



Kirk Hoecherl Hall of Fame

Kirk Hoecherl

Kirk Hoecherl was, above all, a very warm and giving family man and a devoted soccer dad. He and his wife, Sally, had a large family and Sally and their children meant the world to him and he loved each and every one of them very deeply.

Both Kirk and Sally were on the board of their local league in and were the first to help out in any capacity. He and his family not only supported the league but assisted with the District AAA development program in their area. Kirk was a great influence in general with leagues and demonstrated the effect of being a dedicated volunteer. Kirk, a quiet man, was always there to do what needed to be done—often without being asked. If something needed to be done, and Kirk was doing it, you knew it would be done right. He also spent some time as the coaching director for the America Club.

Later he worked tirelessly as ODP Administrator setting up nets, lining fields, clearing the fields of snow and in general making sure Utah players could have the opportunity to play the game. He worked closely with the State Head Coach to provide a wholesome atmosphere for those players having challenges in their lives. Nothing was too small a detail or too large a task for this upbeat man. He volunteered for everything and worked diligently behind the scenes in an unselfish and low-key manner to do things like scheduling buses, assigning hotel rooms, and making sure the kids got fed. In general, he played a huge part in contributing to the overall success of the ODP Program—a true gentleman.

Kirk had a heart condition and though his medical condition worsened, he never stopped his soccer activities but sought to do anything he could even if it was field setup for the entire ODP practice every week without any help. He traveled when required ensuring everyone had something to eat and their needs met before he did the same for himself. In a quote by Gordon Miller, former UYSA State Head Coach, “Having had the opportunity to travel with him, I can testify that there was more than one time I found his funds and stash of food gone for the benefit of others leaving nothing for himself. I am amazed at the power of ‘paying it forward’. His demonstration of ‘Gratitude for Life’ was an example far more than I can express.”

In honor of his devoted service to the development of youth players within Utah Youth Soccer, this award was created.