

## **NORTH TEXAS STRIKERS CLUB HISTORY**

The inception of the North Texas Strikers Club (Club) began with President and founder, Herve Guilliod. Herve has a soccer history that spans over two decades. He played professional soccer, both outdoor and indoor for approximately nine years, and ended his professional career with the the Dallas Sidekicks. After being involved in nationwide soccer camps and clinics, as well as coaching adult teams in New York and Connecticut, Herve settled down in Garland Texas, focusing on youth soccer.

The North Texas Strikers Soccer Club, formerly the Garland Strikers Soccer Club, was founded in July 1994, with one young "84" team made up of a group of ten year old boys. The year 2002 marked the graduation of our inception team. Most of these youth, we are proud to say, played high school soccer throughout their years as North Texas Strikers, and have moved on to college. The North Texas Strikers presently is made up of sixteen teams - ten girls teams and six boys teams.

After approximately one year of planning and prayer, on January 16, 1996, the North Texas Strikers became incorporated as a non-profit corporation. With our initial Board of Directors, the Club's first board meeting was held on April 27, 1996. At this initial meeting the Constitution / Bylaws were formally adopted, and on August 8, 1996, the North Texas Strikers Soccer Club obtained its tax-exempt status.

The philosophy of the North Texas Strikers Soccer Club continues to be, to provide our youth with a high level of competitive soccer and quality instruction, at an affordable price. In keeping with this philosophy, in May of 1997, the Club's Scholarship Fund was established to allow youth with the talent, but lacking in finances, to be able to play select, competitive soccer. In the 2001-02 soccer year two major changes were adopted by the Board of Directors. These were the establishment of the North Texas Strikers College Scholarship Award, and our name was changed from the Garland Strikers Soccer Club, to the North Texas Strikers Soccer Club. The Club's first recipients of the College scholarship awards consisted of seven players from our Boys 84 team.

One of the annual traditions of the Club has been the Club's out of town tournament. This tradition began in 1995 for the purpose of promoting a spirit of cohesiveness and camaraderie among our Club members. Over the years the Strikers Soccer Club has traveled to East Texas, Waco, San Antonio, Austin, Denver, Colorado, and Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1998, the Club hosted its first tournament, the Strikers Pre-Thanksgiving, Fall Classic tournament. A 2nd tournament, the Spring Challenge for both recreation and competitive teams, was added in the year 2000. Both of these tournaments continue to thrive under the direction of the Club tournament director, Richard Torrez.

On June 1, 2000, the North Texas Strikers Soccer Club was donated land by the New World United Methodist Church of Garland, for the purpose of developing our own practice fields. We are thankful to say that our North Texas Strikers Training Complex has been quite an asset to the Club, and in the year 2003 we were able to erect a new lighting system. Our Club history continues to be in the making. We have been blessed with quality parents, staff, and youth, who have all helped to make the North Texas Strikers Soccer Club become truly the "Rising Stars" in Texas.