

KENTUCKY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



SOCCER LEARNING UNIVERSITY

Paul Nicholson

Head Coach

Cincinnati Dutch Lions



Coach Nicholson was named Head Coach of The Cincinnati Dutch Lions in December 2017. One of the first 11 signings, Coach Nicholson played central defender for FC Cincinnati for the 2016 and 2017 USL seasons playing in 37 matches. Before his time in the Queen City, Nicholson played for the Wilmington Hammerheads for five seasons in the USL. In his professional career, Nicholson had 153 appearances, scored seven goals, became the fourth player in USL history to log 10,000 minutes played, and is in the top ten in games played.

As an amateur player in England, Nicholson played for Carlisle United FC until 16 years old then to Morecambe FC in Lancashire until 18 years old. Nicholson then made his move to Rio Grande where he led the Red Storm to four consecutive conference championships and four NAIA national tournament appearances. To cap off his playing career, Nicholson was a First Team NAIA All-American, finished NAIA National Runner-up, and was the NAIA Most

Valuable Defensive Player. Due to the successful senior year, Nicholson was the only NAIA player invited to the MLS Player Combine in 2009. In 2016, the University of Rio Grande inducted Nicholson into the Hall of Fame. Nicholson has two years playing experience in the PDL with West Virginia Chaos and GPS Portland Phoenix where he played in 30 games and scored two goals.

Since his move to Cincinnati, Nicholson has been a club coach with Kings Hammer Soccer Club and recently was appointed Director of their East/Central program. While playing for the Hammerheads, Nicholson was also coaching in the Wilmington Hammerheads youth soccer club. A graduate of University of Rio Grande, Nicholson got his coaching start as an assistant at his alma mater for two seasons where Rio Grande were NAIA national tournament semifinalists.

Nicholson is a USSF B license coach and will be participating on the USSF A license course later this year.