



Remembering Neil Bradford

If you were a part of SAY Soccer for the past 15 years throughout the United States, you more than likely met Neil Bradford. He was instrumental in coaching and player development for SAY Soccer as our National Director of Coaching. Neil was widely recognized as the face of SAY Soccer for many people while making significant contributions in advancing our soccer education.

Roger & Averil Bradford were the proud parents of Neil, and his younger sister Vicki, in their home in England. Years later in 2001, Neil moved from Gloucestershire, England to the United States to work for Challenger Sports/British Soccer Camps. He later became the National Director of Coaching for SAY Soccer and also a well respected select soccer coach for Cincinnati United Soccer Club. During this time, Neil had moved to Mason, Ohio where he met and married his wife, Susan. Not long after, Neil and his wife, Susan welcomed a beautiful daughter, Madison.

Neil was a natural born teacher and leader for the youth of today. He had the amazing ability to take a room of kids (both young and old alike) from being uninterested to active participants in drills and events. This was the best part about Neil and he was truly in his element when he was teaching; he loved the game and he loved kids.

In March 2010, the Bradford family received heartbreaking news. Neil was diagnosed with Cancer. Neil took the news like he takes everything - with a positive, healthy attitude and a "we will beat it" mentality. After strenuous surgery, numerous radiation and chemo treatments, he was given a clean bill of health in 2012. In 2014, the cancer returned and after a valiant fight Neil was taken from us in August, 2016.

SAY Soccer would like to remember and celebrate Neil for all he meant to the individuals he touched and his love of the great game of soccer. We are grateful for the development Neil provided our SAY National Coaching program. We recognize that as a result of his superior customer service, many came to better understand and appreciate both the game of soccer and the art of coaching. Neil was a friend and a role model who made SAY better for being a part of it. It is for these reasons that we will host the third Annual Neil Bradford Memorial Event: 5k Run/Walk, in which all proceeds will benefit Red Card Cancer and their goal in finding a cure.