



Coach Steve Richards

Steve Richards is one of the founders of this unique Academy. Richards is a former professional Goalkeeper in Europe and the United States. Former Head Coach of the Orlando Nighthawks Professional Men's Soccer Team.

<i>Head Coach</i>	<i>Space Coast Strikers</i>	<i>FL Elite Soccer League</i>
<i>Women's Soccer Coach</i>	<i>Nova Southeastern University</i>	<i>Ft. Lauderdale</i>
<i>Men's - Goalkeeping Coach</i>	<i>Florida Institute of Technology</i>	<i>Melbourne, FL</i>
<i>Director of Coaching</i>	<i>Megu Fusion Soccer Club</i>	<i>Melbourne, FL</i>
<i>Head Coach Girl's</i>	<i>Viera High School</i>	<i>Viera FL</i>

Steve Richards has been responsible for raising the level of play of thousands of students nationwide with Post to Post International Training Centers combined with Soccerplus, which was one of the largest soccer programs for strikers and keepers in the country.

He has also coached numerous players playing in top college programs. Premier players such as Michelle Akers, the former Women's National Team Captain and Olympic Gold Medalist.

He also took the Orlando Nighthawks, a first-year franchise, to the third ranked team in the nation, and to be recognized as a unique and powerful force.

2007 Richards was voted coach of the year for the Florida Elite Soccer League first year franchise Space Coast Strikers. Scoring 45 goals and only conceding 5 goals.

Richards has a close working relationship with some of the top coaches worldwide and currently recruits for numerous colleges nationwide.

Coaching Philosophy

I thought it might be helpful to you if I provided you with an idea of who I am and what I believe to be my "coaching philosophy" pertaining to the game of soccer and, in a way I suppose, life in general. I do not profess to be well versed in psychology, nor do I think that I know every aspect of coaching soccer. However, I do believe that the past twelve years of coaching has provided me with some insight into ideas that not only allow me to help create better soccer players, but also facilitate individual player's maturation.

To begin, academics are the most important aspect of your collegiate life. You may love soccer. You may plan on playing professionally. But you must prepare yourself for other aspects of life. Academic success - especially as it requires rigorous effort I am willing to provide my student-athletes with as much help as they need. I act as a career counselor, academic advisor, foster-parent, and friend. And as

such, I require academic success as a prerequisite to athletic opportunity. You must pass to play they are more likely to be successful.

I believe that a player should be provided the opportunity to make decisions, both good and bad. It would be much easier to demand specific actions from players at specific times or situations; I know there would be fewer costly errors. But playing in that manner would also negate the opportunity for the spectacular or wisp of creative flair that makes the game of soccer so special. Therefore, I try to provide my players with situational recommendations, but insist that they make decisions. It is my job to analyze their results and provide feedback (both positive and negative) and try to assist them in learning from their past experiences so that in the future they might make the best decisions available to them. I believe that the best one can hope for in life is to be held accountable for the actions and decisions one makes - to reap the accolades or accept the criticisms.

Another principle I adhere to would be that you must deserve to win. When push comes to shove, when you are truly tested against someone who is either your equal or superior, you must honestly know that you deserve to win - know that you trained harder, longer, endured more hardship, risked more of your heart. I believe this approach will sustain you in your darkest moments. I believe this feeling will allow you to look at yourself in the mirror after a loss and say that there was nothing else that you could have done. And I believe this feeling also will help you avoid having to look in that mirror very often. The time and effort required to achieve such mental strength is immense. I will demand such time and effort from you. But, I believe that only you can provide yourself the motivation to travel such a path. As a coach, I can only help you with directions.

Competition must be the basis upon which the team's mental and physical training is based. As a team, we chart everything that we do. Every fitness activity and every small-sided match are charted, every goal noted, every win-loss-tie recorded. . I want my players to train in an environment that is demanding - an environment that replicates the game. Games are competitive, practice must be as well. I ask my athletes to learn to solve problems that various situations pose so that their team can win. Players must always remember that practice does not make perfect, perfect practice makes perfect.

A team is a collection of individuals, but for a team to be successful it must be much more than that. A successful team is a group of individuals driven by a common goal. My ultimate goal as a coach is to be the very best that I can be! I try not to compare myself with the accomplishments of others, and I attempt to take the same tack with my players. I evaluate them. I get to know them. I try to understand where they are and where they came from. I then try to put them in varying situations to get the most out of them. I ask not for them to be great at everything, I only ask that they try their best. I heard it once said that it is impossible to train a player beyond a point that she feels she is capable and it is impossible to train to a point beyond which she feels necessary. Players set their own goals. Players establish their own limits. I want players who always look to overachieve.

I really love what I do. When I get up in the morning it is not a task for me to go to work. I look forward to seeing my players, and I believe we have laid a solid foundation upon which we can continue to shape and mold my program to a level of national prominence.

- *A standard of academic excellence*
- *A reliance on informed decision-making and personal responsibility*
- *A Subscription to dedication and industriousness that foster an inner self-confidence*
- *An acceptance of the belief that only through competition will the individual and team maximize their potential*

Coaching Experience

Extreme Academy - Present

Personal soccer training for teams and individuals. The Extreme Academy is the next level for the care seeking college soccer player and the only recruiting and marketing program to teach a self training schedule to meet the demands of playing in college.

Viera High School - Present - 2006

Head Coach of Varsity Girl's Soccer Program

- District Champions 2008-2009
- Regional semi-finalist for Class 4 A
- Successful graduation rate (100 %)

Nova Southeastern University - 2005- Present

Assistant Women's Soccer Coach

- Responsible for National recruiting
- Conducted weekly training sessions
- Reviewed game analysis breakdown

Florida Institute of Technology - 2005 – Present

Goalkeeping Coach

Space Coast Strikers - 2007 – Present

Head Men's Coach Semi Professional

Florida Elite Soccer League

- Voted coach of the year 2007

Megu Fusion Soccer Club - 2005 – Present

Director of Coaching and Player Development / Director of Operations

- Develop curriculums for both the Recreational /Competitive and Elite State Cup level programs.
- Recruit and training of all incoming coaches.
- Education of roughly 1,200 students at all levels of play.
- Camp Development

Melbourne High School - 2003 – 2006

Head Coach of Varsity Girl's Soccer Program

- 2006 District Champs
- Regional semi-finalist for Class 6A

Coaching Licenses & Education

- State of Florida Department of Education Educator's Certificate Athletic Coaching / (Grades k-12)
- NSCAA Advanced Regional Diploma USA
- E License USA
- Youth Module License USA
- State Goalkeeping License USA
- Regional Goalkeeping License USA
- Athletic Coaching / Sports Medicine 1 560 003A
- Athletic Coaching Theory 1 506 004A
- Athletic Sports Specific
- Personal Trainer Certification
- Fitness & Nutrition Diploma
- Sports Psychology Diploma