



Derek Willis announced as Kentucky Youth Soccer Director of Player Development

Current ODP and Coaching Education Staff Member added to State Office Staff

Lexington, KY - Kentucky Youth Soccer is pleased to announce the appointment of Derek Willis as Kentucky Youth Soccer's Director of Player Development. Willis brings almost two decades of coaching, administrative and playing experience to this newly created position that will work alongside Technical Director Adrian Parrish.

Willis will manage the day to day administrative operations for the Kentucky Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP). As part of the ODP duties, Willis will establish a scouting system for Pre-ODP players and work with local communities to run player camps for grassroots players. In addition to his work with ODP, he will work with the Kentucky Premier League (KPL) Administrator to ensure KPL play dates and provide Coaching and Player Development Programs thru the KPL.

"I am very pleased to welcome Derek Willis as the Kentucky Youth Soccer's Director of Player Development," Kentucky Youth Soccer Executive Director Kris Zander said. "Derek brings tremendous leadership and experience at every level of the sport of soccer — from the youngest recreational player through the collegiate level."

Willis comes to Kentucky Youth Soccer after a lengthy background in Kentucky soccer. Most recently, Willis finished a ten-year stint as the Head Men's Soccer Coach for Georgetown College (NAIA) where he oversaw all phases of the soccer program including recruiting, scheduling, organizing practice activities and coordinating community involvement. In addition to his role at Georgetown, Willis was the Technical Director at Bluegrass Soccer Club where he oversaw all player and coaching development within the club. Prior to his time at Georgetown College and Bluegrass Soccer Club, Willis coached at the high school level at Scott County High School and Central Hardin High School in Elizabethtown as well for Javanon Soccer Club and Atletico Flames Soccer Club.

No stranger to Kentucky Youth Soccer, Willis has been part of the Coaching Education Staff and ODP Coaching Staff since 2006.

"I am really excited to be a leadership position at Kentucky Youth Soccer," Willis said. "As a current ODP staff and coaching education staff member, I'm looking forward to expanding my responsibilities and growing the game in the Commonwealth. I would like to thank Kris Zander and Adrian Parrish for showing confidence in my abilities and giving me the opportunity to be a leader within Kentucky Youth Soccer."

Originally from Georgetown, Willis graduated from Centre College in 2001 and received his master's degree from the University of Kentucky in 2003. Willis holds the US Soccer A License, US Soccer National Goalkeeping License and US Youth Soccer National Youth License. He resides in Stamping Ground with his wife Greshen and his twin boys, Cannon and Dorian.

To learn more about the Kentucky Youth Soccer, please visit www.kysoccer.net.