



## JERRY LEVENTHAL

On Monday, June 18, the Iowa Soccer Association inducted into its Hall of Fame the Class of 2007. Being recognized for their numerous achievements, accomplishments and contributions to soccer in the state of Iowa are: Donald (Don) M. Keller, Jerry Leventhal and Ira Simet.

Olympic Development Program. Jerry Leventhal. For the better part of the early and the modern eras of Iowa's Olympic Development Program, the two were synonymous. In 1980 he began his involvement in the sport of soccer along with then five-year old son Aaron. Father, son and mom Gloria became members of the Urbandale Soccer Club, and the commencement of a new period of development for soccer in the state began.

As his son's game progressed, the elder Leventhal realized Aaron's game needed to be supported with a higher-level program of development. At the time, the option was to move his son to a Des Moines program, so he did. Eventually they ended up back with Urbandale and got involved with a select/traveling team that exposed Jerry to the Olympic Development Program, which other neighboring states already had. Leventhal was convinced that Iowa needed to have an ODP program and he pushed the Iowa Soccer Association to add this to its programming, which it did.

*Be careful what you wish for.....*by 1986, Leventhal was the Director of Iowa's Olympic Development Program, a position he held until 2003, many years after Aaron "graduated" from the Iowa ODP program. Or should we say a "job" he held until 2003. Although a full-time teacher by day, according to State Director of Coaching Ian Bradley, he was a part-time ODP Director during his off-hours. Leventhal organized and ran ODP try-outs, sold merchandise to raise funds for a scholarship program for players in need, trained teams and traveled with them to competitions. He was a tireless worker for Iowa ODP who kept the program running virtually on his own, and many players who were identified in the program and went on to play college soccer are indebted to him.



### Iowa Soccer Hall of Famers

Ramona Barber, Harry Berting, Jim Cownie, Don Keller, Bonnie Larson, Aaron Leventhal, Jerry Leventhal, David "Mr. Soccer" Maiers, Michael Nemmers, Tim Pearson, David Proctor, Ira Simet, Bob Wood