

# SASH

## HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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### **SASH and Hall of Fame Selection**

For more than a year, SASH has been involved in efforts to have some influence on the process of selecting members of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. We have not succeeded in having any influence yet, but I wanted to fill you in on what has happened and what we plan to do in the future.

At the SASH meeting in Oneonta in June 1995, it was decided that a committee of SASH members would begin a program of writing to state associations and others with the authority to make nominations to the USSF's Hall of Fame Selection Committee on behalf of people we thought were worthy but who had never been nominated and thus had never been considered by the committee. Our hope was that some of these people might be nominated, and would then have a chance to be voted on, for better or worse.

Originally, we decided to wait for approval from the USSF before going ahead with this program. At a meeting of SASH executive board members in Philadelphia in January 1996, it was decided that the program should go ahead without further waiting for word from the USSF. The original members of the committee were Roger Allaway, Jack Huckel, Colin Jose and Mark Salisbury. Jack Huckel withdrew from the committee after he was appointed to the USSF's Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and was replaced on the SASH committee by Ed Borg.

In November 1996, we sent letters on behalf of 12 people to state associations, state youth associations and several professional leagues. Most of these went to the state associations in the states where these people had made their soccer reputations, whether those reputations were for playing, coaching or other activities. In all, more than 30 letters were sent. Each was accompanied by biographical sketches of the people we were writing about in that letter. The 12 people about whom we wrote letters were Nathan Agar, Adolph Bachmeier, Ricky Davis, Sam Fletcher, Gordon Jago, Bill Looby, Arnie Mausser, Alec McNab, Ed Murphy, Steve Negoesco, Werner Nilsen and Al Trost.

The program was a complete failure. Not one of the 12 was nominated. We are not aware that the organizations to whom we wrote paid any attention to our recommendations.

So where to we go from here? The question is complicated by the fact that the structure of the state associations themselves may soon be changing, as a result of the U.S. Olympic Committee's request to the USSF that it restructure the state youth associations, which has implications for the state associations as well.

What we have decided to do is to make our pitch in the direction of the USSF's Veterans Committee. Last year, the chairman of the Veterans Committee was among the people we wrote to. This year, we plan to write to each member of the committee individually. We are not going to write to them about all 12 people on last year's list, however. We have decided to narrow our focus just to former players who have been retired for at least 10 years without ever having been nominated, and we have cut back our list to just three of them: McNab, Murphy and Bachmeier.

The USSF has recently named an entirely new Veterans Committee, chaired by Frank Longo. However, it is possible that the Veterans Committee, which has the authority to put people directly into the Hall of Fame, will be put on hold for a year. We plan to write to the members nevertheless. Even if it is put on hold (and especially

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if it is not), we want those committee members to become acquainted with what SASH is and to start those three names that we are recommending, McNab, Murphy and Bachmeier, percolating in their heads. I am thinking that sometime in January might be the best time to send those letters.

### **Membership Notes**

The last page of this newsletter is a form that you can use to renew your SASH membership for 1998. We understand, or at least we hope, that part of the reason why SASH membership dropped so sharply in 1997 is that people knew of the problems going on at the Hall of Fame and decided to hold off on renewing their SASH membership until that question was settled. So, it has been settled now, and both the Hall and SASH are still here. We are sending this issue of the SASH newsletter both to current members and to 1996 members, in hope that some of those who didn't renew for 1997 will rejoin for 1998. The deadline is April 1.

The SASH membership rate for 1998 remains at \$10. Please return the membership form, along with your payment, to SASH, c/o Will Lunn, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta, N.Y. 13820.

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Three positions will be up for election in next year's SASH election. They are vice president (currently held by Ric Fonseca), secretary (currently held by Jack Huckel) and one of the four director positions (currently held by Colin Jose). Executive director Will Lunn has agreed to serve as a one-man Nominating Committee to conduct the election, which will be held next spring. If you are interested in running for one of the three positions named above, please contact him by April 1 at the National Soccer Hall of Fame, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta, N.Y. 13820 or (607) 432-3351 to let him know that you want to be on the ballot. The election will be held by mail.

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We hope to have a SASH meeting, or a SASH board meeting open to others, during January's NSCAA convention in Cincinnati. We don't yet know the date and location of the meeting, but if you are going to the NSCAA convention, please check your convention schedule for the SASH meeting. It should be there somewhere.