

= Sigi Schmid =

Siegfried " Sigi " Schmid ( pronounced [ ʒiːkfʰiːt ʒiːʔiʔ miːt ] ; born March 20 , 1953 ) is a German @-@ American soccer coach who most recently coached Seattle Sounders FC in Major League Soccer ( MLS ) . Born in Tübingen , West Germany , he moved to the United States with his family when he was a child . He played college soccer from 1972 to 1975 at the University of California , Los Angeles ( UCLA ) , where he was a starting midfielder in each of his four years . He coached his former college team , the UCLA Bruins , between 1980 and 1999 . During that period , he became one of the most successful collegiate coaches of all time , leading the Bruins to a record of 322 ? 63 ? 33 ( wins ? losses ? draws ) . The team made 16 consecutive playoff appearances from 1983 to 1998 , winning the national championship in 1985 , 1990 , and 1997 . Schmid also worked with US Soccer throughout the 1990s .

Schmid coached the Los Angeles Galaxy and the Columbus Crew in MLS , before becoming the head coach of Seattle Sounders FC in 2009 . Despite never having played soccer at a professional level , he has the most coaching wins in MLS history and was the recipient of the MLS Coach of the Year Award in 1999 and 2008 . Throughout his career , Schmid has received praise from critics for his ability to identify new talent . His defensive tactics are also highly regarded in the press and often cited as a factor in his success . However , their deployment in his final two seasons with Los Angeles led directly to the termination of his contract .

With a Bachelor of Economics degree from UCLA and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California , he was a Certified Public Accountant ( CPA ) before coaching full @-@ time . Schmid and his wife have four children , and he has a younger brother named Roland Schmid .

= = Early life = =

Sigi Schmid was born in Tübingen , West Germany , on March 20 , 1953 . At the age of four , he moved with his family to the United States ; they took up residence in Torrance , California , in 1962 . Schmid 's father , Fritz , a prisoner of war during World War II , worked at Pabst Brewing ; his mother , Doris , ran a Los Angeles @-@ based German deli , where Schmid worked on weekends . Schmid 's family spoke German at home , making him feel German despite spending so much of his life in America . He began school in the United States with little understanding of English and a stuttering speech disorder he did not overcome until high school . In his youth , Schmid visited Germany every summer , playing soccer with the local children and watching Bundesliga clubs play exhibition matches in neighboring towns . In 1964 , Schmid played for the inaugural American Youth Soccer Organization team , an achievement for which he was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1996 .

Despite Schmid 's early soccer experience , his parents thought a career in the sport was unfeasible and encouraged him to pursue business . He enrolled at UCLA in 1972 and was a starting midfielder for the UCLA Bruins from 1972 to 1975 . In his first two seasons , the Bruins were national runners @-@ up in the championships , and advanced to the national semifinals in 1974 . In his senior year , Schmid was selected to the 1975 All Far @-@ West team . Schmid completed his playing career at UCLA ranked 11th in all @-@ time assists at the school .

He received his Bachelor of Economics degree in 1976 before earning a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern California . Between 1978 and 1984 , he worked eight months of the year as a Certified Public Accountant ( CPA ) .

= = Coaching career = =

= = = UCLA and US Soccer = = =

Schmid 's first coaching experience was in 1975 for Bishop Montgomery High School . He also

founded and coached a small club called the South Bay Vikings . Between 1977 and 1979 , he served as an assistant coach under Steve Gay at UCLA . Schmid took over as head coach after Gay left the position in 1980 . He began focusing solely on coaching before the 1984 season and was named " Coach of the Year " by the magazine Soccer America . UCLA then won the 1985 NCAA Division I championship by defeating American University 1 ? 0 after eight periods of overtime . In his first 10 years as coach , the Bruins won or tied 85 percent of their games .

The Bruins won the 1990 national championship by defeating Rutgers 4 ? 3 on penalty kicks after a scoreless regulation , two sessions of overtime , and another two periods of sudden @-@ death . During the 22 @-@ game season , UCLA outscored their opponents 61 ? 16 . The team continued to thrive in the following season , part of their success coming from Schmid 's decision to move Cobi Jones from a midfield position to forward . Jones later played for Schmid in the MLS and became a top player for the national team . Schmid was named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Coach of the Year for three years straight ( 1995 ? 97 ) , and NCAA Coach of the Year in 1997 after UCLA defeated the University of Virginia to win a third NCAA championship . A reporter for the Richmond Times @-@ Dispatch wrote that after winning just two titles in 17 postseason appearances , UCLA had finally shed " its ' underachiever ' label " . The writer also applauded Schmid 's decision to move the team 's leading striker into a midfield position which led to the player scoring the winning goal .

Schmid spent 19 seasons as the head coach at UCLA , accumulating a record of 322 ? 63 ? 33 ( wins ? losses ? draws ) , and reaching 16 consecutive playoffs between 1983 and 1998 . He earned a reputation for producing some of the nation 's best goalkeepers when David Vanole , Brad Friedel , and Matt Reis came through the university . By 1994 , he had coached 16 players at UCLA who were later selected for the US national team . Schmid avoided recruiting foreign talent to bolster his squad . He relied mainly on players from California , whom he believed to be less physically aggressive but more creative and attacking .

While coaching at UCLA , Schmid began to work with the US national team . He was the assistant coach at the 1991 World University Games and traveled with the team to Germany in the fall of 1992 . In January 1993 , he was selected as an assistant to Bora Milutinovi? for the 1994 FIFA World Cup , during which five of Schmid 's UCLA players appeared for the national team . He continued as an assistant during the 1995 Pan American Games . After being appointed US Under @-@ 20 national team coach in January 1998 , Schmid built his squad around defensive tactics . The team achieved second place in their group during the 1999 FIFA World Youth Championship , defeating England and Cameroon , but were eliminated by the eventual champions Spain in the opening knockout round . Schmid returned to coach the U @-@ 20 national team at the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship . The US won the group in the opening stage of the tournament without conceding a goal , but lost to Italy in the first round of the knockout stage . One of the forwards on the national team , Eric Wynalda , said that Schmid 's organization on the field was disciplined . Wynalda commented that Schmid had a " great handle on the defensive side of the game " while he also admired that the strikers were allowed to be creative . Schmid was inducted into the UCLA Hall of Fame in 2004 after working with UCLA , the national team , and the Los Angeles Galaxy .

= = = LA Galaxy = = =

Schmid left UCLA to replace Octavio Zambrano as head coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy five games into the 1999 MLS season . At the time , the team was ranked fifth in the Western Conference with a tally of only three goals . Under Schmid in the remainder of the season , the team had a record of 17 ? 9 , finished with the second @-@ best record in the league and won their conference , earning him the MLS Coach of the Year Award . The team 's captain , Robin Fraser , gave credit to Schmid 's emphasis on defense after being named the MLS defender of the year . Los Angeles lost 2 ? 0 to D.C. United in that year 's MLS Cup . Schmid made critical comments of the referees after the match ; he received a \$ 1 @, @ 000 fine and suspension for the first game of the following season .

In 2000 , Schmid guided Los Angeles to the playoffs but lost in the semifinals to the Kansas City Wizards . The team also played in that year 's CONCACAF Champions ' Cup , a competition

consisting of the best clubs from North America , Central America , and the Caribbean . The Galaxy defeated the Honduran champion Olimpia 3 ? 2 to win the Cup . Schmid was forced to play an atypical squad since the final was held during the MLS off @-@ season while adjustments to the following season 's lineup were being made .

His successful team of 2001 enjoyed attacking play . The squad included experienced players such as Cobi Jones , Sasha Victorine , Luis Hernández , Simon Elliott , and Mauricio Cienfuegos . The Galaxy won the conference by two points and finished fourth overall with a 14 ? 7 ? 5 record . The team went on to lose to the San Jose Earthquakes in the MLS Cup , but won the US Open Cup a week later with a 2 ? 1 overtime victory against the New England Revolution .

Success followed in 2002 when the Galaxy won the Supporters ' Shield for having the best regular season record in the league . Schmid was lauded for his defensive tactics after adjusting the team 's standard formation to a 3 ? 5 ? 2 early in the season . The shift allowed Alexi Lalas to play as a sweeper without specific marking responsibilities in the three @-@ man defensive line . Schmid also brought Guatemalan forward Carlos Ruiz to the team ; Ruiz won league Most Valuable Player ( MVP ) award that year . Amidst criticism for failing to win in previous years , the franchise won its first MLS Cup with a 1 ? 0 overtime victory against New England . The team again reached the Open Cup final but lost to the Columbus Crew .

Victory in the MLS Cup earned the team another berth in the 2003 CONCACAF Champions ' Cup . Los Angeles advanced past Motagua in the first round but fell against Necaxa in the quarterfinals . In MLS , the club had its first losing season with a 9 ? 12 ? 9 record and no victories on the road . The Galaxy failed to score goals consistently during the year , managing only a fourth @-@ place finish in the five @-@ team Western Conference . In the first round of the playoffs , Los Angeles defeated San Jose 2 ? 0 in the first leg , but during the second leg , conceded five goals in the second half of the match and were eliminated . Schmid was criticized by fans and the press speculated he would not return in 2004 . A local writer put some of the blame on a switch to defensive style of play while some players questioned his tactics . After it was announced that he would remain in his role next season , Schmid expected a year of rebuilding the team . The following year , he was picked to coach the Western Conference in the All @-@ Star game . Midway through the season , with the Galaxy in first place , Schmid was fired after a five @-@ game stretch without any wins , in which the team scored only three goals . General manager Doug Hamilton said that the team had a mission " to compete for and win championships " , and that " a more entertaining and attractive product on the field . " was needed . Schmid left with an overall record of 79 ? 53 ? 32 with a 16 ? 7 ? 3 mark in the playoffs .

Reflecting on his demeanor in Los Angeles , Lalas said Schmid had " epic explosions " . One reporter called him " combustible " , while another referred to him as " fiery " . Lalas also commented that playing for Schmid in Los Angeles required professionalism on and off the field .

= = = Columbus Crew = = =

Schmid returned to the league as coach of the Columbus Crew in 2006 , rated by the team 's general manager Mark McCullers as " the best coach in America " . The team contained young talent but lacked depth and had no star players . In August , after a streak of 13 winless matches , Schmid considered resigning . The team suffered from injuries and inconsistent lineups throughout the season , finishing last in the Eastern Conference with just 30 goals , the lowest in the league .

By the start of 2007 , Schmid had rebuilt the roster , keeping only three players he had inherited and acquiring Argentine attacker Guillermo Barros Schelotto . Schmid cut the Crew 's goalkeeper , Jon Busch , who had been with the team for five years . Schmid had concerns over Busch 's playing style and fitness . Busch later criticised Schmid 's management skills , and said he would never work for the coach again , but gave credit to Schmid 's tactical approach . Scheletto 's contributions were crucial to Columbus 's improvement that season , but the team failed to make the playoffs . A writer for ESPN speculated that the Crew suffered because the team management would not spend more money , while Schmid lamented that he could not attract a foreign star to the little @-@ known city of Columbus .

The Crew 's performance improved remarkably in the 2008 season . Schmid adjusted their offensive tactics to be based on ball possession and flank speed . He made Schelotto a central part of the plan in a roaming playmaker position , a role in which Schelotto excelled and the Argentinian was named the league 's MVP . With a 1 ? 0 victory over the Houston Dynamo at Crew Stadium on April 26 , Schmid became the second MLS coach to win 100 regular @-@ season games . The Crew went on to win the Supporters ' Shield with the best record in the league . In the playoffs , Columbus defeated the New York Red Bulls 3 ? 1 at Schmid 's former home stadium , Los Angeles 's Home Depot Center , to win the MLS Cup . Schmid received the Coach of the Year Award for the second time . Part of the success was attributed to Schmid 's restructuring of the squad in 2006 and 2007 .

Schmid declined a contract offer from Columbus after the 2008 season and became coach of Seattle Sounders FC . The Crew 's ownership believed that Schmid had been in contact with Sounders FC despite being denied permission to talk to other teams during the season . It was also alleged that he shared confidential information with Seattle after his contract with the Crew had ended . The MLS ruled that no tampering had occurred , but ordered Sounders FC to financially compensate the Crew .

= = = Seattle Sounders FC = = =

Schmid was named the first coach of the new expansion franchise , Seattle Sounders FC . In their 2009 inaugural season , Seattle defeated D.C. United to win the US Open Cup . On October 24 , 2009 , Seattle defeated FC Dallas 2 ? 1 , giving Schmid his 125th career MLS regular season win ; this win moved Schmid past Bob Bradley for the most wins in MLS history . He led Seattle to the playoffs where , in the first round , the Dynamo defeated the team 1 ? 0 in overtime of the second leg . Seattle was the first expansion team to make the playoffs in an inaugural season since the 1998 Chicago Fire , when the league was just two years old .

The team began the 2010 MLS season slowly with injuries to key players that impacted Schmid 's starting lineups . The team had a record of 4 ? 8 ? 3 over the first 15 games . The Sounders also advanced through the preliminary round of the 2010 ? 11 CONCACAF Champions League but failed to get past the group stage . The 2010 US Open Cup campaign culminated in Schmid winning his third championship with a 2 ? 1 victory over the Crew at Seattle 's Qwest Field . No MLS team had previously won back @-@ to @-@ back Open Cups . The Sounders rebounded in the second half of the regular season with a 10 ? 2 ? 3 record to qualify for the playoffs . The team faced Bruce Arena 's Galaxy in the two @-@ legged quarter @-@ final . Both coaches are considered to be among the best in the MLS , and it was the first meeting between the two in the playoffs . The Sounders lost by a 3 ? 1 aggregate and Arena moved within one game of Schmid 's MLS postseason record of 19 wins .

In 2011 , Schmid 's Sounders FC had many setbacks and a slow start to the season ( the club won just 3 of its first 10 matches ) . Schmid signed a long @-@ term contract extension on July 14 , 2011 , which could keep him with the club through the 2015 MLS season . The extension is dependent on some club options and performance triggers . Although some fans had become frustrated with what they saw as tactical inflexibility and mismanagement of players , general manager Adrian Hanauer praised Schmid 's professionalism and success . The Sounders went on to finish the regular season with the second @-@ best record in the league at 18 wins , 9 draws , 7 losses , and qualified for the playoffs for a third consecutive year . Schmid again led his club to the final of the U.S. Open Cup tournament . They defeated the Chicago Fire 2 ? 0 to become the first team since 1968 to win the tournament three times consecutively . Seattle also advanced to the knock @-@ out stages of the CONCACAF Champions League . However , in the MLS playoffs , Sounders FC was again eliminated from the MLS Cup playoffs in the conference semifinal round by Real Salt Lake .

In 2012 , Seattle lost in the 2 @-@ legged 2011 ? 12 CONCACAF Champions League quarter finals by an aggregate score of 7 ? 3 to Santos Laguna . The Sounders advanced to the finals of the Open Cup where they were defeated by Sporting Kansas City after penalty kicks . Schmid was furious over what he saw as a controversial call that handed Kansas City the victory . The team

finished the regular season with a 15 ? 8 ? 11 record to make the playoffs where they advanced past Real Salt Lake to reach the conference championship series against the Galaxy . The team played defensive and suffered a 3 ? 0 blowout in the first leg . They won on the return leg but lost on aggregate .

The Sounders began the 2013 regular season without a win until their sixth match . After advancing through the early stages of the 2012 ? 13 CONCACAF Champions League the year prior , Seattle lost in the semifinals to Santos Laguna . The team was knocked out of the 2013 Open Cup in their first match against the lower division Tampa Bay Rowdies . Seattle would rally during the middle of the season to put the Supporters ' Shield and the regional Cascadia Cup in reach . However , the team ended the season on a skid of seven matches without a win that included substantial losses to both Colorado and rival Vancouver . The Sounders beat Colorado in the knockout round of the 2013 MLS Cup Playoffs before losing two matches against arch @-@ rival Portland . At the end of the season , a poll in The Seattle Times showed that many fans wanted to see Schmid fired . Pundits speculated on the possibility of his termination based on what they saw as poor tactics , a history of mismanaging skilled players , and a fan base that had higher expectations . Owner Joe Roth held a post @-@ season meeting with Hanauer and Schmid . Roth later said that the possibility of Schmid losing his job was " close " , but instead opted for personnel changes to the squad .

After the collapse of the 2013 season , the coach met with Osvaldo Alonso , Clint Dempsey , and Evans since they were a core group of players . The group agreed on the aforementioned changes to the team . Starting striker Eddie Johnson was later traded while a new central defender , winger , midfielder , goalkeeper , and depth at the forward position were brought in . The team played 2014 with Dempsey and Obafemi Martins playing more through the middle as the Sounders won the US Open Cup and the Supporters Shield .

During the first half of the 2016 season , the Sounders failed to meet expectations , placing near the bottom of the league with 6 wins , 12 losses , and 12 draws . After a 3 ? 0 loss on July 24 to Sporting Kansas City , in which the Sounders had only one shot , Schmid left the club on mutual terms and replaced by assistant coach Brian Schmetzer .

= = Personal life = =

Schmid lives in Bellevue , Washington , during the football season . He is married to Valerie and has four children : Erik , Lacey , Kurt , and Kyle . Kurt is currently the head scout for Sounders FC . Kyle played as a defender at UC Irvine and was in the USL Premier Development League with Orange County Blue Star . Kyle is now an assistant coach at Cal State Fullerton . Sigi has rarely missed game days in the MLS , but took time off for Lacey and Kurt 's weddings and Kurt 's college graduation . Schmid 's younger brother , Roland , lives in Sammamish , Washington , and having family in the area was one of the factors which persuaded Schmid to accept the job at Seattle . He also has a nephew and a niece named Graham and Mackenze .

= = Honors = =

= = = Individual = = =

National Soccer Hall of Fame : 2015  
NCAA Coach of the Year : 1997  
MLS Coach of the Year Award : 1999 , 2008  
UCLA Athletics Hall of Fame inductee : 1996

= = = Managerial = = =

College Cup : 1985 , 1990 , 1997  
CONCACAF Champions ' Cup : 2000

Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup : 2001 , 2009 , 2010 2011 , 2014

MLS Supporters ' Shield : 2002 , 2008 , 2014

MLS Cup : 2002 , 2008