

With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, Derek has built an exceptional reputation as both a coach and player in the world of soccer. Originally from Scotland, where he competed for various semi-professional clubs from 1984 to 1992, he also earned a spot on the U-21 national team and played for Berwick Rangers. His playing career continued in the United States, representing Andrew College in Georgia and then Point Park University in Pittsburgh, where he competed from 1997 to 1999. Throughout this period, he also played for Shadyside Soccer Club from 1997 through 2023.

As a coach, Derek has amassed extensive experience across all levels of the game. He is currently the Head Coach of the GCC Girls team (2023-present) and a coach with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds (2024-present). His long-standing commitment to player development is evident through his role as an ODP assistant coach for the PA West 06 Boys since 2019 and his leadership as a counselor at the Kiski Prep Summer Camp since 2022.

Previously, he served as Head Coach for the Hempfield Area Boys Soccer team from 2020 to 2022 and coached at Beadling East from 2018 to 2023. His dedication to youth soccer is highlighted by coaching roles at Penn Trafford Girls 7/8 grade (2018-2019), Foothills Soccer Club (2016-2018), and a decade of service to Norwin Travel and in-house programs (2006-2016). Earlier in his career, he guided Penn Trafford Boys High School as Head Coach from 2004 to 2013, helping lead multiple teams to section titles, and coached Penn Trafford Girls High School (2003-2004) to a remarkable 20-1-1 season and WPIAL championship in 2003. His high school coaching journey began at Upper Adams Boys High School (2000-2003), where he secured a District 3 section championship. Additionally, he gained collegiate experience as an assistant coach at Point Park University in 1997.

His commitment to coaching education includes earning the NSCAA National Diploma in 2011, a USSF C license, and certifications from the English FA in sports psychology along with completing several English FA online courses.

Over the past 26 years, Derek has also dedicated himself to teaching, positively impacting countless students in the classroom just as he has on the field.

Throughout his career, he has been recognized with numerous honors, including WPIAL Girls Coach of the Year in 2003 and Gettysburg Times Coach of the Year, reflecting his profound influence on his teams and the broader soccer community. Under his leadership, many players have advanced to compete at the collegiate level. Beyond the accolades, he takes great pride in fostering an environment that challenges players to grow, improve, and develop both on and off the field.

Away from soccer and teaching, Derek enjoys a fulfilling family life. He is married and the proud father of four children — two boys and two girls — who continue to inspire his dedication to youth development and mentorship.