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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Coaching Veteran Joins Washington Youth Soccer as Technical Director *Gary White Brings Passion and Unparalleled Experience to the Position*

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Tuesday, October 6, 2009) – Washington Youth Soccer proudly announces soccer industry talent Gary White joins the staff as Technical Director. White, a USSF National ‘A’ License coach and USSF National instructor who has been an Olympic Games, FIFA World Cup and a CONCACAF Gold Cup Head Coach, 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.

White began his illustrious coaching career after retiring from the Australian Professional league in 1999. In the past decade, White’s career has been marked with countless highlights including taking the Bahamas National team 55 places up in the FIFA World Ranking system in 2006 - the highest climbing National Federation in the world that year. White became one of the world’s youngest ever FIFA National Team head coaches at just 26 years of age during the 2002 FIFA world cup qualifying competition and has developed an International reputation for grooming elite youth players. White’s extensive background in both elite international play and youth player development gives him a uniquely well-rounded and holistic perspective of the game. It is this perspective that will guide him as he defines the philosophy and pathways for the development of Washington Youth Soccer players and ensures the state’s programs are aligned with the world’s modern trends in the sport.

“The list of applicants for this position was impressive and extremely competitive – with Gary we have found the right person for the task,” said Terry Fisher, CEO/Executive Director Washington Youth Soccer. “He is a motivator, teacher-innovator and student of the game with enormous energy and passion to fulfill the needs of all Washington Youth Soccer members. This is the beginning of something extraordinary for our programs and I am looking forward to working with Gary.”

In addition to several FIFA/IOC Licenses and his USSF National ‘A’ License, White’s coaching credentials also include UEFA, FA & NSCAA elite Licenses. He has served as a FIFA National Federation Technical Director and Head Coach, as a FIFA & CONCACAF Technical Study Group Member and course presenter and spent a decade on the FIFA World Player of the Year voting committee.

White has had an important influence on the local soccer community in his role as Technical Director of Snohomish United Soccer Club and through his work with Washington Youth Soccer's Sounders FC/Olympic Development Program.

"Gary is an outstanding fit for the role of Technical Director with Washington Youth Soccer," said Doug Andreassen, President Washington Youth Soccer. "His proven track record for building successful recreational and elite soccer programs, along with his passion for helping all kids discover and grow their love for the game will be a tremendous asset to Washington Youth Soccer and its entire membership."

"I am honored to accept the position of Technical Director for Washington Youth Soccer," said White. "The passion and desire shown by Washington Youth Soccer's Governing Board and executives to be the nation's leading youth soccer organization has been infectious and clear to me since our initial discussions regarding the position. The level of professional personnel and support employed by Washington Youth Soccer is world class and I am looking forward to being a pivotal member of this dynamic and forward thinking team."

Since White's hire this week, congratulations have been coming into the state office from International figures of the soccer community across the globe:

Jack A. Warner, FIFA Vice President and President CONCACAF/CFU wrote "It is my distinct pleasure to extend warmest congratulations to you [Gary White] on your appointment which you so thoroughly deserve as I have full confidence that your vast experience over the years will serve you in good stead."

Ian Woan, first team coach for Portsmouth FC of the English Premier League and close colleague of Gary White, wrote "This is a wonderful appointment made by Washington Youth Soccer and one that I know will bring much success."

For more information, contact Elizabeth Flannery at elizabeth@wsysa.com or 253.476.2237 x112.

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. The 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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