

Funk brought onto UIL All-Century list

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As the UIL Centennial Celebration continues, McKinney once again has a home-town athlete vying for All-Century honors. This time it's on the boys soccer list, as former Lions forward Zach Funk has been selected as one of 33 nominees at that position. McKinney High head coach Alan Pocock, who Funk played for during his high school career, said it comes as no surprise that he's been recognized as one of the century's best.

A 2008 graduate, Funk broke a number of school records while playing for the Lions, including the most assists in a season record with 23, set his senior year, and career-wide honors for the 63 goals and 55 assists he tallied. His junior year alone he scored over 26 goals. In 2007, he was selected as the Player of the Year in the state of Texas by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, and as a member of the Andromeda '90 club team, he helped win back-to-back national championships.

Pocock said it was immediately apparent the caliber of player Funk, a four-year varsity starter at McKinney, would be. He said that coming in Funk had lightning speed and a profound ability to latch onto balls coming over the top and best keepers in 1v1 situations.

"As a freshman you just recognized, this guy's got standout athletic ability, and on top of that just superb goal scoring ability," Pocock said. "His junior-senior years, he was incredibly well respected and had great rapport with the team."

Funk went on to become the Lions first ever recruit to SMU, where he played for the '09 season before transferring to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Pocock said that injuries have plagued him so far in his college career, but he still remembers what it was like to watch Funk tear up the turf as one of his players.

"It was just a pure pleasure to coach Zach," he said.

To vote for Funk or other Boys Soccer All-Century Team candidates visit <http://www.uil100.org/vote-soccer-boys.php>.