

US Youth Soccer honors Gary Allen as 2012 US Youth Soccer Excellence in Youth Coaching Education award recipient

Boston (Feb. 17, 2012) – Tonight, US Youth Soccer honored Gary Allen of Manassas, Va., as the recipient for the Dr. Thomas Fleck Award for Excellence in Youth Coaching Education at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala held in conjunction 2012 US Youth Soccer Workshop in Boston.

The Excellence in Youth Coaching Education award is also known as the Dr. Thomas Fleck award. It is designed to honor a lifetime of dedication where one has led with integrity, honor, humor and humility and has made extensive and far reaching contributions to the process by which youth soccer coaches are educated in America.

Hilary Kennedy, host of The US Youth Soccer Show on Fox Soccer, set the stage for the night as the master of ceremonies for the more than 1,000 in attendance. Boys and Girls Recreation and Competitive Coaches of the Year, Young Referee of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Goal and Save of the Year and TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year were also presented during the Gala and the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame inductees were honored as well.

Gary Allen has played a major role in the development of soccer in the United States and specifically, coaching education in Virginia. His early and consistent dedication to coaching education has made him a pioneer in the field. As one of the original staff instructors of the National Youth License, Allen was the second coaching education director for Virginia Youth Soccer and was instrumental in establishing the environment for Virginia to hire a technical director in the late 1990s.

Allen became the youngest coach in Virginia to attain the USSF "A" License, was Virginia's first US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program coach and one of the first two coaching education instructors in the state. Allen also holds a National Youth License. In addition to his on-field duties, Allen is an author of numerous articles.

As a committed coach, Allen has led teams of various levels, including Division I men's and women's programs, high school teams, as well as state and regional US Youth ODP teams. Over the years, Gary has coached 31 players who went on to be named NCAA All-Americans and 17 players who made the U.S. National Teams.

Allen currently serves as a senior staff instructor for the Virginia Youth Soccer Association coaching education program and a U.S. Soccer national staff instructor. Additionally, he was inducted into the Virginia Youth Soccer Hall of Fame in 2008. Over the past two decades, Allen has been instrumental in the development of coach education in Virginia.

Prior to his time as a coach, Allen led his Randolph-Macon College team to the Virginia College Athletics Championship in 1972. While still in college, he was named as an alternate to the U.S. Olympic soccer team.