



As one can read from a handful of the parents' comments below, players, parents and other coaches consider Coach Shane's coaching performance as exemplary and one who is influential in creating a better environment.

Hi Tom! I'm not sure if anyone has but I'd like to nominate Coach Shane for the Girls Travel Coach of the Year. He is not only dedicated to improving each girls' skill and technique, but he has done a remarkable job on expanding our age group teams! He puts his expertise, knowledge, and heart into our teams. Wildly recruiting on and off season to build the program. He also appreciates his team managers and families. He's a great candidate for this title. **Tosha Baskin**

Coach Shane has been a part of my daughter's soccer career for as long as I can remember. She always feels motivated and excited about soccer and we know that it is because he has made her feel like she was a part of a team on day one. Coach is always looking for ways to be consistent and reflective with the players and I strongly believe this is what continues to grow the team and make them stronger. Coaches' dedication to each player 'development is evident in every choice he makes for the team. **Gina Weaver and Family**

After completing just one season of USAi travel soccer with Coach Shane, he has reinvigorated the passion and fortitude that my daughter had lost while playing for a lackadaisical former coach. Coach Shane meticulously prepares these girls for not just soccer games but to be the best version of themselves on and off the field. **Olivia Ly**

Coach Shane has the ability to find strengths in each player and help them improve their strengths for the betterment of the team. My daughter now has confidence on the field and believes in herself, thanks to Coach Shane. **Julianne Lainez (Rubi's Mom)**.

My daughter has grown more in 1 season with Coach Shane than she has in her previous 4 years combined. He has the perfect amount of heart and discipline to make a strong winning team! **Jairon Lainez (Rubi's Dad)**

Coach Shaine has dedicated countless hours to build a competitive girls travel team. Our daughter continues to grow and wouldn't think about joining another club because of the team camaraderie he has built. I hope he is strongly considered! He has done a lot for this program. **Thanks, Sally and Randy**

Hi friends, Thanks for helping with this...I think coach is a perfect candidate. We appreciate coach Shane because of how he deals with both individuals and the team. He treats each player as an individual and changes how he interacts with the girls depending on their individual personalities. With respect to the team, we really appreciate that he has the long view in mind...he is coaching both the girls and the team to be complete players in the coming years, rather than playing each game to win. This has resulted in success, but has really created a growth approach where the process is more important than the outcome. **Shelley and Dave**

Coach Shane is very dedicated and passionate about developing the teams he leads. He gives an incredible amount of time and effort into planning every single training session. He takes time to learn about his players and their families. He builds everyone up and finds every player's strengths. **Michelle Itczak, parent and Assistant Coach**

Coach Shane is a coach like no other. The individual instruction and attention he gives to each player shows his level of dedication not only to the individual player but also in growing a strong team. **Jamie Marshman**

Fernando Flores is one of the best young Grade 8 Referees. All of 2023, he would come to Mary & John Geisse Soccer Complex on Saturday morning and Ref any and all games Keith Mitchell assigned. As a part of USAI Referee Development Academy, Fernando officiated 3 or 4 Community Recreation League games each Spring 2023 game day. As he developed experience, Keith Mitchell began to assign him to Travel and Rec Plus and this fall year to USAI's youth soccer tournaments. (Editor note: this smile is when Fernando discovered, at the Indy Pike Fest 2023 pay station, we were paying twice what he earned as a Rec Ref. lol) One would imagine we would never see Fernando at Rec games again. Incorrect. Fernando continued to officiate young recreation games in the morning and then stayed all afternoon to ref Travel and Rec Plus games! Fernando is professional in appearance, dependable, consistent in performance, has a positive attitude toward players and team officials. This young man is a role model both on and off of the playing field.

Thomas Geisse
President & CEO
USA of Indiana



Keith Mitchell
USA of Indiana Referee Assignor
ISL Referee Assignor
CNC Referee Assignor

Assignor: Indy Pike Fest, Indy Fusion Classic, Indy Burn Cup, Indy International Soccer Cup
From a professionalism point, Fernando is one of the most consistent referees I have had. Once he signed up for games, I never worried about him showing up. He continuously volunteered to take on more games to help me fill spots for referees that were missing. This makes a referee assigns job so much easier when they know they have someone that will show up when they

say they will show up. From a technical point of view, I am very impressed at how Fernando quickly picked up on the little nuances in the game. If I explained something around the game, I only had to mention it once and he was good to go from that point forward.

Keith Mitchell, USA of Indiana Referee Assignor

Fernando can be found almost every weekend refereeing games for the area Recreational and Travel games. I enjoy how well Fernando handles the entire aspect of being a referee. He is always prepared, and is consistently one of the first referees to show up on Saturday morning when we have recreational games. He is also very comfortable refereeing our travel games and has done a very good job handling not only our regular season travel games but also the USAI tournaments where he may be called on to referee 4 or 5 games each day. It is always great to see how referees develop from year to year and Fernando is no exception. Starting out as a new licensed official in March 2023, Fernando moving up in the level of games is a great success story for the way the referee program has successfully worked here. Fernando continues to be willing and able to jump in and help out whenever we have a need. This has been beneficial to our Club to have someone like Fernando willing to help out.

Matt Schlake, Managing Director, USA of Indiana

Fernando Flores has progressed at a wonderful pace in his short time as a referee. His impact has been noticed by many of the coaches. I receive notes about the referees from time to time but for Fernando, I have had coaches and the President stop me on the field to tell me what a wonderful job he is doing. He works well with the younger players, making sure it is not only a game to ref but a learning experience for them. I have seen him often take time before the game to make sure to answer any questions the players may have.

Pam Suchecki, Director USA of Indiana Community Recreation League

From: Heaviland, Dean Coach of Speedway High School Men Varsity Soccer Team

Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2023

Thank you so much for the email and considering Fernando for the award.

Fernando played soccer at Speedway for all 4 years and always had a great attitude...whether he was a prime contributor or a role player. He not only worked hard at soccer, but also was a drum major so would leave our practices and then go practice with the band for many hours.

Fernando is a good person first, always helping others where he can, a good student second (almost a 4.0 GPA) and a good player next. He was selected with for our Mental Attitude Award this season for his great work ethic, his exceptional attitude and his willingness to do anything to help the team.

Dean Heaviland

USA of Indiana benefits by being neighbors with Speedway Youth Soccer Club where Fernando played all 8 years of his soccer career.

USA of Indiana also benefits by being neighbors with Speedway High School where Fernando played all 4 years of his high school soccer career. It does not surprise us to learn today that Fernando is a 4.0 honor scholar-athlete!

Playing History:

Speedway Youth Soccer Club (8 years)

Speedway Youth Soccer player - 2015-present

Speedway High School Boys Soccer Team (4 years)

Speedway High School Varsity player

Awards:

Mental Attitude Award Received - 2023

ISCA All Academic player Received - 2023

Varsity letters - 2022 and 2023

Referee License: Earned March 2023