

Sharon Dewar



Sharon Dewar started playing competitive soccer when she was 12. Born in Epping 1961, she played at the age of 12 in the Lindfield Ladies All Age side. There was not any other age group she could play in those days. Sharon's potential as a soccer player was soon realised, and she represented Kuring-gai District from 1976-78. She then spent 3 years (1979-1981) at Goulburn College of Advanced Education, where she had similar recognition both at outdoor and indoor soccer. After stints with Epping Eastwood and Gladesville Hornsby Representative sides she became a N.S.W. State player in 1983. The team won the Australian (National) Titles played in Perth.

She moved to Umina Beach in 1984 for the 1985 season and played for the Ocean Beach Club. She made everyone take note of the improvement women's soccer has made, by displaying a wide range of soccer skills. She was chosen in the Northern N.S.W. side. She even found time to be the Secretary of the Ocean Beach Club. Playing for Ocean Beach she was successful in winning the CCWSA Player of Year in 1986 and 1987. During the period 1986-1988 she was a member of an elite athlete training program at the AIS.

1987 turned out to be one of Sharon's greatest moments in the game, when she was selected to play for the Australian Women's team. She was Vice Captain in China Cup tournament in Taiwan where the team played eight games (Canada, USA, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Chinese Mulan (Taiwan) and Chinese Liang-Yu (Taiwan)). In China (1988) a Pilot World Cup was staged. Australia played against Brazil, Thailand and Norway. Sharon played in the latter two games. Over the two years, she collected ten "Green" caps for her country.

Her enthusiasm to have a Representative team from the Central Coast play in the NSW State League was realised in 1988 and 1989. Unfortunately, the team did not survive due to politics between NNSW and NSW, which prevented the Central Coast players from a Sydney based competition to play in NNSW State Titles. Because of her desire to play in the top League after the demise of the Central Coast team, Sharon played for Blacktown City then signed for Melita Eagles in 1991. She received injuries which prevented from playing for the next two years and came back to Ocean Beach in 1994, to play NNSW State Titles and to play with, and coach, a composite CC Women's Rep team which won the Bronze Medal in the World Masters Games in Brisbane.

At this stage of her career (1995), she sought coaching opportunities, other than her existing primary and high school team coaching, which she had been involved with since 1984. For the next nine years to 2003, her priority was to give the junior girl players on the Central Coast a better preparation and understanding of the game. She was instrumental in managing and coaching the NSW CC Zone Academy (1996-2000), Central Coast Coerver Elite Academy (2002,2003), CCWSA Developmental teams (1996-1998), Friday night Inter Zone Competition U16 (1996,1997), coached a NSW U16 Girls State team to win the National Titles (1999) and was manager of the Australian Women's U21 Nordic Cup team in Iceland (1999). She even had time to coach her own children's non competition teams at the Avoca Club (1998, 1999, 2001-2003).

In 1998 she was presented with the NSWFSF Special Award Certificate for Outstanding Service to the game and in 2000 the Australian Sports Medal for services as a National Player..

To finish her playing career on the Coast, she made herself available as a player and coach to the Central Coast/Mingara Lakers in 2000, who were enrolled to play in the NSW Women's State League. She stayed four years until 2003.

In 2004 Sharon and her family moved to Sydney to be close to her day job at Knox College, Wahroonga. She maintained her high involvement in player development at Knox Grammar Preparatory School (2005-2009), Wahroonga Football Club (Super Skills program) (2005-2007), Gladesville Ravens Soccer camps (2005, 2006), Gladesville Magic Football Club (2010,2011).

She continued playing in the State League with Gladesville Ravens 2004,2005 then transferred to Wahroonga Tigers Over30s 2006, 2007 to complete her playing life, to date. Overall she has spent just on 40 years in the game 35 years as a player and 28 as a coach.

During her impressive career she has had support from her parents Coral and Graham Read,, Neil Campbell (Lindfield/Kuring-gai), Allan Bourke (CC Regional Coach), Jeff Fathers (CCWSA Senior Coach) and Jeff Templeman (NNSW Senior Coach).

Those who were privileged to come into contact with Sharon realise her passion and dedication to the game, and for her 18 years (1985-2003) spent on the Central Coast, she can be proud of the legacy she has left, in the effort to the development of girl's and women's football.