

Fran Kulas

Director of Coach & Player Development
Concord Soccer Association

The fall of 2010 marks the beginning of the 3rd full-year that Fran Kulas has served as Concord Soccer's Director of Coach and Player Development. In his role with CSA, he works with coaches, players, and teams, in both the representative and instructional programs. Conducting training sessions and clinics with teams allows Coach Kulas to interact with CSA's players and coaches, and stay closely associated with what the most pressing needs are for our players and their development. Each year Coach Kulas offers a Coaching Symposium to all CSA coaches in January, and the 2011 installment of this program will be the 3rd such event.

In addition to his work with CSA, Coach Kulas is heavily involved in the highest levels of soccer in the United States. In addition to currently serving as the Assistant Women's Soccer Coach at Villanova University, he is also an Assistant Coach with the U14 & U15 USA Women's National Teams. Kulas has been invited to run clinics overseas and has been a featured speaker on leadership and parent education at recent U.S. Youth Soccer national workshops and conventions. He currently holds the United States Soccer Federation National 'A' and 'Youth' coaching licenses and is a member of the federation's instructional staff for the 'A', 'B' and 'C' coaching license courses. In addition to these roles, Kulas is also a senior staff coach for Region I Girls ODP, where he is the Director of Coaching Education and Staff Evaluation.

Kulas has spent time in Germany as a clinician for ODP Europe and during the winter of 2010 served as the assistant coach for the U19 Region I ODP team that traveled to Russia to compete in the FIFA International U19 Kuban Tournament (the squad advanced to the quarterfinals).

A native of the state of Delaware, Kulas joined the coaching staff at Division II Goldey Beacom College prior to the 2008 season. He spent that year as the assistant coach of both the men's and women's teams and was then elevated to Associate Head Coach of the men's squad prior to the 2009 campaign. In that position, he helped lead the Lightning to the most wins in program history as well as the team's first appearance in the CACC Tournament in six seasons.

Kulas previously returned to his home state in 2005 as the Director of Athletics at Archmere Academy in Claymont. During a three-year tenure there (2005-07) he was responsible for several personnel and facility upgrades, including leading a \$2.1 million athletics facility renovation. Kulas also led Archmere through a transition into a new athletics conference and overhauled the school's athletic logo and branding initiatives. His time at Archmere was punctuated by 20 of the school's 22 varsity sports qualifying for state tournaments and highlighted by three teams winning state championships. In addition, four head coaches earned state Coach of the Year honors under Kulas' watch.

In 2007, Kulas was a featured speaker at the 2007 National Catholic Educational Association National Convention and presented the topic "Realistic Expectations for Our Children in Today's Competitive Society." He has had articles published in Soccer America, Success in Soccer, World Class Coaching and Performance Conditioning magazines, as well as in the NSCAA's Soccer Journal and U.S. Soccer Coaches Net Journal.

In 2006, while at Archmere Academy, Kulas was the head coach of the Delaware Dynasty during the team's inaugural season. The Dynasty were a part of the United Soccer League, a semipro professional development league. Four of his players from the 2006 squad advanced to play as full professionals, including one who recently received his first cap as a member of the full national team.

From 2002-04, Kulas served as the State Director of Coach and Player Development for the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association. He was responsible for all facets of the KYSA ODP as well as the Coaching Education and Parent Education programs.

While in Kentucky, Kulas chaired U.S. Youth Soccer's Parent Education Advisory Committee, was a member of the Region II Girls ODP staff and served as the assistant women's coach at Morehead State University. In 2004, the Morehead State team recorded the best record in program history, qualified for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament for the first time in four years and broke or tied 13 different school records.

Prior to his arrival in Kentucky, Kulas spent three years as the head coach of the women's soccer team at Division III Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. In his first season as head coach, Kulas led the Tigers to the NCAC Tournament for the first time. He would go on to sign two straight recruiting classes that each produced the NCAC Newcomer of the Year in 2001 and 2002.

During his time in Ohio, Kulas was a member of the Ohio South and Ohio North Youth Soccer Associations and served on the Coaching Education staff for each. He also was a staff coach for the Ohio South ODP.

A graduate of the University of Delaware, Kulas spent the first five years of his coaching career in his home state. In 1999, he was the girls' soccer head coach at A.I. duPont High School, where he led his team to the Delaware High School state championship, a No. 4 national ranking and a No. 1 regional ranking. That team produced the state Player of the Year and Kulas earned Flight A Coach of the Year honors.

In 1997 and 1998, Kulas was an assistant coach for the men's soccer team at his alma mater. During those two years, he also got his start as a coach of professional, semipro and amateur teams. Kulas was the assistant coach for the Delaware Genies, an amateur women's team that won the Atlantic Division championship while he was on staff. Highlighting his time with the Genies was the opportunity to coach World Cup and Olympic gold medal champions Kristine Lilly, Briana Scurry and Tisha Venturini. Kulas also was an assistant coach for the Delaware Wizards men's professional squad that was crowned Atlantic Division champions in 1998.

Kulas got his start as a coach as an assistant coach for the boys' team at Glasgow High School in Delaware in 1995. The team captured the Delaware High School state championship and finished the season ranked No. 25 nationally. Kulas also served as the head goalkeeper coach for Delaware ODP from 1995-99.

Along the way to establishing himself as a well-respected coach at elite levels, Kulas has personally trained the likes of Demarcus Beasley (U.S. Men's National Team, Rangers FC/Scotland); Charlie Davies (U.S. Men's National Team, FC Sochaux); Bobby Convey (U.S. Men's National Team, San Jose Earthquakes/MLS); Simon Elliott (New Zealand National Team); Cory Gibbs (U.S. Men's National Team, New England Revolution/MLS); Chris Armas (U.S. Men's National Team, Chicago Fire/MLS); Kheli Dube (Zimbabwe National Team, New England Revolution) and Daryl Ferguson (Barbados National Team, Real Maryland).

Kulas received a Bachelor's Degree in English Literary Studies from Delaware. He and his wife, Jennifer, have an eight-year old son, Quinn.