

NEXT





HEAD COACH MARK KRIKORIAN

St. Anslem College '83
1st Season at FSU • 12th Collegiate Season

Florida State head coach Mark Krikorian was introduced as the third coach in Seminole soccer history January 12, 2005. The former United States U-19 National Team head coach and 2002 WUSA Coach of the Year with the Philadelphia Charge brings 14 years of head coaching experience to Tallahassee at all levels of the game including college, pro and with the US Olympic Development Program. He has won two collegiate National Championships, led a team to a perfect season on two occasions and has won 72% of the games he has coached.

Krikorian has been successful at every stop of his illustrious coaching career. In 14 seasons as a college and professional coach he has compiled a record of 195-68-25 for a .720 winning percentage and he has had 11 winning seasons in his career. In 11 seasons as a college

CAREER HIGHS

Most Wins 20 (1995)
Best Record 20-0-0 (1995)
NCAA Finish Nat'l Champs (1994, 1995)
Conference Finish Champions (1994, 1997, 1998, 1999)

AWARDS

2002 WUSA Coach of the Year
1997 NSCAA Northeast Coach of the Year
1995 NSCAA D-II National Coach of the Year
1995 Northeast Region Coach of the Year
1995 NECC Coach of the Year
1994 NECC Coach of the Year
1993 NSCAA D-II New England Coach of the Year
1992 NSCAA D-II National Coach of the Year
1992 Northeast Region Coach of the Year
1990 NSCAA D-II New England Coach of the Year

coach he has an overall record of 168-49-6 winning almost 77% of the games he has coached. Krikorian



KRIKORIAN YEAR-BY-YEAR

1990	Franklin Pierce	10-6-2
1991	Franklin Pierce	8-9-1
1992	Franklin Pierce	20-1-0
1993	Franklin Pierce	16-3-0
1994	Franklin Pierce	*19-0-0
1995	Franklin Pierce	*20-0-0

(.809) 93-19-3

1996	Hartford	4-14-0
1997	Hartford	19-2-1
1998	Hartford	17-5-0
1999	Hartford	18-5-2
2000	Hartford	17-4-0

(.708) 75-30-3

2001	Philadelphia Charge	11-5-6
2002	Philadelphia Charge	11-3-8
2003	Philadelphia Charge	5-11-5

(.546) 27-19-19

Collegiate Record (.767) 168-49-6

Career Record (.720) 195-68-25

* = National Champions

has also guided his teams to the NCAA Tournament eight times in 11 seasons. In those eight NCAA trips he has won two national titles, been in the national semi-finals twice, made one Elite Eight appearance and two trips to the Sweet Sixteen. There has only been one season where a Krikorian coached team made the NCAA Tournament and didn't advance to at least the Sweet 16.

Florida State's newest coach is also a fierce recruiter who has shown he will search the globe to find the best talent. At Franklin Pierce, his first collegiate head coaching job, Krikorian recruited three national players of the year, eight All-Americans and four national scoring champions. He had the same success at Hartford. In five seasons he recruited five NSCAA All-Americans. He has coached two of his players to conference player of the year awards and three to conference rookie of the year honors.

"The first thing that comes to mind is Mark's work ethic is unparalleled," said former US National Team Head Coach April Heinrichs. "He has a great eye for talent, and he will leave no stone unturned, at home and overseas, trying to find the best players for Florida State."

On top of his impressive resume in finding the top talent at the collegiate level, Krikorian has worked with the world's best players during his stops as the head coach of the



U-19 National Team and his three years with the Philadelphia Charge. Florida State's new head coach has coached soccer greats from all over the world including US National team stars Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly, Tiffeny Milbrett, Heather Mitts and Lorie Fair, English National team player Kelly Smith, French national Marinette Pinchon and Brazilian National Team players Sissi and Katia.

"Having Mark Krikorian accept our offer to become the head coach of our women's soccer program is certainly cause for much excitement and anticipation," said FSU Athletic

Director Dave Hart upon Krikorian's hiring in January. "Mark brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from his prior positions on the college, professional and national team levels of competition. He is an accomplished teacher, coach and recruiter who will build on the success which Patrick Baker generated during his outstanding tenure at Florida State."

US U-19 NATIONAL TEAM

Krikorian comes to Florida State fresh off leading the United States U-19 National Team to the bronze medal while winning the FIFA Fair



COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- ⊗ Bronze Medal finish at the 2004 U-19 World Cup as head coach for the USA
- ⊗ Led Philadelphia to the WUSA Playoffs in 2001 and 2002
- ⊗ Led Hartford to four straight NCAA Tournaments including two Sweet 16's and one Elite Eight
- ⊗ Four-time winners of NSCAA Team Academic Award at Hartford
- ⊗ Two undefeated National Championship seasons as the head coach of Franklin Pierce
- ⊗ Four consecutive Division II Final Four appearances

Play Award at the 2004 U-19 Women's World Cup. As the head coach for the US U-19 National Team, Krikorian was responsible for all technical aspects of the program as the team prepared for the second-ever U-19 FIFA World Championship.

His U-19 squad cruised through Group C play finishing undefeated beating South Korea, Russia and European Champion Spain. They were the only team to win all three group matches in the tournament as the US outscored its opponents 8-1. Krikorian then led the US past Australia in the quarterfinals before

falling to eventual World Champion Germany in the tournament semifinals. The team responded by beating Brazil 3-0 to secure the bronze medal. It kept the US's streak alive as the only country to secure a top-three finish in all nine FIFA World Championships for women.

The team not only left Thailand with bronze medals but they also were awarded the FIFA Fair Play Trophy. Individually US midfielder Angie Woznuk received the Silver Ball as the tournament's second Most Outstanding Player and the Bronze Shoe as the tournament's third-leading scorer. Overall, Krikorian's squad outscored the competition 13-4 in the world championships.

WUSA

As the head coach of the Philadelphia Charge from 2000-2003, Krikorian had another opportunity to coach the top players in the world and he once again proved he could take talent and guide it to great heights. He not only coached 2002 WUSA MVP and Offensive MVP Marinette Pichon but he also had the league's top keeper in Melissa Moore who led the league with a 1.00 GAA. He coached the Charge to two playoff berths in his three seasons and was named the league's coach of the year in 2002. Krikorian drafted and coached 10 WUSA All-Stars in just three years on the Charge bench.

In his first season with Philadel-

phia Krikorian posted 11 wins in leading the Charge into the playoffs. His side finished third that year in the regular season standings. The next year the Charge once again won 11 games and finished second in the standings, which was an amazing accomplishment considering Krikorian's top player was lost for the season when Kelly Smith went down with an injury. His squad still finished the regular season 11-4-6.

"I feel fortunate that I have had so many opportunities and experiences in both the WUSA and with the US National Team program," said Krikorian. "I feel that those experiences will be a huge benefit to us (FSU) as we continue to improve upon the outstanding foundation that Patrick (Baker) and his staff have established."

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

Krikorian has achieved an equal measure of success on the college level. He coached the University of Hartford for five seasons from 1996-2000 leading the squad to an Elite Eight and two Sweet Sixteen appearances during his four consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament. He recruited five National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Americans, three academic All-Americans and his squads received the NSCAA Team Academic Award on four occasions. Overall, Krikorian's teams averaged 15 wins per season as he posted a 75-30-3 overall record while winning three conference championships. Three of his squads finished the year ranked in the NSCAA's top 15.

Krikorian wasted little time in turning Hartford into a national power. After a 4-14 first season, Krikorian's Hawks won at least 17 games and never lost more than five while advancing to the NCAA Tournament in each of his next four seasons.

Hartford immediately improved to 19-2-1 in just the second season under Krikorian including a win over national power Connecticut. Hartford also won just the second NCAA Tournament game in school history that year. In 1998 the success continued as the Hawks posted a 17-5 record while advancing to the Sweet 16. That year Krikorian led Hartford to wins over Texas A&M and Harvard in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

In 1999, only his third year at the helm of the Hawk program, Krikorian put together the best



soccer season in school history. Hartford finished the regular season 15-4-2 and as conference champions for the third straight year. That regular season success was tame compared to the team's magical run through the NCAA Tournament. After opening with a home win over Princeton, Krikorian traveled to Gainesville to take on the defending National Champions. His Hawks dethroned the Gators on the road and then did the same thing a week later to Virginia in a 3-2 triple overtime win. The victory moved the Hawks into the Elite Eight for the first time in school history.

In his final season in Connecticut Krikorian put together his most impressive regular season as his Hawks went 17-2. They defeated both Virginia and Florida again. The win over Florida was a decisive 3-0 victory. Krikorian also led the Hawks to the school's first-ever victory over Dartmouth in the seventh meeting between the programs.

FRANKLIN PIERCE COLLEGE

Krikorian came to Hartford after spending six years as the head coach at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH (1990-1996) where he built one of the most dominant soccer programs in the college game. His teams won two National Championships, both during undefeated seasons, and appeared in two other final fours. His squad's had a remarkable 39-game winning streak and his 1995 National Championship team was 20-0. Krikorian's teams compiled a 93-19-3 record in six seasons. He recruited three National Players of the Year, eight All-Americans, five academic All-Americans and four national scoring champions. His team at Franklin Pierce also garnered the NSCAA Team Academic Award.

Before Krikorian arrived at Franklin Pierce, the school had an all-time record of 21-36-4 in five seasons winning just under 38% of their games. After he arrived on campus, the Ravens have had just one losing season in 14 years and have won five National Championships. Since Krikorian became the head coach and rejuvenated the program, Franklin Pierce has won almost 89% of their matches. Krikorian built the foundation for the Franklin Pierce dynasty in just six years on the job.

In 1990, his first year in New Hampshire, Krikorian went 10-6-2. The school's 10 victories were just four shy of tying the program's total from its first five years of existence.



Two seasons later the Ravens were 20-1 and finished in the NCAA semifinals. After a 16-3 season in 1993 and another NCAA semifinal, Krikorian completed his reclamation of Franklin Pierce by going a perfect 19-0 and winning the school's first-ever NCAA women's soccer championship. What did Krikorian then do for an encore? In 1995 he repeated as National Champions this time with a record of 20-0.

After departing for Hartford after the 1995 season, the Ravens went on to capture two more National Championships and five in a six-year span. Franklin Pierce and North Carolina are still the only two schools in the history of NCAA soccer to win four consecutive NCAA Championships.

HONORS & AWARDS

On top of his coach of the year honor from the WUSA, Krikorian has received numerous honors and awards throughout his coaching career. He was named the NSCAA's Northeast Division I Coach of the Year in 1997, the NSCAA Division II National Coach of the Year in 1992 and 1995, the NSCAA Division II Northeast Region Coach of the Year in 1992 and 1995 and was a two-time New England Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1995. In 1990 and 1993 he was named the Division II New England Coach of the Year as well.

Krikorian was a standout player at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH from 1981-1983. He was a two-

KRIKORIAN ALL-TIME VERSUS D-I OPPONENTS

	OVERALL	NCAA
Boston College	..... 2-0	
Boston University	..... 5-2	
Brown	..... 3-0	
Cal-Berkley	..... 0-1	
Canisius	..... 1-0	
Con Connecticut	..... 1-0	
Colgate	..... 1-1	..... 1-0
Connecticut	..... 1-3	..... 0-2
Cornell	..... 1-1	
Dartmouth	..... 1-3-1	
Delaware	..... 6-1	
Drexel	..... 4-0	
Duke	..... 0-1	
Fairfield	..... 1-0	
Florida	..... 2-2	..... 1-0
George Mason	..... 1-0	
Harvard	..... 4-2-1	..... 1-1
Hofstra	..... 6-0	
Holy Cross	..... 1-0	
Maine	..... 4-1	
Maryland	..... 0-1	
Maryland-BC	..... 1-0	
UMass	..... 0-1	
New Hampshire	..... 5-1	
North Carolina	..... 0-2	
Northeastern	..... 4-0	
Penn State	..... 0-1	..... 0-1
Pittsburgh	..... 1-0	
Princeton	..... 1-0	..... 1-0
Richmond	..... 0-0-1	
Rutgers	..... 0-1	
Santa Clara	..... 0-1	
Siena	..... 1-0	
Texas A&M	..... 1-1	
Towson	..... 5-1	
Vermont	..... 5-1	
Virginia	..... 2-1	..... 1-0
Yale	..... 4-0	
(.708) 75-30-3 (.556) 5-4-0		

time captain and team MVP. In 1983 he was a New England Indoor Soccer League (NEISL) All-Star and a first team All-New England selection.

PERSONAL

Krikorian graduated with a degree in history from St. Anselm College and he earned his master's degree in education from Keene (NH) State College in 1994. Krikorian also served as an assistant men's coach at the University of Maine at Farmington and was a Social Studies teacher at Mt. Abram High School in Maine and Raymond High School in New Hampshire. He is married to the former Linda Mastrogiovanni. They have two children Alexandra (4) and Michael (2).

TALKING WITH COACH KRIKORIAN

Why did you decide to take over the Florida State soccer program?

There were a lot of factors. For me, I have always wanted to compete at the highest level. That's why when I had a chance to go to the WUSA I took it. In this country college soccer is now the highest level of competition and the ACC is probably the highest level in college soccer. Being in a conference and competing against ACC schools was the challenge I was looking for personally and professionally.

It is also nice to be in a place where we are on even footing. We have the support from the athletic department that allows us to compete with anybody. We have facilities that we are proud of and that you can walk into and be immediately impressed with. We have the ability to put together a top quality staff here. I am not sure there are many staffs in the country that have the experience nationally and internationally that this staff has. When you look at all the pieces and you put them together I knew I could be successful at Florida State. FSU presented so many advantages that it would be hard not to succeed here.

KRIKORIAN ON HIS PAST SUCCESS

You have won National Championships at the collegiate level. Can you have the same success at Florida State?

I sure hope so. It is certainly a big challenge. Just being at the top of the ACC is an enormous challenge. What history shows, is if you are successful in the ACC you will have success in the NCAA Tournament. The goal is to be a National Champion. I didn't come here looking to have short term success. We are looking to be very successful for many years. Many of the pieces to make that goal happen are already in place. It starts with the quality of the soccer staff. I have such great assistants who are going to help lead us in the right direction.

How will FSU soccer's past success help you pursue your goal of a National Championship?

Obviously Patrick Baker and his staff did a fantastic job and they set a wonderful foundation. They established a mentality of being successful in the ACC and on the national stage as well. Setting that standard is a big step. Maintaining that level

of excellence was the next step and obviously they did a great job of that as well. We now need to continue to build on that. Our expectations as a staff are that we will be successful. We will work hard and we will get results.

How much have your previous jobs in college, in the WUSA and as a National Team head coach helped you become the coach you are today?

I think the collection of experiences I have had will position me to be a better coach than I have ever been. After my time as a college coach, that helped set the foundation for success in the WUSA. Probably more relevant to the job at FSU is my experience working with the best players in the world in the WUSA. It was such an elite level and it helped me as a coach because I got to prepare my team to play against players like Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain. That will benefit our team at FSU.

Also the experience at the U-19 World Cup was a great experience. It was like being a scientist in a laboratory. One day we were preparing for the Korean Republic. The next day it was Spain, then Russia, then Australia, then Germany and Brazil. You talk about contrasting styles of play and testing a staff as we had to turn around and prepare to take on each one of those teams. We developed game plans and analyzed our opponents to give our US team the best chance to be successful and it was a great experience. It should provide some good foundation for me as I prepare to face our opponents this season at Florida State.

What are the most important lessons you learned dealing with the world's greatest players and how do you take those lessons and apply them to the student-athlete?

That will be an adjustment but we will have hard-working, dedicated and caring players in Tallahassee and that is most important. We will have players that are national team caliber players. They will have the opportunity to play on the international level whether they are American or international players. We are still going to be dealing with an elite level of player here at FSU. If there

were still a WUSA, people would be coming to watch this team play to prepare for a draft so there are going to be players on this team that are WUSA-type players.

KRIKORIAN ON HIS VISION FOR FSU SOCCER

What type of soccer will your teams play?

When it comes to my vision of the game, I am a purest. I love to watch technical players. I like a player who is able to think out on the field and players who are clever. Those are the type of players I have great admiration for.

There is an important place for all types of players on the team. I like a player who understands movement away from the ball, who can beat people off the dribble and create opportunities for others on top of having the class to finish in front of the goal. I think that our style here will be very attractive as we continue to put all the pieces together. People will come and watch and be very impressed with the ball control, the attacking mentality and the movement off the ball. I think soccer fans will enjoy watching this team play.

Tallahassee and Florida State have been huge supporters of the soccer program. What can they expect from a Mark Krikorian coached squad?

Part of my philosophy is that it is very important for this team to get involved with the Tallahassee community. People are going to find that we are very interested in being involved and supporting the community as they develop soccer. Our players have a lot to balance but we will always find time to give back. We want to be involved in helping to grow soccer at all levels in this community.

What most excites you about the college game and in particular the Florida State program?

I have always been a big fan of the concept we have in America of the student-athlete. Back when I was playing in college, I always felt it was a special thing to combine academics and sports. Now that I have been involved with a variety of levels of soccer, I realize even more what a wonderful set-up we have in America being able to combine sports and academics. That is the part of returning to the college game that excites me from a philosophical standpoint.

From a practical standpoint,

looking at players and knowing we can help them develop on the field is exciting. Giving young players a chance to develop into the type of player who could play for their country is exciting as well. Being here at Florida State gives us so many positive resources as a coaching staff and that is such a huge advantage.

Where does FSU rank in overall environment for a student-athlete?

When you look at what is made available to student-athletes here at Florida State, it is very impressive. You look at all the different elements a student-athlete can take advantage of here and you can't help but think about what a wonderful place this is for our players. The support from our administration is where it starts and it filters down into every aspect of University life. There are so many doors that can open for a student-athlete by being a good student and a good citizen that their opportunities after their playing careers are over are greatly enhanced as well. This is one of the finest institutions in the country and it is a pleasure to be here.

KRIKORIAN ON RECRUITING

What is your recruiting philosophy?

We are certainly looking for players who have a sophistication in the way that they play the game. I am not looking for just good athletes. I want a player that has good technique and an understanding of the game combined with physical and mental toughness. Our philosophy is to find players who will fit into the way we want to play. We are going to play attractive soccer at Florida State. We are going to keep the ball on the ground and we will attack from all different angles and positions. I think I have a pretty good idea of how I want this team to play and now it is a matter of recruiting the players to make that come to fruition on the field.

How important is recruiting in building a program?

I think I am a much better coach with great players — so it is a huge piece of the puzzle. I think every coach knows that you are only as good as the players you have. If you have players that are willing to work hard, who are talented and who have a good mentality your chances of being successful are significantly increased. There aren't many things that are more important to developing a successful program than recruiting the right student-athlete.

You recruit globally. How important is it to mix US players and foreign players on your teams?

I think it is a tremendous learning experience for everybody when you bring players from all over the world together. At my two previous colleges we found a healthy mix of international players with Americans kids was good for everyone. The world as a whole is becoming a smaller place. Soccer opens the doors for so many people around the world and with the diversified campus we have here at Florida State it makes sense to represent that diversity on the soccer field as well. On top of that, obviously soccer is the world's game. Everywhere in the world people are playing this game and we will be representative of that here at FSU.

Where do players from the state of Florida fit in to the recruiting process?

We like players from our home state. It is our priority to get those athletes to come and play for us at Florida State. This university in itself is very attractive to local players in Florida. We are interested in going out and getting Florida players and bringing them into our program.

What do you look for in a student-athlete in the recruiting process?

That is exactly what we are looking for, a student-athlete. I want a player that is good in the classroom. A player who will take ownership of their academic success and chase it the same way they go after any of the goals in their lives. I want a player that is motivated to learn and one who will take the initiative to excel in the classroom. What we have found over the course of time is that the players that have that type of motivation and ambition in the classroom will be a good player for us on the field.

I am looking for hard-working student-athletes who obviously have talent but also a good mentality. Dedication and devotion are very important to me. I want a student-athlete that has passion for their studies as well as for the game.

What is the best way for a high school player to get recognized by the FSU coaching staff?

There are some surprises out there. There are some diamonds in the rough and some players who haven't been discovered but there aren't many that fit into that group. Coaches are flying all over the country to watch club teams playing in tournaments. Club soccer is one

of the ways players can get recognized on the collegiate level. It never hurts for a player to show some interest in a program as well. For the most part being involved in club soccer, with the Olympic Development Program or our national teams is the best way.

How much does your past involvement and Erica Walsh's current involvement with the US National Team affect the way you recruit?

It certainly has an affect on the players we are exposed to and obviously I feel it is a benefit to our program here at Florida State. That is one area that can certainly help us but there are other things that are more important in my mind. Things like having one of the best soccer facilities in the country. We have a great school academically and a great campus. We play in the ACC, which is arguably the best soccer conference in America. We have beautiful weather. There are so many things going for us here. Mine and Erica's involvement with the US National Team is a bonus but it is just one of many things that will help us be successful.

What is the most important thing a potential FSU recruit should know entering the recruiting process?

They need to be a student-athlete. We are looking for players that are the complete package. Players who can succeed in the classroom and on the soccer field plus be good in the community. We are looking for the whole package. We don't want just a soccer player. You have to be more than that. If you want to be a good student, be a good citizen and work hard to succeed in all aspects of your life, Florida State is the right place for you.

Why is the academic success of your student-athletes so important to you?

I have a master's in education so that is where my background is. My family has always recognized the value of education. My brother is a teacher. My sister-in-law is a principal. Our whole family deeply believes in the educational system. Education is what allows you to be successful in life. I am a big proponent of watching these young women mature and recognize that their four-years at Florida State is going to provide them with so many opportunities in the future and be as successful as possible after graduation.