



# United States Adult Soccer Association

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## MIDWEST REGION

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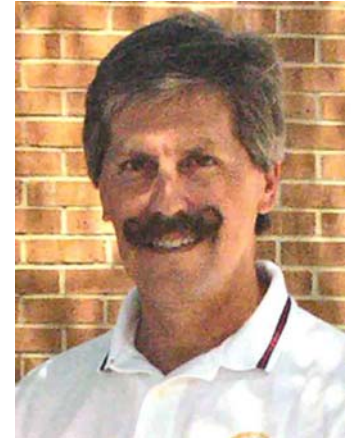
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### Brian Darling of Kentucky to Receive Prestigious Pat Smith Award in June

As first announced at the Region's spring meeting in New Orleans in February. Regional Director Bruno Trapikas made public today that Brian Darling will be this year's recipient of the Pat Smith Award. The award will be presented in conjunction with the Regional Cups Finals, to be held June 18-20 in southwest suburban Chicago.



Player, coach, referee and administrator are among the many roles Darling has performed during his 40 years in soccer. Brian played for Murray State University from 1967 to 1969, where he also served as team Captain. In 1976, Brian started coaching various youth and adult teams and continued doing so for 14 years. A USSF referee since 1979, attaining National Referee level from 1989 through 2000, Brian has been deeply involved in the referee environment for over two decades. Darling became State Referee Administrator in the Bluegrass State in 1982, and continues to serve in that capacity. He has been a USSF Instructor since 1983, advanced to become a USSF National Referee Assessor in 2001, and, about a year ago was named a Referee Inspector – the highest level of Assessor in the United States.

Brian founded the Kentucky Soccer Association in 1981 and has served as its Secretary and as a Member of its Board of Directors since that time. Darling has also served on the USASA Appeals Committee since 2001. In 2007, in recognition of his service, Brian Darling was inducted into the USASA Hall of Fame.

The Pat Smith Award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service to the game of soccer as referees, instructors, assessors, mentors, administrators and/or assignors to their State Association's Referee Program and to the Region. The Pat Smith Award Committee consists of all past recipients of the award, the Regional Referee Administrator, and any members appointed by the Regional Director. Samir Yasa of Indiana chairs the Pat Smith Award Committee.

The Award is named after Pat Smith, who died late last year. In 1979, Pat Smith was the very first recipient of the Eddie Pearson Award, given by US Soccer to recognize outstanding officials. Smith was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1998. The Award's past recipients include: Michael Bazakos, Ken Baldeosingh, Bill Davey, Casey Frankewicz, Gerhard Mengel, Joe Rosul, Carl Wright, and Michael Wuertz.

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