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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

Former U.S. National Team World Cup '94, MLS, NASL and MISL Coach Timo Liekoski Joins WA Youth Soccer as Technical Director

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Friday, Nov. 9) – Washington Youth Soccer today announced the addition of Timo Liekoski to the Washington Youth Soccer staff as the Technical Director, with Technical Advisor Gary White continuing until the end of the year to assist with the transition. Doug Andreassen, Washington Youth Soccer President comments on this, “We are excited to have Timo join us, and he will work with Gary to make this as seamless as possible. We are fully confident that with Timo’s experience he will continue to help soccer grow at all levels throughout Washington.”

Liekoski will now lead the daily technical operations and technical coaching staff of all Washington Youth Soccer player and coaching programs. He will also oversee the implementation of the strategic change plan in all existing and new programs.

“I am looking forward to contributing to Washington State’s rich and varied soccer environment both in coaching education and player development. I hope that my years of experience will prove beneficial to the youth soccer community,” says Timo Liekoski.

Terry Fisher, Washington Youth Soccer CEO expresses enthusiasm at having Leikoski join the Washington Youth Soccer staff, “Timo is 100% soccer 100% of the time. Timo has lived the modern American soccer dream since 1966. His knowledge and expertise are beyond reproach. He is great teacher and fabulous clinician.”

Liekoski has a U.S. Soccer Federation “A” License and UEFA Pro License, with various coaching certificates from coaching courses in England, Germany and Brazil. He is currently a NSCAA instructor and has been a U.S. Soccer instructor at all levels for 26 years. From 1998 to 2008, Liekoski was a staff coaching instructor for the Finnish Football Association.

As the Technical Director, Liekoski will work closely with James Charette, Washington Youth Soccer’s Director of Coaching Education. Charette looks forward to working with Liekoski to continue improving Washington’s coaching education, “Timo has a vast amount of coaching experience that can benefit all levels of soccer in our state. We look forward to his contributions to Washington Youth Soccer.”

Timo Liekoski’s soccer career began in 1966 where he played for the State University of New York at New Paltz for two years before continuing to play at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York until 1971. Throughout college, Liekoski also played for the Kingston Sport Club in the Greater New York League.

After college, Liekoski became involved in coaching and now has over 45 years of experience in coaching and coaching education in both the United States and Europe. He has coached at all levels of soccer from college soccer at Hartwick College to a local club team he established in Ohio to the NASL, MISL and MLS. Liekoski also coached at the National level; 1994 World Cup where he was the assistant for the United States team.

Bill Nuttall, General Manager of the 1994 World Cup USA National Team, worked closely with Liekoski and he believes that “Timo is a perfect choice to lead Washington Youth Soccer to the next level of youth development. He is experienced, respected and brilliant in his analytical approach to the modern global game. We are lucky to have him with us.”

In 1995 Liekoski served as the coach of the US Pan American Team. He coached the youth national teams in Finland for 11 years, taking them to the European Final competitions, before retiring from active coaching in 2008. Afterwards, Liekoski got involved with the Finland Homeless World Cup Team, where he continues to volunteer as a head coach. During that time, he was also the head coach of the US Soccer Academy Columbus Crew U18 team for one year and was the Region II ODP head coach for two years.

Timo Liekoski can be reached at timo.liekoski@gmail.com or 440.804.6084.

To learn more about Washington Youth Soccer, visit washingtoneyouthsoccer.org.

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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