









NEWS RELEASE

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Albert, Fleck, Gordon, and Steinbrecher Named to 2023 United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame Class

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Oct. 13, 2022) – United Soccer Coaches has announced the election of four individuals as the newest members of its Hall of Fame. All four will be inducted as members of the Class of 2023 during the 83rd Annual United Soccer Coaches Convention, January 11-15, in Philadelphia, Pa.



Al Albert

Dr. Thomas Fleck

Roy Gordon

Hank Steinbrecher

Al Albert, longtime men's coach at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va.; Dr. Thomas Fleck, one of the nation's leading coaching educators for over 40 years; Roy Gordon, celebrated men's coach at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.; and Hank Steinbrecher, legendary servant to the game of soccer, will be honored at the annual Awards Banquet on January 13, 2023. The four individuals will become the 75th, 76th, 77th, and 78th inductees into the United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, established in 1991 to honor achievement by coaches with an emphasis on success and a lifetime devotion to the association and the game.

"Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Committee's selection of this year's Hall of Fame recipients: Al Albert, Roy Gordon, Dr. Tom Fleck, and Hank Steinbrecher," said Ashlee Fontes-Comber, United Soccer Coaches President. "Their Hall of Fame induction is United Soccer Coaches' way of honoring their success within the game along with their lifetime contributions to soccer."

Albert served as the Head Men's Coach at the College of William & Mary for 33 years (1971-2003), compiling a career record of 401-187-64 (.664). He had 29 consecutive winning seasons including 26 straight campaigns of 10 wins or more during his tenure. In his time as head coach, Albert led the Tribe to 11 NCAA Division I tournament appearances including two quarterfinals, in addition to being named a four-time Colonial Athletic Conference Coach of the Year and three-time United Soccer Coaches Region Coach of the Year. Beyond the collegiate game, he served as the United States Men's Coach at the 1981 and 1985 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Albert served for a long time on the United Soccer Coaches (formerly NSCAA) Board of Directors culminating with his term as President in 2008. He received the association's prestigious Honor Award in 2011 and was the recipient of the Bill Jeffrey Award for long-time service to college soccer in 2003. One of the leaders in the establishment and growth of the United Soccer Coaches Foundation, he was the fourth recipient of the William Holleman Award for meritorious service to the Foundation in 2022.

Fleck, who passed away in 2011, will be honored posthumously. He was an NSCAA All-America player at West Chester University (Pa.) in 1957, became a candidate for 1960 U.S. Olympic team and played professionally for a short time for Philadelphia of the ASL. Fleck earned his Ph.D. from Lehigh University where he coached men's soccer from 1969-1977. He then became the Eastern Pennsylvania Director of Coaching in 1978 and served as the first United States Youth Soccer coaching education coordinator in 1978. Fleck was the General Manager of the Philadelphia Fury in the North American Soccer League from 1979 to 1983.

He also served on the Board of Directors of United Soccer Coaches (formerly the NSCAA) culminating with a two-year term as President (1984-85). During his term as President, the association established its National Coaching Academy Program and youth soccer coaching membership grew exponentially. Fleck later served as Director of Coaching for state youth soccer organizations in both Florida and Idaho. He was the author of the first Official USYSA Coaching Manual and named their first recipient of the Excellence in Coaching Award now named in his honor. He was the recipient of the United Soccer Coaches Honor Award in 2004 and the first recipient of the Charlotte Moran Youth Long-Term Service Award in 1996. Fleck was honored with the Walt Chyzowych Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 and was inducted in the West Chester University Hall of Fame in 2005.

Gordon began his coaching career at the University of Maine-Farmington in 1970, serving as head coach of both men's soccer and baseball for the Beavers. Among his soccer players was Mike Berticelli who went on to a legendary coaching career of his own. Gordon initiated the soccer program at the University of Mary Washington in 1977 and the tennis program a year later. He

1958 All American Soccer player at West Chester State College
1967 - named Director of the Elementary Level of Lehigh University Centennial Laboratory School
1967 - 1968 - Freshman Soccer Coach Lehigh University
1969 - 1978 - Varsity Soccer Coach Lehigh University - record of 57-52-10 - 1971 MAC Championship
1969 - co-founder Greater Bethlehem Soccer League
1970 - Earned Doctorate in Education at Lehigh University
1974 - co-founder Lehigh Valley Senior Soccer League
1978 - named as first Youth Coordinator for United States Soccer Federation (USSF)
1978 -1982 - General Manager of the Philadelphia Fury team in the North American Soccer League (NASL)
1980 - Technical Advisor for USSF World Youth Soccer Championship
1982 and 1984 - President of National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) - while serving in this position he was founder of the NSCAA Academy Program to train youth soccer coaches
1983 - 1996 - Director of Educational Services and Coaching for Florida Youth Soccer Association
1994 - Technical Advisor to the USA World Cup Championship
1996 - NSCAA Life Service to Youth Achievement award
1996 - 2003 - Director of Coaching and Player Development for Idaho Youth Soccer Association
2004 - Walt Chyzowych Award For Lifetime Achievement in Coaching Education
2005 - NSCAA Honor Award for Lifetime Service
2005 - received the first US Youth Soccer Excellence in Youth Coaching Education award - this award was subsequently named after Dr. Thomas Fleck
Member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Hall of Fame
Author of no less than 10 youth soccer coaches manuals and parental guides for players for ages 5 to 12

My Endorsement of Doctor and Coach Tom Fleck

By Stuart W. Bayne, Class of '72

Tom Fleck's first year as the head coach of the Lehigh University Freshmen Soccer team was also my first year at Lehigh. His encouragement over a bunch of eighteen-year old's was the primary reason why we worked so well together and went undefeated. I was honored to be part of his team for five years of which two (Sophomore and Senior years) involved season-ending injuries. To this day, I regret those broken bones prohibited me from witnessing the full five years of the finest coach I ever had, in any sport. Not one cross word was directed at me from Coach Fleck in five years; not one. For me, he was the most positive and encouraging role model I had in college, and I really needed that at the time. Thank you, Coach. God Bless.

From: Frank Mooney moondog072050@yahoo.com
Subject: Coach Thomas Fleck Jr. - Hall of Fame Nomination
Date: July 11, 2022 at 10:19 PM
To: white.bill01@gmail.com



I firmly support Bill White's letter of nomination of Coach Thomas Fleck Jr. to the Lehigh University Athletic Department's Hall of Fame. Coach Fleck was a strong influence on me as an unrecruited & immature freshman in 1968 in both my soccer career as well as my life after Lehigh. I learned so much soccer strategy during the four(4) years that I played for him and so many life lessons that helped me mature into a successful adult. After graduation, my wife and I would come back to campus to visit him at the Centennial School on many occasions and were very disappointed when he was unable to further his career at Lehigh where he had done such great work, not only with the soccer program but, in the field of education as well!

Sent from my iPhone

DR. THOMAS FLECK, JR.

February 28, 1937 – December 24, 2011

Memories and Reflections of Coach Fleck by Michael Perlow Jr, BS72 and MS74

Educator – While at West Chester University he was a Soccer All-American where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. He then earned his Master's degree in Education from Temple University in 1960. In 1967, he became principal of the Lehigh Education Department Centennial School that grew from only a few special needs students to nearly 100. In 1970, he also received his Doctorate in Education from Lehigh University. In 1972, he guided the completion of their new 25,000sf school building.

Major Life Challenges - His undefeated 1968 freshman soccer team formed the nucleus of his 1969 Lehigh soccer team that won its first 8 games only to finish his inaugural varsity season with a record of 8-4. In 1969, all of us at Lehigh at that time had to contend with the Vietnam war and the first-ever military draft lottery. It was a very tumultuous time in our lives as students and players particularly after the Kent State Massacre in 1970 and nationwide war protests. Coach Fleck was our mentor, friend, and confidante through this very difficult time. With his leadership and guidance, we regrouped as a team to beat Temple 2-1 to win the 1971 MAC Championship with a 10-3-1 record.

While he coached soccer from 1968 to 1977, Dr. Thomas Fleck Jr was first and foremost a father to two young boys and a new daughter who was born in 1968. He was principal at the Centennial School and completed his Doctorate in Education while at Lehigh. Tragically in the ensuing years, he and his family lost his young son Derek and his elder son Logan as well as his wife later in his 40 plus year career. His final battle with the onset of early Alzheimer's lasted over 5 years before his passing in 2011. He leaves behind his youngest daughter Mary Beth Fleck who has been following the efforts of our 1971 MAC Championship Team to honor his legacy as a

"Father, Educator, Mentor, Confidante, Friend and Coach"

Dr. Thomas Fleck Jr has inspired our 1971 MAC Championship Team to love the game of soccer and most important of all, has created a bond amongst our players that has lasted more than 50 years. He has showed us how important it is to appreciate our family, friends, team members and people we work with as well as educating and passing on our knowledge to the next generation.

For the above reasons, it is only fitting that the nomination of Dr. Thomas Fleck Jr. to the Lehigh Athletics Hall of Fame be approved.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Perlow Jr, PE

Civil Engineering BS72 and MS74

443 Main Street, East Greenville PA 18041

Mobile: 267-664-3250 Email: 267-664-3250

From: waltenpohl@mycfs.com
Subject: Coach Fleck endorsement
Date: July 11, 2022 at 11:01 AM
To: white.bill01@gmail.com



I fully endorse the nomination of Coach Tom Fleck for enshrinement in the Lehigh University Hall of Fame. His leadership and mentoring skills have had a lasting impact on so many lives that he deserves this recognition.

William F. Altenpohl, '74

July 25, 2022

To the nominating committee for the Lehigh University Athletics Hall of Fame:

Re: Dr. Thomas P. Fleck, Soccer Coach

I am writing to you to support the nomination of Dr. Thomas P. Fleck to the LUAHF. Before I wrote this endorsement, I read most of the descriptions of the current members of the Hall, with a special effort to read those of the coaches and the non-Lehigh athletes who are members. Coach Fleck embodied many of the traits attributed to the current members....a successful sports background themselves, an inspiration to their players, and successful records.

I also noticed some unique aspects that set Coach Fleck apart from the members and should be considered. His coaching career at Lehigh started in an interesting fashion. He was the freshman coach, fielded a team of walk-ons(of which I was one) and through his application of cutting edge training methods, on field tactics, and strategies turned us into a squad that completed an undefeated season including a win over a nationally recognized program at the University of Pennsylvania. His ascension to varsity coach was rather unique. He wondered over to watch the varsity soccer team practice one day and was approached by then coach Gerry Leaman who turned and asked if Fleck had "ever played this damn game." Answering as modestly as a former all-American and Olympic soccer player can, he replied that yes, he had some experience in the sport. The next year he was handed the reins of the varsity team.

Under Fleck's leadership, the varsity squad, made up of some returning players and the undefeated freshman team, went on to gel into a squad that the following year was ranked as high as 8th in the nation and finished the season at 16th in the nation and the winners of the Middle Atlantic Conference championship.

But I think the two characteristics that I believe are very important and missing from the write ups I read are that Fleck exposed Lehigh athletics to the City of Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley when he solicited the cooperation of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and, with their support, formed the Greater Bethlehem Youth Soccer League. His efforts allowed over 1,000 children to experience the joys of the game and exposure to current Lehigh college soccer players as guest coaches. I see his "town and gown" focus as unique and forward thinking. Further, any coach that can motivate his players to volunteer at 8am on a Saturday morning must be quite a motivational leader.

The second characteristic that sets him apart is exposing Lehigh soccer to foreign players during the six game tour of Scotland that he organized and I was privileged to join. I believe that as a result of that tour several Scottish players later joined or attempted to attend Lehigh. I am convinced this foreign recruitment was a first for Lehigh soccer and continues to this day.

Coach Fleck was a unique individual who served Lehigh as a student, an instructor, a professor, an administrator, an ambassador for Lehigh in the Lehigh Valley and overseas, and as a coach. I believe he left a unique legacy that deserves your consideration.

Respectfully,

Joseph Strickland, Jr., BA(72), M.Ed(75), '71 Championship team member

From: Dana Pizarro pizarro1602@gmail.com
Subject: Dana Pizarro '73 - Coach Fleck Endorsement for HOF
Date: July 13, 2022 at 3:53 PM
To: Bill White white.bill01@gmail.com

DP

Bill,

I support and endorse the nomination of Coach Fleck for election to the Hall of Fame because playing soccer at Lehigh arguably changed the arc of my life. I arrived at Lehigh University as a walk-on in 1969, playing Freshman Soccer for Coach Gerry Leeman. I had given up a full 5 year soccer scholarship at Drexel University to come to Lehigh. I did not know of Coach Fleck prior to that time. Playing three more years for Coach Fleck, he brought me to a higher level of skill, fitness and teamwork with his teaching and training methods and game tactics.

In Spring of 1971, I expected to leave Lehigh and go to work since my family was in a tough financial position. Coach Fleck approached during Spring scrimmages and said he had a soccer scholarship for me for the coming season, my Junior year. I don't know how he knew because I never asked or discussed my situation with him. This came as a complete surprise, particularly since I wasn't an All League selection. In addition, I think he had a vision of how I would fit into the team and contribute to its success in the coming year. The scholarship continued my Senior year and allowed me to complete my engineering degree. Without that soccer scholarship, who knows if I would have come back to Lehigh to complete my degree. With that degree, I enjoyed a 42 year career as a consulting engineer.

Dana

From: Dana Pizarro pizarro1602@gmail.com
Subject: Dana Pizarro '73 - Coach Fleck Endorsement for HOF
Date: July 13, 2022 at 3:53 PM
To: Bill White white.bill01@gmail.com



Bill,

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Dana

July 23, 2022

My Endorsement of Coach Thomas Fleck for the Lehigh Hall of Fame

It was a singular honor to be part of Lehigh's 1971 MAC Conference championship soccer team. The driving force behind that success was Dr. Tom Fleck.

Coach Fleck was a terrific leader and motivator, who after leaving Lehigh became an iconic figure that organized US Youth Soccer. The progress of today's US National Teams and their qualification for men's and women's World Cup are a direct result of Fleck's organizational efforts. The US Youth Soccer Association has named their annual coaching award in Fleck's honor. <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/directory/thomas-fleck/>

When I talk to anyone of significance in the soccer world and mention Lehigh, they ask if I was one of Dr. Fleck's guys. He was an asset to Lehigh's sporting reputation.

I give my highest recommendation for Tom Fleck to receive long overdue Lehigh honors.

Randall Tinfow
66 Maple Avenue
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Member of the 1971 Championship Soccer Team

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Lucy A. Schram

Paralegal

Rebecca L. Purvis

*Legal Assistant,
Real Estate*

July 26, 2022

I write in support of the nomination of Dr. Thomas Fleck for admission to the Lehigh University sports Hall of fame.

Today student-athletes are fortunate to have many resources in order to be successful as both a student and an athlete. In the early 1970's resources to enable student-athletes to be successful, especially for "lesser sports" such as varsity soccer did not exist. Players often had to fashion their own formula to balance academics and athletics and were not always successful.

I and my teammates were fortunate however for we had one superb resource: Dr. Thomas Fleck. A former first team All-American soccer player in college, Tom Fleck was an innovator and educator in both education and athletics, as he served as both the Director of the Centennial School in Lehigh University's graduate school of education while simultaneously overseeing a highly successful soccer program at Lehigh.

The early 1970's was a transitional period for social norms, academia and athletics and Lehigh University was no exception. In 1970 the NCAA reversed a long-standing position and allowed freshmen to play varsity athletics. Dr. Fleck recruited several freshmen including myself. Although anxious and apprehensive, I was eager to become a successful student and athlete at Lehigh in the fall of 1970. However, it soon became apparent that balancing a varsity sport and academics at a university such as Lehigh would become a significant challenge to not only me but to many other young student-athletes.

Fortunately, Dr. Fleck's interaction with his players did not stop at the playing field. Dr. Fleck made himself available whenever an athlete had an issue, a crisis or just needed to someone to talk to. He became a mentor, counselor, teacher, confidant and friend to not only this writer, but to dozens of Lehigh student-athletes at a time when the support network was very thin. I can state without reservation that the completion of my degree at the College of Business and Economics and our success on the soccer field would not have been possible without the guidance and tutelage of this outstanding educator and coach. At the end of my soccer career I was fortunate to have been a member of the 1971 Middle Atlantic Conference Championship team, made all conference for four consecutive years and to have traveled to Scotland to play several international matches with my Lehigh teammates. I have long realized that any of my personal success was less about me and more about the guidance and character of Dr. Fleck and the relationships I formed with my Lehigh teammates.

I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Thomas Fleck for admission.

Thomas A. Klonick

My Endorsement of the Thomas Fleck Recommendation

What an honor to be part of the 1971 MAC Championship Team. We were good players with a great coach. Coach Fleck passionately encouraged and inspired us every day. He made us better players and better men.

But there is more to the 14- year long LU/Fleck story. By co-founding the Greater Bethlehem Soccer League, he made it possible for over 1,000 kids to learn the game at Goodman Campus every Saturday during the fall.

As Director of the LU Centennial School, Dr. Fleck touched the hearts of countless special needs children and their parents.

What a huge blessing our coach was to Lehigh University and all that knew him.

Thanks Coach!

Jay Stiver 1971 Team

From: chuck fetters chfeters@gmail.com
Subject: Support for coach Fleck nomination to HOF
Date: July 11, 2022 at 2:47 AM
To: white.bill01@gmail.com



Bill,

My brother sent me your note on the above and my input is provided below.

**Coach Fleck came to the Lehigh soccer program at a time when the sport was a second rate program at best and in a very short period of time turned it into a very competitive program able to be amongst the top teams in the country. As captain of the 1970 team along with 4 other seniors that year we were able to see the program come together under coach Fleck and it has continued beyond his time at the university. I would highly support his nomination to the HOF.
Chuck Fetters Class of 1971**

Hope this helps Bill.

Sent from my iPad

From: Daniel Richter Jr., Ph.D. drichter@duke.edu
Subject: RICHTER'S final statement about Fleck
Date: July 14, 2022 at 10:20 PM
To: white.bill01@gmail.com

DR

AND THIS IS FINAL!

Re: Richter about Coach Fleck,

I was an uneven soccer player at Lehigh and though I practiced hard for four years, I never became the *consistent* offensive player I wanted to become. I had some good games with assists and goals, even in the Championship Year of 1971. Coach Fleck was also frustrated with my inconsistent play, but I also knew he was aware of my desire and work ethic. Whenever I had a good game, Coach had a habit of starting me the very next game, no matter that the other forwards had better season stats overall. That happened enough times during my three years in playing for Coach that I knew he was in my head motivating me to do my best. I've been a teacher all my career and whenever a striving student has a good performance, I love opening some kind of door for them and quietly chalking it up as a "Coach Fleck moment."

Be good Bill,
Dan

Daniel D. Richter, Professor of Soils
Brevitas delectat!, Brevity pleases!, esp when it comes to email
Address: Box 90328, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708 USA
Website: <https://czo-archive.criticalzone.org/calhoun/>
Cell: 919-475-7939

From: Drew Fetters dbf_pma@msn.com
Subject: Re: Coach Fleck and the Hall of Fame
Date: July 13, 2022 at 11:26 AM
To: Bill White white.bill01@gmail.com



Bill

It was very clear from my time with Coach Fleck at Lehigh that he was committed to develop a competitive program at our University. Beyond that it was apparent that he was also committed to developing youth programs that would eventually raise the talent of US Soccer. We should all be thankful that his foresight has contributed to the quality and competitiveness we are seeing from US soccer players in international leagues today.

Drew

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 13, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Bill White <white.bill01@gmail.com> wrote:

Drew,

First, thanks for sending my message to Chuck. He sent me his endorsement and we exchanged a few messages. It was nice to hear from him. I hope you are also planning to send an endorsement. We would like to include it in our package of information..

Thanks,

Bill White

Mobile: +1 904-536-6539

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

From: Gaughengm@aol.com
Subject: Endorsement of Coach Fleck and the Hall of Fame
Date: July 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM
To: white.bill01@gmail.com



Bill,

Please use as you see fit.

i started playing for Coach Fleck on the 1968 Freshman soccer team. At that time, I didn't know what I was getting into. 4 years later, and under his leadership, I left Lehigh a much better and stronger person. He instilled qualities that helped me throughout life, and that I try to pass on to my children and grandchildren. It would be a tremendous testimony to the excellence of Lehigh University to include him in their Hall of Fame.

Chip