

Hi I'm coach Will.

About me: I was born and raised in Brandon, Mississippi. In school, I was a good student, as my mother was a schoolteacher who taught me to study. I started my sports career at a young age, playing soccer, and baseball, then football. I excelled at football. As a HS senior, I was a USA Today 1<sup>st</sup> team All-American and Gatorade Player of the year for my state. I went on to attend the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship, where I lettered, became a scholar athlete, and graduated with a degree in Finance.

My senior year, with my playing days done, I was hired into a financial analyst program in New York. I have been in the area working in Finance ever since. I moved to Livingston shortly after getting married.

I have 2 boys, Darren and Shane, who are active in town activities. We encourage them to study hard, play sports, make friends, engage in school activities, and to take advantage of the many things our town has to offer.

On Coaching: Growing up, because of my ability, I received more attention from coaches than most. Coaches have had a big influence on my life, and I have played for some great ones. I started coaching shortly after my children began their soccer career, because I wished to pass along what I have learned. I love coaching. You cannot be good at coaching or much else unless you enjoy it and receive a sense of satisfaction from doing it. The lines of communication are open between a coach and his players, which offers a unique opportunity. You can help channel their energy in a positive direction. To have a cohesive group, the team must know that you care. One of my coach's once told me- "The worst thing a coach can do is have a player believe that you think they can't do something. Regardless of their ability they should know that you believe in and care about them." Some won't play past our recreational league, so I try to make their athletic experience a good one by showing that I am committed to helping them grow. I hope my players can look back someday and say- "Remember that old southern man that coached us, yeah he was alright!"

Thank you for making me coach of the year. It means a lot to me.

Sincerely,

Coach Will Lyell



