

## **Donald Greer, US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame Charter Member**

The charter member of the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame was inducted in 2008 at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala, as a part of the US Youth Soccer adidas Workshop.

Donald Greer (1927-1998) was truly dedicated to the sport and aspired to influence its growth and organization at all levels. In 1968, he founded the California Youth Soccer Association where he served as President until 1975. That year he was inducted into the Association's hall of fame.

Greer's vision wasn't limited to the borders of California as he set to make an impact at a national level. He served as the United States Soccer Federation vice president from 1972-1984.

It was during this time that Greer founded the United States Youth Soccer Association in 1974. He served as its Chairman until 1984.

Greer's vision launched the James P. McGuire Cup, the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (US Youth Soccer ODP) and established regional and sub-regional youth programs for member state associations during his tenure. The "McGuire Cup" is the oldest youth sports trophy in the country and is the foundation of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series competition. This competition is the most prestigious youth soccer competition in the United States. The US Youth Soccer ODP continues to be the premier player development and identification program in the nation with such alums as Kristine Lilly, Landon Donovan, Shannon Boxx and Jozy Altidore, to name a few.

Under Greer's leadership, the number of players participating ballooned from 32,000 to over 1.3 million. Today, US Youth Soccer is the largest youth sports organization in the nation with over 3 million registered players annually.

Greer's dedication and vision continues to be recognized. In 1985, he was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame. In 1992, Greer received the US Youth Soccer Founder's Award and in 1993 the US Youth Soccer Under-17 Boys National Championship was named "The Don Greer Cup" in his honor. Donald Greer is the charter member of the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame, established in 2007.

