

Eye On Sports

Meet Brandywine's New Soccer Coach

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Who is this new soccer coach? Where does he come from? Most importantly, what does he bring to Penn State Brandywine soccer team? There are a lot of questions, but we have a bunch of answers. Coach David Carvalho so kindly sat down to speak with *The Lion's Eye*, so we got a chance to know him and his passion for soccer.

Martina: How was it leaving your homeland of Brasilia, Brazil and coming into a new place with a new culture at the age of 15?

Carvalho: At first it was scary leaving family behind. Although I did come with my mom, dad, and brother, it was still terrifying. I did not speak English and I did not understand the new culture I came into.

Martina: Did you play soccer before attending Moorestown High School?

Carvalho: Yes. I come from a family of professional soccer players. My grandfather, my uncle Mario, and my father were all pro-soccer players. They went all the way. So, it would make sense I play the game as well. I started at the age four, but played organized soccer at six.

Martina: So you attended Eastern University. Why? Was it for the athletics, academia, or it being a Christian college?

Carvalho: I did not join for religious reasons, although I am a Christian now. However, I went to Eastern because of the financial aid I was offered.

Martina: After graduating, you were an assistant coach



PSU Brandywine soccer coach David Carvalho. (photo courtesy of Martina Delgado)

for women's soccer at Eastern. Do you think coaching boys will be an extreme difference?

Carvalho: It is a transition in that I change how I interact with the players. It's easier to work with the women's soccer team because they let me coach. I don't get the "I know what I am doing"-coach-attitude. They also don't mind asking me questions if they don't understand. It is a difference, but I am ready.

Martina: What does soccer bring to your life?

Carvalho: Everything. In fact, I met my wife through soccer. Funny story, she was the manager of the Eastern University soccer team. The coaches didn't want us dating, so we kept it a secret, and my teammates helped me. So it brought me my wife, career, and friends. Soccer has done a lot for me.

Martina: Do you have any regrets about college sports-wise or academically that you want to stress to your players and the readers?

Carvalho: I don't have any regrets. I wasn't in the honor roll every year, but I made it once. However, I do want to stress that you go to school to learn, you pay for your education, so take advantage of it. You can play soccer for free. So education comes first. From there, the classroom discipline converts to the field.

Martina: What would you want the boys to learn this year?

Carvalho: To take what we have as individuals and make it a team. We have a superb group of boys with us this year so it will be interesting. I also want them to learn what it takes to win and learn how to be a student athlete. I want these guys to be the best they can be, not just on the field, but in life.

Martina: If a game were close, and it was a win or lose shot with barely any time on the clock...what would you say to the guys?

Carvalho: Whatever happens...I am behind you one-hundred percent.

Martina: Well, coach, it's truly been a journey for you throughout the years, but I must know, do you miss your homeland Brazil? And who do you miss?

Carvalho: I do, I miss my friends. I come from a very poor background and I am truly privileged to be where I am. If anything, one day I would like to give back.

PSU Brandywine Baseball Back For More

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Fall is upon us, which means yet another season of Penn State Brandywine baseball. The team ended last season with a respectable record and their goal this year is to make the playoffs.

As of right now, the team is looking good so that dream may very well become a reality. When Coach Jeff Vickers took over the team in 2000 they started out with a record of 1-17. Eight years later, Vickers is just two games shy of winning his 100th game.

When asked about how the team looks this season, Vickers simply replied, "We have the strongest pitching staff ever to date."

According to Vickers, Penn State Brandywine's bullpen has ten capable and skillful pitchers for the fall 2008 season and Brandywine baseball has rocketed to an impressive record of 4-0. To Vickers, his team is top in performance.

"We are beating teams we should beat," he says.

Vickers' aspirations for this

season that differ from last is a win in the Conference Championship. He would like to hone his players skills more in practice.

"I would like to break things down more, in giving pitchers more individual work as well as the fielders, and with the coaching staff I have, all of this is entirely possible," he says.

Vickers attributes a great portion of his 98 wins to all the players he has ever had the chance to coach.

In a recent game against Penn State Abington, Brandywine handed them two losses in a row, and Vickers believes it comes from his team knowing what is expected of them.

"I expect a huge role out of those players this season," he states.

Overall Vickers and the PSU Brandywine baseball team is entering this season with confidence by the barrel full.

Vickers sums it up best when it comes to teamwork and the game.

"If you do the little things right, big things will happen."



PSU Brandywine 2008 Baseball Team (photo courtesy of PSU Brandywine)



Women's Volleyball Coach Len Lomas (photo courtesy of PSU Brandywine)

Volleyball Coaches Serve Experience

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When you hear the squeaking of sneakers on the hardwood floor, what do you think?

It means that Penn State Brandywine Women's volleyball has started again this fall.

The volleyball team is newly coached by Len Lomas and assistant Coach Melissa Leinen. Both have extensive careers coaching and playing. Coach Lomas has worked his way up to head coaching status. He started off his coaching career at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Havertown, PA. After Sacred Heart, continued his career as a coach for three years at Sun Valley. Before coming to Penn State Brandywine he made his way over to Philadelphia University and coached Women's volleyball.

Now Lomas is taking the reigns of the PSU Brandywine's women's volleyball team.

Assistant Coach Melissa Leinen played volleyball in college for Savanna College of Art and Design. When asked why they both applied for the positions here at

Brandywine, they both replied because, "We love the game."

When Coach Lomas was asked about his strategy for the season he simply said, "Everything we do in practice and in games is for the playoffs that is our goal."

Penn State Women's Volleyball is off to a good start with a win this week they are now 3-2.

Lomas is very much looking forward to the game against Penn College, as he thinks it will be a hard fought game and is confident in his teams' ability to achieve a win. Lomas says he is very happy with the effort that is being put in by the players and coaching staff.

The Women's volleyball team seems to be in accomplished hands with both Head Coach Lomas and Assistant Coach Leinen and wins are what the coaches and team are looking for in the upcoming season.

"The team played well for the first time together," said Lomas of his first win.