

WAKE FUTBOL CLUB HIRES GLAD BUGARIU AS USL W LEAGUE HEAD COACH AND DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S SOCCER

Bugariu has coached 332 collegiate games and has also worked as a national team coach in four countries

Wake Futbol Club announces that Glad Bugariu, who spent the last eight seasons as the head coach at NCAA Division 1 member University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), has been named Director of Women's Soccer and the head coach of the USL W-league team.

A native of Bucharest, Romania, Bugariu brings over 20 years of coaching experience at all levels of the game and an overall NCAA career coaching record of 162-137-32, including a 70-47-2 in conference play, with 5 regular season or conference tournament championships at both the NCAA Division I and Division II levels.

Renowned for successfully rebuilding struggling teams or starting programs from scratch he has been recognized three times in the NCAA "Most Improved Team" category, including twice in the top ten, at both the NCAA Division I and II levels.

Having started the program from scratch in 2014, Bugariu led UTRGV to a second-place finish in the Western Athletic Conference in 2018 and helped the program reach the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament for the fifth consecutive time, while finishing with an overall record of 12-6-3 and registering a victory over the University of Miami of the ACC.

Bugariu also comes to Wake Futbol Club with significant international coaching experience having worked with the national teams of four different countries. Most recently he served as the Under 15 Women's National Team coach of Moldova, a position he combined with his duties at UTRGV in 2019. Not only was he first foreign coach in the history of Moldovan women's soccer, but his impact was also tremendous. Besides leading them to their first ever win at this age group, Bugariu also captured 1st place in the UEFA / AFC development tournament, which took place March 2019 in Singapore. He has also been the men's national team assistant coach of Grenada, the Technical Director and National Team Coach of the U.S. Virgin Islands and on the national coaching staff of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2015.

Before coming here, Bugariu spent five seasons as the head coach at South Carolina State University, where he is the winningest coach in the program history and captured a conference title in 2010, while also named coach of the year.

In 2000, at only 25 years of age, he was named Technical Director of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a country with a population of only 108,000 people. Bugariu was responsible for the development of the game in the country, creating programs that resulted in a 120 percent rise in soccer participation, in addition to creating national teams at every level. International headlines were made with the formation of a women's program at both senior and Under 19 levels for the first time in the history of the country. Both teams had significant success, with the senior women's national team reaching the second round of World Cup qualifying in the CONCACAF region. Additionally, he was in charge of all national teams, concentrating on the youth programs. Using mostly players under the age of 20 for all senior national team games, Bugariu achieved the first-ever rise in the men's FIFA Rankings for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the summer of 2011 Bugariu worked with Carolina Cobras of the W-League, serving as the inaugural coach of the new professional women's soccer franchise.

Born in Bucharest, Romania, Bugariu came to the United States at the age of 10 and has since earned his citizenship and holds a degree in Recreation and Leisure Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his master's in sports science from the United States Sports Academy. He was an All-Region goalkeeper at Brevard College in N.C. and had a stint with the Romanian fourth division club, Soimii Sibiu, before playing for the C.D. Chapel Hill Dragons. He also attended Cary High School and has very strong ties to the Triangle Area.

“We are excited to have Glad join our staff. He has had a lot of success in the college and international game and is bringing a great deal of experience to our girls soccer program,” said David Allred, WFC Executive Director. “He will head our girls college recruiting pathway, which we want to make a centerpiece of the girls side. I know he will work hard for all of the girls in the WFC girls program, and with the great coaches and directors that are already there, will help us become one of the best programs in the southeast and the country.”

For more information on Glad Bugariu’s career please visit www.gladbugariu.com