

Soccer camp gains luck of the Irish national coach

By **CHUCK HLAVA**
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There are soccer coaches and then there are soccer coaches who know how to teach.

Former Irish Women's National coach Noel Mulhall is one of those coaches that knows how to teach.

Mulhall is flying to the U. S. from Ireland. He will be right here in the Clear Lake area in fact, and will be teaching his specialty at a camp for kids June 11-15 on the soccer fields at 2200 West Bay Area.

Youths are Mulhall's specialty, since he is presently the Director of Coaching at Cabinteely Youth Football Club. It boasts 27 boy's soccer teams.

Soccer has been his life from Day 1. He started his soccer career at age 17 playing in the Irish Division 1. He played until 20, at which time his playing career was shortened due to a knee injury.

But that didn't stop him. He went into coaching, then refereeing and then back to coaching again. All in all, he's been in soccer for more than 40 years.

His knowledge and head for the game got him into big-time coaching and from 1986 to 1990 he was head coach of the Irish

Women's National Team.

The Irish women never lost a game at home under Mulhall's 4-year tutelage, competing against teams such as Sweden, England, Scotland, Finland, Wales and Holland.

His career gained steam after he coached the women's team when in 1990 he was became involved in educational coaching and the FAI Coaching License in Ireland.

This marks his second return to the area. He was here in 1996 for a camp.

It took 11 years to get him back but Mulhall will be here to provide young campers of all ages with his vast experience and know-how.

Mulhall is being flown here by 22 Stars Soccer Development. Helping with the training will be Brendan Keyes, of 22 Stars and a USSF National Coach and FAI National Coach.

The camp is especially designed for boys and girls ages 5 and up.

Each camper will receive 15 hours of training, four Houston Dynamo tickets for a 2007 home game and a camp T-shirt.

Registration can be made at www.22starsoccerdevelopment.com or call Keyes for more information at 832/748-1001.



Former Irish Women's National coach Noel Mullhall is flying in from Ireland to hold a camp for boys and girls ages 5 and up in the Clear Lake/Friendswood/Pearland area June 11-15.

Courtesy photos

