

**Lisa Harings: Oregon Youth Soccer Association**  
**Boys Competitive Coach of the Year**



**Santos FC Competitive Coach**

When Lisa Harings, a coach for Santos FC, steps on the field she means business. She demands the best from her players and holds them accountable for their actions while helping them learn and find solutions, so they do not make the same mistakes again. Lisa is extremely organized and always has her practices and games planned well in advance. She puts players in positions where they will be most successful. Lisa knows the game, and is open to feedback, while constantly searching out new tactics, information, and ideas. Her players respect her, listen to her, and value her opinions and time. They work hard for her on the field.

Lisa is helping change the lives of her players. Last year, her team of 15 players saw 11 go to college and 2 go to trade school. These 13 players are the firsts in their families to continue their education past high school. Every year, Lisa helps players fill out the FAFSA, OSAC, and scholarships. She helps them write letters to colleges, and contacts college coaches to invite them to games, while ensuring that her players follow up with the coaches afterwards. Lisa recently set up a game between her 2001 and 2003 boys teams and invited college coaches to attend: 1 Division 3 coach, 2 Junior College coaches, and 1 NAIA coach attended. She even had player profiles printed for each college coach to review. Through this work, Lisa has inspired players who had doubts about college, as they were able to see interest from college coaches.

In addition, Lisa works with “The Gym”, a local fitness center, to get discounts for her players. Currently, 9 of her players are working out 5 days a week at the gym, and other players have joined fitness centers to continue developing physically and mentally. Lisa also has a grades check-in at practices, and she follows up with players that need assistance, even tutoring players herself, as necessary. Lisa gives her players the help they need to be successful in school, soccer, and life.

**Testimonies:**

“We are all grateful to play under a coach who understands our struggles and cares about our future. I’m really thankful for meeting Lisa and taking advantage of the support she’s given me, and I am a better person at home, work, and at school because of her.”

— One of Lisa’s players

Recently, Lisa helped a player addicted to drugs for the past 5 years to get into an out-patient treatment program for drug abuse, and he has been clean for 6 months now. The player has raised his GPA so much that he will now be eligible to play soccer for his high school for the first time this year.

“I am now eligible to play high school because she helped me with school, she got me in an out-patient treatment drug program (I was on drugs for 5 years), and I have been clean 6 months (which affects the fact I have not got a red card on her team). Anyway, ask anyone on the team: she knows the game, she knows how to work with our drama, and she cares about us. She helps so many of us on the field and off the field. She also pays for a lot of our things because many of us cannot afford to pay for things.”

— One of Lisa’s players

**Other Notable Work:**

Lisa is a Girl Scout Troop Leader for 29 girls. She has facilitated packing food boxes and personally delivering them to players’ families in need on her team. Lisa has an ASPIRE mentorship program and helps players with any aspect of their lives that they need help with. She is also the proud mother of two teenage girls who are great athletes that love soccer. Lisa makes it to every one of their games.