

2010 NSCAA Convention Clinic Outline Book

Sasho Cirovski, Men's Coach, University of Maryland

Winning in Transition

Upon his arrival in College Park in 1993, Sasho Cirovski has transformed Maryland into a national soccer power, leading the Terps to the 2008 and 2005 NCAA title, six College Cup appearances, and three ACC titles, all the while producing numerous top-level professional players. After 17 seasons at Maryland, the 2005 NSCAA National Coach of the Year has instilled his passion for excellence in a soccer program that expects to compete for the national title every season.

During his tenure with the Terps, Maryland has been to the NCAA Tournament 15 times, advancing to the Final Four in six of those years, including four-straight appearances from 2002-05, culminating in the NCAA title in 2005. The Terps have also captured three ACC Tournament titles (1996, 2002 and 2008) and two ACC regular season titles (2003 and 2005) during his stay in College Park.

In 2008, the Terps established the 'Gold Standard', capturing the program's third national title and winning more games (23) than any other squad in program history. The team also set program-bests in shutouts (15) and consecutive wins (16) as well as registering a Ludwig Field-record crowd of 6,500 in Maryland's bout with then-No. 1 Wake Forest. The 2008 season marked the first time in the Cirovski-era that the Terps won both the NCAA Tournament and the ACC Tournament. To top it off, Cirovski eclipsed long-time head coach Doyle Royal to become Maryland men's soccer winningest coach in a win against Duke on Sept. 19, 2008.

For the second straight season, Cirovski's Terps had their fair share of critics in the preseason as Maryland lost two of the top players in the nation in 2007. Maurice Edu, a junior midfielder, was the No. 1 overall pick in the MLS SuperDraft on January 12. He was the second Maryland player to ever be taken with the first pick. Sophomore keeper Chris Seitz also decided to turn to the professional ranks and was chosen No. 4 overall in the SuperDraft. It marked just the fourth time in MLS SuperDraft history that two student-athletes from the same school were selected in the top five.

In addition to his leadership on the sidelines, Cirovski is also in his sixth season as a leader in college soccer as the chairman of the men's soccer NSCAA Division I committee. As chairman, Cirovski was the architect in creating the position of NSCAA Program Director, a major triumph for the sport. This position will be the singular voice of college soccer in dealing with NCAA legislative issues, overseeing College Cups and elevating the significance and status of the sport. He was also vital in brokering the television partnership between Fox Soccer Channel and the NSCAA, guaranteeing a weekly spot for college soccer on television.

Cirovski has brought success to every program he has been a part of. After helping his alma mater, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, to its first NCAA Tournament appearance in a decade as an assistant coach under Bob Gansler, he assumed the top spot at Hartford in 1991. In his two seasons with the Hawks, he took the team to back-to-back 13-6-3 records and consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances for the first time in school history. He then came to Maryland in 1993 to help resurrect a once-proud program that had been to only one NCAA Tournament in the last 16 years.

In addition to the accomplishments of his 17-year coaching career with the Terps, Cirovski was also a standout student-athlete himself. He began his career at Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was a four-year letterwinner. As a senior, he won the Herman Kluge Award for Male Athlete of the Year, and, in 1998, he was inducted into the UWM Athletic Hall of Fame. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1985 and his master's in 1989. He then spent parts of three seasons as a professional player and coach with the teams in the Canadian Soccer League, and the National Professional Soccer League. His first taste of coaching came in 1987 in the Canadian Soccer League.

Cirovski is entering his 19th year of coaching overall, and holds an "A" coaching license from the U.S. Soccer Federation, as well as an Advanced National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. During the summer of 1997, he served as the assistant coach of the JVC U-17 World Youth Championship team, which played against Argentina, Uruguay, Egypt and two domestic camps. The team competed at the U-17 World Cup Championship in Egypt held in September of 1997. Cirovski also worked as an assistant coach for the U.S. U-20 National Team.

Cirovski's wife, the former Shannon Higgins, played collegiate soccer at North Carolina and entered the National Soccer Hall of Fame in the fall of 2002. The couple has three daughters, 15-year-old Hailey, Karli, who turned 13 in August, and Ellie, who turned seven on July 15.