

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM AND THE GIRLS' DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

Several current and former Women's National Team members are involved with Girls Development Academy clubs or in the Academy administration. Take a look at the women who have represented the U.S. on the pitch and are now working to develop the next generation of National Team players.



Brandi Chastain – Executive Director/U-19 Head Coach – California Thorns FC (Santa Clara, Calif.)

A legend for the Women's National Team and an icon of the sport, Brandi Chastain is now working to develop youth players to their full potential as Executive Director and U-19 head coach for California Thorns FC (Santa Clara, Calif.). Chastain is best remembered for her game-winning shoot-out goal in the 1999 Women's World Cup Final and the ensuing celebration in one of the most significant matches in the history of women's soccer. She was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame (2016 Class) earlier this year, commemorating an illustrious career that included two World Cup victories and two Olympic gold medals.

A Bay Area native, Chastain played college soccer nearby at the University of California-Berkeley and Santa Clara University. She led the Broncos to two Final Four appearances and has previously served as a volunteer assistant coach at Santa Clara.



Tobin Heath – Assistant Youth Technical Director – Portland Thorns FC Academy

The 2016 U.S. Soccer Female Player of the Year, Tobin Heath sought to be involved with the Portland Thorns FC Academy from the start. She will serve as Assistant Youth Technical Director for the academy. Heath was a key member of the 2015 Women's World Cup champion squad, scoring the final goal in the team's 5-2 victory over Japan in the tournament final. She's also won two Olympic gold medals in her 130-plus caps with the WNT.

Heath led the Thorns' senior team to its first NWSL Shield last season while setting a league record for assists and earning NWSL Best XI honors. In her academy role, Heath will assist in all technical matters, including annual technical planning for each academy team, setting direction for player development, evaluating and enhancing quality of play and establishing the academy as a statewide development program.

"I'm very excited to begin working with the Thorns FC Development Academy. The formation of the DA and the Thorns involvement has given me a unique opportunity to use my experiences to inspire the next generation of footballers," Heath said. "My ambition is to change the culture of football in this country for the better, and that starts with our youth."



Lori Lindsey – Washington Spirit Academy – Virginia (Fairfax, Va.) – Strength and Conditioning Director/Assistant Coach

After a 13-year professional career and 31 appearances with the WNT, Lori Lindsey is an established performance training coach. She has returned to D.C., where she spent four years as a pro, as a part of the Washington Spirit Academy – Virginia. Lindsey will be the Strength and Conditioning Director as well as an assistant coach at the academy. Her connections to the area run deep, as she also played college soccer at the University of Virginia.



Jen Lalor – Southwest Technical Advisor

Since her last stint with the WNT in 2001, Jen Lalor's career has been rooted in soccer, especially at the youth level. She collected 23 caps in her time with the National Team from 1992-95 and 2001. More recently, she was named Women's Premier Soccer League Coach of the Year in 2013 as she led the San Diego Sea Lions to the league championship. The WPSL is the second tier of women's professional soccer in the U.S., made up of both professional and amateur teams.

Now Lalor serves as Southwest Division Technical Director for the Development Academy, acting as a liaison between the region's clubs and Youth National Team programs, Academy administration and Talent Identification Network. Lalor will provide feedback to seven of the region's 14 clubs and help identify players to be considered for Youth National Teams.

Over the last two-and-a-half years, she has been a YNT assistant coach for five different age groups and has served as the leader of the San Diego U.S. Soccer Girls' Training Center. Lalor brings an abundance of familiarity with the SoCal region – she was born in Chula Vista, Calif., earned All-American honors at Santa Clara University and played professionally for the San Diego Spirit.



Justi Baumgardt – U-16/U-17, U-15 Coach – Crossfire Premier (Redmond, Wash.)

Baumgardt has coached with Crossfire Premier since 2008 and will help lead the U-16/U-17 and U-15 age groups in their inaugural Development Academy seasons. In her time with the WNT from 1993 to 1998, she scored three goals in 16 appearances. Born in Redmond, Wash., she played four years of All-West Coast Conference soccer at the University of Portland and was named WCC Player of the Year in 1996. Baumgardt's professional career included stints in Sacramento, Washington D.C., New York and most recently a brief run with Seattle Sounders Women. Baumgardt holds a National C-level coaching license from U.S. Soccer and previously served as Director of Washington Premier Football Club in Puyallup, Wash.