

Jay Hoffman honored at the Awards Gala for Excellence in Youth Coaching Education

The recipient of the Dr. Thomas Fleck, US Youth Soccer Excellence in Coaching Education Award, was announced tonight at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala, held in conjunction with the 2008 US Youth Soccer adidas Workshop at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, in Pittsburgh. James "Jay" Hoffman was honored.

The Dr. Thomas Fleck Award was 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 Channel, set the stage for the night as the master of ceremonies for the more than 1,200 in attendance. This year was the first year that US Youth Soccer divided the Coach of the Year award into two categories (competitive and recreational). Several awards were also added including Administrator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Goal and Save of the Year. The Male and Female Young Referee of the Year and the charter member of the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame were also presented during the Gala.

For the past 30 years, Jay Hoffman has been a vital asset to US Youth Soccer. During that time, as a U.S. Soccer Federation Coaching License instructor, he helped to co-author many of the USSF Coaching License Manuals and the USSF Men's and Women's National Teams High Performance plans (Project 2010 and Project Gold). Hoffman is an experienced coach at every level: youth, collegiate, professional, Men's and Women's National Teams and the Paralympic team.

He currently serves as the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (US Youth Soccer ODP) Region I Boys Head Coach and the Paralympic Head Coach.

"Jay's passion for developing players and educating coaches is what separates him from most of the coaching community. He was one of the original national staff coaches and he is one of the few of that group that is still currently an active member of the U.S. Soccer instructional staff," said John Ellinger, the Technical Director of US Youth Soccer. "His tireless worth ethic and passion for teaching the game continues to keep him at the top of the upper echelon of world class coaches in the United States."

As an involved member of the Virginia Rush Soccer Club, Hoffman has taken an active role as the Director of Academy Coaching and dedicated himself to sharing his knowledge of coaching education and player identification and development.

Hoffman is an educator who has dedicated his life to the good of the game. Since 2003, Hoffman has coached the US Men's Paralympic Soccer Team and is currently training for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games at Beijing, China.

While with the United States Soccer Federation, Hoffman helped lead the U.S. Women's National Team to the World Cup gold medal and a Women's Pan AM gold medal. His dedication to the game has taken him around the world as an inspirational leader.

In 2006, Hoffman was voted the Virginia Youth Soccer Boy's Coach of the Year. In 2007, he was inducted into the Virginia Youth Soccer Hall of Fame.

Hoffman has also co-authored the USSF Coaching License Manuals and the USSF Project 2010 and Project Gold, the men's and women's national team high performance plans.