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Society for American Soccer History Newsletter Spring 2024

The SASH newsletter is a review of happenings in the field with quick access to content of interest to the members. If you have questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor Brian D. Bunk, newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org

A Message from outgoing President Tom McCabe



Dear SASH members,

Five years! It's longer than a World Cup cycle and it is time to let others lead our Society.

Looking back to the beginnings of SASH, I am proud to say that we have carried on the work of its founders. From the 1994 FIFA World Cup to the string of mega events that will soon come to American shores — this summer's Copa America, the 2026 World Cup, and then the Olympic Games — our Society has sought, and will continue to seek, to document and share the history and heritage of soccer.

Our members, as well as our Society's projects, programming and website, are a testimony to what others started in 1993. I'm inspired to

continue to contribute to the varied stories of our soccer past. I hope others are, too. There is much to do.

Thank you to all.

-Tom McCabe

A Message from the President



Dear SASH community,

We always stand on the shoulders of those who proceed us. Whether it

is the initial 1993 founders or our outgoing board members, future endeavors should always work to build on our existing SASH heritage.

I am truly honored by both the nomination and election as president of SASH and I will do my utmost to carry forward Tom's five-year legacy. Since Frisco in October 2018, SASH has become a thriving community of public historians, academics, statisticians and more, all passionate supporters of American soccer's rich history. It is my hope to keep our tent as broad as possible to ensure that SASH continues to be a space where all members can contribute.

I look forward to working with the new board and our membership to lay more groundwork for the years leading up to WC2026 which can be a new watershed moment for the American soccer history community. My door is always open and I look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts for the future of SASH.

Best regards,
Kevin Tallec Marston

Upcoming SASH Events



Friday April 5 at 12:00 pm EDT.

Zach Bigalke will be presenting work from his dissertation in a session titled "How the United States is Represented in Women's Soccer Beyond the USWNT." Since the first FIFA Women's World Cup in 1991, 109 American-born women have played for the U.S. Women's National Team in the tournament. In that same time period, 110 American-born women played for other national teams at the World Cup. Zach discusses the phenomenon of the United States as a global exporter of women's soccer talent and the impact that has on both national narratives and the individuals who make these choices.

Friday May 3 at 5:30 - 7:30 PM EDT

SASH Research Happy Hour! Bring your favorite beverage to this informal discussion. Folks can talk about works in progress, ask questions, and share research tips and tricks.

More information and links for the sessions will be emailed closer to the dates of the events.

Graham Guides Available on the SASH Website



The Society is pleased to announce that [the complete Bill Graham Guides Collection is now available for free download.](#)

Edited and compiled by legendary Scottish-born US soccer journalist Bill Graham, the first edition was published in 1948. He released eight further editions under various titles through 1956. In 1960, the United States Soccer Football Association revived the guide with Graham as editor. After Graham's retirement, Clive Toye, Dave Hirshey, Francisco Marcus and John McKeon edited subsequent editions through the final 1973 edition. All told, 22 editions were published between 1948 and 1973, containing some 3,400 pages of historical records.

The Society extends its deep gratitude to the donors who made the Graham Guides Digitization Project possible. In making the Bill Graham Guides collection freely available, SASH hopes to spark scholarship in the period leading up to the soccer boom in the United States that began in the 1970s.

To view editions of the Guides for download, visit [The Bill Graham](#)

[Collection page.](#)

For more on the history and significance of the Graham Guides, see [“The ‘pocket-book size masterpiece’: A publishing history of the *Graham Guides*”](#) and [“Guides to American soccer’s past.”](#)

Podcasts Available on the SASH Website



The Society's video SASH sessions are now available as podcasts. They can be found through the [SASH website](#) and on most podcasting platforms including Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts. Thanks to SASH member Brian Quarstad for making them available in this new format. The video sessions can all be accessed on the [SASH YouTube channel](#).

The complete archive of the Soccer History USA podcast is also available. Originally produced by Brian D. Bunk between 2013 and 2017, the episodes cover a variety of topics including the first several seasons of the American Soccer league.

In Memorium



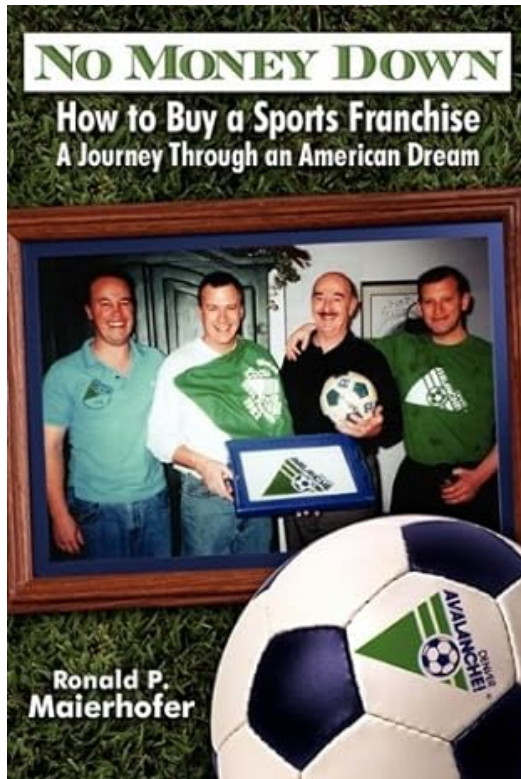
Franz Beckenbauer

Franz Beckenbauer, one of the greatest defenders of the modern era, died on January 7, 2024. He was born on September 11, 1945 in Munich Germany. Beckenbauer had a storied career both on the field and on the coach's bench. He is one of only three people to win the World Cup as a player (1974) and manager (1990), and one of only nine players to have won the World Cup, European Champions Cup and Ballon d'Or.

Although he started his career at SC 1906 München, he is best known for his time at Bayern Munich. After a successful career with The

Bavarians, he signed with the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League (NASL) in 1977. During his time in the US, Beckenbauer won the Soccer Bowl three times (1977, 1978, 1980) and was named an NASL All-Star five times. He was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1998.

More complete obituaries have been posted by the [New York Cosmos](#) and [The Guardian](#).



Ronald P. Maierhofer

Ronald Paul Maierhofer passed away on January 4th, 2024 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1935, he attended the Park School where he graduated in 1953. A standout athlete, he earned All-League honors in multiple sports including soccer.

After high school, Maierhofer attended Canisius College in Buffalo, and played soccer semi-professionally in Canada until he was drafted in 1954. After leaving the army he enrolled at Cornell University,

where he left an indelible mark on the soccer field. He earned Second Team All-American honors in 1959, was a two-time All-Ivy first team pick, and was a Captain and MVP his senior year. He was inducted into the Cornell University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

Maierhofer was a member of the U.S. Soccer Men's National Team at the 1959 Pan American Games, helping secure a Bronze medal finish and winning a spot on the 1960 U.S. Olympic team. Unfortunately, the squad did not qualify for the games that year. He continued to play soccer after college lining up for several clubs including Maccabee Los Angeles.

In 1980, Ron and his brother Howard, founded the Denver Avalanche, a franchise in the Major Indoor Soccer League. Under their ownership, the team competed for two seasons before being sold to an investor group in Tacoma, Washington. Ron writes about this experience in his book, *No Money Down: How to Buy a Sports Franchise – A Journey Through an American Dream*, and he further expands on his lifelong love for soccer in his books, *Memoirs of a Soccer Vagabond*, and *My Search for Me*.

Adapted from the [full obituary](#).

Call for Participants

Do you have an interesting project or experience related to US soccer history that you would like to present in a SASH session? These informal gatherings can take a number of forms. We are hoping to offer at least one session each month starting in April 2024. Previous sessions can be accessed as [podcasts](#) or viewed on [YouTube](#).

If you have an idea for a complete session or wish to participate in one, please email newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org

SASH Members Help Choose new National Soccer Hall of Fame Class



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

The following SASH members served on the selection committees for the National Soccer Hall of Fame class of 2024.

Zach Bigalke - Players Committee

Beau Dure - Veterans Committee

Michael Saunders - Builders Committee

Thank you all for your service on these committees!

Image by National Hall of Fame -

<https://www.nationalsoccerhof.com/media/index.html>, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69626025>



In case you missed it, a story from the archives:

[Harrison's Maradona: Al "Funze" Jennette](#)

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