

# SUE BRYDE

**BC SCHOOL SPORTS COACH OF THE MONTH APRIL 2009**

**School:** Little Flower Academy.  
**Years coaching:** 17years.  
**Currently coaching:** Sr. girls' soccer.  
**Also coached:** Basketball, bantam volleyball.  
**Subjects:** P.E.



## **Why did you decide to coach?**

I grew up playing sports and wanted to give back to the community and let the kids today have the same experience I had. Also, I'm an alumnus of Little Flower Academy so I guess I went back for more.

## **What's the most rewarding thing about being a teacher-coach?**

I think it's giving back, seeing the kids have the same experience I had. Some of my best memories growing up were when I was in teams and I think being able to take kids away on trips and seeing friendships come out of it is the best.

## **Who would you identify as a role model specific to coaching?**

I read a lot on coach John Wooden, he's a basketball coach at UCLA and he's coached so many national championships. I love reading his stuff. From a personal experience my youth soccer coach is probably my greatest mentor. His name was Bruno Colangeli.

## **How did you find sport in your life?**

I don't know how it started. My dad coached tee ball when I was six and when I was eight I got involved in soccer. That's when everything got started. My parents kept me very active when I was a kid. I was the youngest of four and getting me out of the house playing sport was the easiest way for them to keep sane.

### **What is the biggest challenge you face as a teacher-coach?**

I think when I'm as passionate as I am about certain sports and trying to instill that same passion in kids. Today's kids face demands to get into university. They spread themselves pretty thin and I think it's hard to spread that passion to them when they have so many distractions and demands on their time.

### **What has coaching taught you about life?**

I don't know if it's coaching or team sports but I feel strongly that when you are a part of a team it teaches you everything you need to know about life; dedication, working hard and being a leader. Leading by example, that's what coaching accentuates. It's probably taught me an incredible amount of patience.

### **Describe your first coaching experience**

I was still at Langara playing soccer and I started coaching back at Little Flower as alumni, I was 18. I started coaching bantam basketball and the senior soccer team.

### **What was one of your proudest moments as a teacher-coach?**

Championships are fantastic but I think it's when you have a team that isn't expected to get far and you can take them far. The first few years we had a senior soccer team who didn't know much about the sport and we ended up getting to the Provincials that year and that was one of my best moments.

### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I hung up the boots recently of a 20 year soccer career and I just started ice hockey. I have one and a half year old. She keeps me busy.

### **What do you believe would resonate with the teacher-coach of today in terms of recognition?**

I guess I don't do it for recognition. I do it to provide kids opportunities. When you get to take kids on a trip that's sort of my recognition that I take away from it. I get to see them having fun.

### **What's the most rewarding thing about being a teacher-coach?**

Getting kids out of the classroom. I think when you coach the kids you get to know them on a different level than you would as a teacher.