



## Miguel de Lima, Founder and President



DELIMA SOCCER ENTERPRISES, INC. is headed up by the native Brazilian and long-time soccer ambassador, Miguel de Lima. Miguel's passion for the game of soccer was cultivated at a very young age. It did not matter if he had any shoes to wear or he did not have a ball to play with, Miguel played the game at any opportunity he could find. Born into a poor family in Brazil, Miguel knew that he had only two ways to overcome poverty and succeed in life either join the military or become a professional soccer player. Miguel did both.

He faithfully served in the Brazilian Navy and greatly appreciates the discipline and commitment the military taught him. While at the military, Miguel had the opportunity to play at the youth level with C.R. Vasco da Gama, a first division club team of Rio de Janeiro. After a short time, he began to play for the professional team of C.R. Vasco da Gama.



During his time at C.R. Vasco da Gama, he was able to play with famous players such as Bellini, Orlando, and Vava. All these players were world champions in 1958 for the Brazilian team. His seven successful years at Vasco da Gama were filled with championship titles in the youth and professional level. Miguel started his professional career at the age of 19, and his time at C.R. Vasco da Gama was from 1955-1962.



In 1963, Miguel was transferred to Deportivo Cali (Colombia) and later played for the well-known Los Millonarios of Bogota. His career did not end in South America. In 1965, he went to play for F.C. Koln (Germany). Miguel became the first Brazilian goalkeeper to sign with a



European team. In 1967, he went back to Brazil to play for Botafogo F.C. in Rio de Janeiro. While playing at Botafogo, Miguel played with the world's top players at that time: Zagalo (former Brazilian National Team coach) Nilton Santos, Garrincha, Didi, Jairzinho, Gerson (1958 world champions.)

That same year, Miguel came to the United States to play for the St. Louis Stars (North American Soccer League) based in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1968, he was transferred to the New York Generals.



After a successful playing career, Miguel became one of the first goalkeeper coaches ever to be hired at the college level when he joined the Saint Louis University Coaching Staff from 1972-1979. Miguel, along with Val Pelizzaro, assisted Head Coach Harry Keough. During this tenure, SLU won the 1972 and 1973 NCAA National

Championship and finished as the Runner-up in 1974.

Miguel's career did not stop there. He became the goalkeeper coach and head scout for the legendary New York Cosmos from 1979-1984. During his time there, the New York Cosmos won four Eastern Division Championships and two NASL National Championships.



Other highlights in Miguel's career include working as a member of Pele's staff during the World Cup of 1990 in Italy, serving as the goalkeeper coach for the Brazilian Masters National Team, and being a member of the NSCAA for 25 years. Also, Miguel has been a consultant on numerous training films and books, and has directed

and coached several camps and clinics around the world.

For several years, Miguel has been bringing foreign teams to participate in one of the largest tournaments in the world, Dallas Cup. Brazilian teams such as Sport



Club Corinthians, Sao Paulo F.C. , Atletico Paranaense, Sport Club Vitoria, Cruzeiro, Santos F.C., and Internacional have all come through Delima Soccer to the Dallas Cup. The majority of teams that Miguel has assisted with have won the Super Group Championship titles. Miguel has also assisted with Japanese teams such as Jubilo Iwata, Consadole Sapporo, Maebashi, and Ryukei-Kashiwa.

Although formerly from Brazil, Miguel has lived in the United States since 1967 and is a proud United States citizen. He is the husband of Mrs. Graca de Lima, the father of three daughters, and a proud grandfather. Miguel thanks the Lord Jesus Christ for everything He has blessed him with. He realizes that without the Lord, nothing would have been possible.



Through soccer, Miguel was able to succeed in life, to travel the world, and to gain much knowledge about the game of soccer. Now, Miguel desires for players all over the world to have an opportunity to learn all they can about soccer. Since the Pele Cup was first introduced to youth teams in 1987, Miguel has been successfully conducting training camps and tours to South America, Central America, and Europe. Since that time, over 5,000 players and hundreds of parents have traveled to Brazil under Miguel's direct supervision to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity

Miguel's desire is for players to not only gain valuable soccer skills, but to experience international travel, to learn from different cultures, and to become hard-working, disciplined soccer players. Miguel values character traits such as honesty, leadership, and discipline just as important as soccer ability.

He understands the importance of safety, supervision, clean accommodations, nutritious meals, quality soccer training, and a fun experience. In addition, Miguel's expertise and experience have allowed him to recruit some of the best coaches in the soccer industry. Miguel's staff of tour managers and coaches are bi-lingual, professional, and trustworthy. Players are in good hands with the DSE staff.



**1. Brazil is the most successful soccer country in the world; give your thoughts on why this is and is there anything other countries can learn from Brazil's success?**

If the definition of success is number of World Cups won, then yes, Brazil is the most successful soccer country in the world. Brazil's success starts with the country's passion for soccer. Brazilians are soccer fanatics! Brazilians spend more time playing or watching soccer than anything else. Most people know that every boy in Brazil wants to play soccer. At an early age, he starts kicking a ball whenever and where ever he can, whether that is in open lots, in the streets, or on the beach. This is how such great technical skill and comfort with the ball are developed and how Brazilians learn to be so creative and play with such "flair".

Why soccer you may ask? A great percentage of Brazilian players come from poorer backgrounds, where players have very limited access to practice other elite sports such as tennis, golf, and lacrosse. Therefore, they turn to a sport where they only need a ball, and an open space, in other words...no expensive equipments. For thousands of young Brazilian boys, soccer is the only means and hope they have for a better life.

Through Brazilian soccer, one can easily learn to not put too much emphasis on win, win, win, but rather on loving playing game. Be passionate.

What many people do not know is how sophisticated Brazilians are in all aspects of the development of players and teams. For example, Brazilians have been leaders in the science and practice of physical development of soccer. As Fabio Capello, the Italian coach of England, recently remarked, "The Brazilians are not only great technical players, but their players are stronger and faster than English and European players."

**2. Is there a preferred formation that most professional teams play and if so could you provide some insight on to why that formation is preferred?**

Many people around the world associate Brazil with a traditional 4-4-2, with a flat back zonal defense, outside backs that go forward at every chance, a balanced midfield of holding, playmaking and attacking players, and two goal-



scoring strikers. Today we see many different tactical formations used. The World Cup winning side in 2002 played a system that reflected the defensive philosophy of its coach, Felipe Scolari. A 3-5-2 (or 5-3-2) which uses three defenders of center back quality, two wide attacking outside backs/midfielder hybrids, two defensive midfielders, an attacking midfielder and two strikers.

Style of play and systems vary around the country, many times based on the climate. In the hotter zones (northern Brazil) the game tends to be slower with shorter passes and more controlled possession. In the colder zones (south of Brazil) the game is faster and more physical.

### **3. At the youth level in Brazil when coaches are selecting players for a team; what is the first thing they look for?**

The saying is that we look forward for soccer PLAYERS first (skill and technical ability) and will develop the soccer ATHLETE later. That may be the opposite here in the US.

### **4. What do coaches' in Brazil feel are the most important ingredients for a successful team at both the youth and professional levels?**

The same ingredients anywhere really that starts with technical abilities to be able to control the ball and emphasize on finishing. I think that Brazilians train with goals and finishes more than here in the US (a lot of finishing work plus 3 v 3 with goalkeepers, 5 v 5 with goalkeepers, and a great deal of time at 11 v 11 at older ages). Next, as I mentioned, the physical qualities are important as Brazilians are able to develop strong, fast and fit players.

Also, not many people consider Brazil a country with top goalkeepers. But I believe their training methodologies for goalkeepers are as good as anywhere in the world. I believe the goalkeepers are exceptional in distributing the ball tactically. Today, we see some of the best goalkeepers from Brazil playing in Europe, mainly Italy.



**5. If we place the technical and physical requirements aside what do you feel are the most important mental requirement(s) for a player to possess if they are going to continue developing and improving as a player?**

First, the love of the game. With the love of the game a player will want to spend hours with the ball and time learning by watching games wherever he can...older teams at his club, on TV etc. With a love for the game comes the motivation to improve in all aspects.

Of course there are other important qualities that are interrelated with the love for the game: a player's intelligence (reading the game, managing the game), his will (dealing with challenge and adversity) his discipline on and off the field, and his leadership traits are also very important.

**6. Talk about 'DeLima Soccer' and the development opportunities your organization can provide for teams, individual players and coaches to travel to Brazil and train and play.**

Delima Soccer has been a leader in soccer venture to Brazil for many years. We have strong relationships with some of the top clubs in Brazil that are at the forefront of training youth and professional players: Cruzeiro Esporte Clube, Sao Paulo F.C., Atletico Paranaense, Desportivo Brasil, Oscar Inn Soccer Academy, and ABC F.C.

Since the initiation of my company, my priority has been for players and teams from around the world that travel to one of these clubs in Brazil to experience the exact training environment that the Brazilian players living at the club experience: the same coaching, the same practice drills, training side by side with the Brazilian players, and even playing in scrimmages and friendly games.

Players, teams, and coaches discover that the Brazilians players practice much harder and more intense than most American players. A Brazilian player is typically practicing to keep his spot in the club, to advance to the next level, and to ultimately make a living and to escape from a life of poverty. A Brazilian player knows that there is always a good player ready and wanting to replace him; therefore, every practice is intense because he knows that it may be his last



practice at the club. This environment makes players better; developing an ability to play faster, with more confidence, and with vision under high pressure conditions.

DSE players are also able to watch other age groups train including the professionals. They have the unique opportunity to attend professional games and see the differences between the MLS and the European games they watch on TV and experience the Brazilian passion for soccer.

DSE offers various programs for coaches and soccer players. We offer coaching courses, coaching observation trips, individual practical training, team tours, and team pre-season training for clubs, high schools, colleges, and professional teams. DSE programs are available year round, with the exception of December and January.

[www.delimasoccer.net](http://www.delimasoccer.net)