



## 2022 Kirk Hoecherl Hall of Fame Inductee

### *Rick Lien*

Rick's affiliation with UYSA started as a 'dad coach' in 1983 when his son Kris began playing as a 6-year old with Leopards Lair. Kris joined the Tsunami u-10 team a few years later and Rick served as the assistant coach. When Kris made the '77 Firebirds team as a u-13 player, Don Reynolds took Rick on as an assistant coach. Over the years, Rick was an assistant coach for Fred Oswald and Enrique Velasquez.

In addition to coaching Firebirds boys, Rick coached his daughter Katie's Leopards Lair recreation teams and The Heat competition teams eventually working to establish the girls side of the Firebirds Soccer Club. Rick went on to coach and train several Firebirds girls teams up until 2006 when he moved to Utah Rush. He coached several Rush girls teams with his son Kris as his assistant coach. In 2011 Rick followed his son Kris to Sparta United Soccer Club. At Sparta, Rick was head coach of the '97 girls and assistant coach for Kris on several other teams. When Kris left Sparta to join the Utah Soccer Alliance, Rick joined him as his assistant coach.

Rick also spent 15 years as an assistant at East High School and served as a volunteer assistant coach at the University of the Ozarks for one season.

Rick's coaching career has now come full-circle. He started as a volunteer coach and is once again a volunteer serving as the assistant coach on his son Kris' three Utah Soccer Alliance teams.