

# Walter Schlothauer and Phil Seil inducted in the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North Hall of Fame

By Hans Kopp

On November 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 Walter Schlothauer was inducted into the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North at the Nia Center of the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. When we speak of youth soccer pioneers in the Northern Ohio, we need to mention Walter Schlothauer (whose mother is from Schowe and whose father is from Mitrowitz). Walter was the youngest player registered in 1964 at age of 6 and at that time he was kicking the ball around with his uncles Herbert and Hubert Haller since the age of 4.

As Walter grows older his technique developed at a rapid pace under Herbert Haller Sr. who became his coach and mentor. While playing indoor games we practiced going for goal on a two touch at kick off because we played in a regular gym. While playing on a short field in Chagrin Falls Walter scored a two touch goal perhaps the fastest goal in soccer history during first seconds of the game.

Walter became the leader of the SCD Concordia U19 team representing Ohio in the Regional State Tournament in Oakbrook, Illinois in which the team played three games defeating Nebraska 5-0, Michigan 4:1 and tying Wisconsin 2-2 and as winner of the tournament earned the bragging rights of being the best team in the Midwest.

Walter along with three other teammates was selected to play on the first Regional Select Team of the Midwest ever assembled for a National Tournament between all four regions in Dallas, Texas. Walter was one of two players selected from the SCD Concordia to earn the privilege to play on the first US National Youth Team (U19) ever assembled by the United States Youth Soccer Association and travel to Germany in October 1975 where he played very successful under the guidance of National Youth Coach Angus Mc Alpine.

While playing in High School and College he became a pioneer in the sport of soccer there as well. He became one of the best known All Americans while playing at his Mentor High School and at the Cleveland State University during which time he was not only trend setting with his tactical and technical game but scoring great and important goals with his left foot which made him one of the most feared attacking players by his opponents.

After his college years he played professionally soccer for 12 years for several teams professional both indoors, as well as outdoors.

His great skills and dangerous left foot earned him a place on the US National Indoor Soccer Team that participated in the first FIFA "5 a side" Indoor World Cup held in Budapest, Hungary in 1986 where the team took 6<sup>th</sup> place among eight participants which was a respectable result for a USA team at that time.

Upon retirement as a player he became a coach and administrator. At the present time he is the "Director of Operations" of the Soccer Sportsplex and Excalibur Premier Soccer Club.

Walter has earned places in the Hall of Fame at the Mentor High School and in 1980 he was named by Sports America as one of the ten most Valuable players in College soccer. In 2002 he was selected by an Ohio-North-Soccer-Committee as one of the top 75 soccer leaders of Northern Ohio.

The second person inducted into the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North Hall of Fame this evening was Phil Seil (Schowe), the founder and former head coach of the Broadview Heights Soccer Club and a former president of the Lake Erie Junior Soccer League and the first president of the Ohio Amateur Soccer League. As such he was a vital force in the promotion of high school soccer in the area.

Walter and Phil follow Hans Kopp, (Batschsentivan) recognized as a founder of the US Youth Soccer Association and who was the first president of the OYSAN. Herbert Haller Sr. (Schowe) former star player of the Sport Club Donauschwaben Concordia, former professional player and coach of the Cleveland Cobras and the first Midwest Regional women soccer coach. Franz Schönberger (Apatin), the first president of the Lake Erie Junior Soccer League, a former president of the SDC Concordia and former director of the Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament of North America. With the induction of these Donauschwaben men into the Hall of Fame, the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North has acknowledged their unselfish and valuable contributions to soccer in Ohio and the United States.



Hans Kopp presents Walter Schlothauer for induction into the USYSAN Hall of Fame.



Walter Schlothauer's acceptance speech.



Walter is presented the Hall of Fame bowl by Ron Gedrich, president of the USYSAN



Hans Kopp and Walter Schlothauer after the ceremonies.



Toni Niccoli presents Phil Seil for induction into the USYSAN Hall of Fame



Phil Seil's acceptance speech.



Phil is presented the Hall of Fame bowl by Ron Gedrich, president of the USYSAN



Four of the five Donauschwaben inductees into the OYSAN Hall of Fame. Left to right; Hans Kopp, Phil Seil, Walter Schlothauer and Herbert Haller. Not in the picture is Franz Schönberger the fifth member