

FREESTATE GOALKEEPING ACADEMY DIRECTOR

ROB VARTUGHIAN

We are very fortunate to have someone of Rob's caliber and experience to direct the goalkeeping academy for our club. Goalkeepers who consistently participate the academy training sessions have seen tremendous improvement in their game.

The Goalkeeping Academy is offered to all GKs in the club during the Fall, Winter, and Spring season's.

ROB's BIO

In his three seasons with the Terps, Rob Vartughian has known nothing but success at the University of Maryland with three-straight College Cup appearances and the 2005 NCAA title. Beginning his fourth season as an assistant coach, Vartughian works primarily with the goalkeepers, but is also heavily involved in all aspects of the program.

Last season, Vartughian helped the progression of freshman goalkeeper Chris Seitz, as Seitz became the first freshman to lead his team to an NCAA title since Brad Friedel did it in 1990. Seitz was the Defensive MVP at the College Cup, as well as being named to the All-ACC second team and numerous Freshman All-America teams.

In each of his three seasons with the Terps, Vartughian has helped Terp goalkeepers earn All-ACC honors in each of those seasons. Before Seitz, Vartughian guided Noah Palmer to one of the finest careers for a goalkeeper in Maryland history. Palmer recorded the lowest goals-against average for a Terp goalkeeper in school history (0.56) and left Maryland with a school-record 34 career shutouts.

Vartughian is the current head coach for the Maryland Boys (1990s) ODP team that won the national championship in 2006. That team also won the the regional title in the summer of 2006. In the spring of 2007, Vartughian served as the goalkeeper coach for the United States U-23 squad that played against the Japanese U-23 team in Japan.

A collegiate keeper for St. Bonaventure from 1996-99 and then for Wake Forest in 2000, Vartughian comes to College Park after spending two years as an assistant coach for Penn. While at Penn, he acted as both the men's and women's goalkeeping instructor, where his keepers earned All-American and Ivy League Player of the Year accolades, while both men's and women's teams went on to Ivy League titles in 2001 and 2002.

Vartughian was a Bonnie from 1996-99 and graduated in 2000 with a bachelor of science in accounting and finance before heading to Wake Forest to begin graduate work in education. During his time at St. Bonaventure, he set the Bonnie record for shutouts in a single season and career goals-against average. He finished his career as the starting goalkeeper at Wake Forest where he made 72 saves on the year.

Vartughian's playing career extended past college taking him to the Philadelphia Kixx of the Major Indoor Soccer League and both the Hampton Roads Mariners and Charleston Battery of the A-League teams. He spent 2001 with the South Jersey Barons Division III United Soccer League team. His other coaching experience includes being the director of goalkeeper training at the Elite 300 Soccer Academy and Freestate Soccer Club.

Vartughian holds a B-license from the US Soccer Federation.