

WORLD CLASS ATHLETE & MOM SUPPORTS WSC

By Ginny McCullough



I would like to introduce you to a world-class athlete, a mom and a huge supporter of the WSC– Kristine Lilly. She not only has shown her support by donating items to the WSC High Stakes Night Silent Auction but also shows her support of the WSC in many other ways.

"The Women's Soccer Club is a great organization that gives people the opportunity to play the world's greatest game! I've played soccer my whole life. The game has brought me joy, good health, a competitive fire and - dare I say - things more valuable than goals and assists. When I reflect on my career, I think of the people who helped me get on the field and my heart swells with gratitude. The Women's Soccer Club helps people get on the field. I'm a huge fan." Kristine says.

Kristine was born in New York to Steve Lilly and Terri Morelli and has an older brother Scott. She grew up in Wilton, CT and attended Wilton High School and then onto University of North Carolina majoring in Communications. She met her husband David Heavey while walking the dog. When asked if they had any funny scenario they had together, she laughed and said, "We made a bet on the New York Yankees/Red Sox Series and then we got married and now have a 20 month old daughter." She currently is a Professional Soccer Player for the Boston Breakers.

Kristine said that she first got into playing soccer because her older brother Scott played it. She loves all sports but continues to play soccer because she loves it so much and it keeps her in shape. She never imagined that she would be a pro-soccer player because growing up, "there wasn't a professional soccer league to play in," she said. "Things just happened. It felt amazing to achieve that goal!" Asking what it takes to become a professional soccer player, Kristine said emphatically, "HARD WORK!!!!!! COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, TIME AND LOVE OF THE GAME. When you make a mistake on the soccer field," Kristine advises, "try to remember the things you do well. We all make mistakes and its how you handle them that help you to get better." When Kristine was already on the National Team, they took the National Team and split them up to start the Women's Professional Soccer. That's how she got recruited to play professionally.

How does she balance being a soccer player on the road and being a mom? "Being a mom and playing soccer is great. I have a good schedule and I have a lot of baby sitters. I get to bring my daughter and that is great. I have a lot of help from my husband who makes it easier. Being part of the WPS and playing with and against amazingly talented players is great. I love competing against those players. The players are getting technically better and more confident. Tactics come a bit slower, but experience helps that. The biggest challenge playing at such a high level of competition is remaining at that level. The commitment it takes not just the training but the travel, the mental part, and staying in game shape and have a good touch on the ball always."

When asked what is it like playing in international competition, Kristine smiles brightly and says, "It's great playing for your country. Nothing can compare. I still get butterflies in my stomach before a match. Plus, I get to play with Leslie Osborne – a Wisconsinite on the Boston Breakers and I love playing with her. She is a great soccer player and a better person."

In her off time, Kristine loves to play golf whenever she has four hours in her day. She also enjoys reading, walking her dog, photography and going to movies. "My favorite things to do are to hang out with my husband, daughter and dog. My alone activities are manicure/pedicure. My favorite food is pizza and my favorite movie is "Steel Magnolias". She also created the Kristine Lilly Soccer Academy. "Being the best starts with how you train and how you approach your game. My camp philosophy is to provide a technical and tactical environment for players to learn and hone their skills. I will demonstrate drills and give an environment similar to what I have done for the past 20 years with the National Team. I strongly believe that basic skills are the foundation for every player to become something more. A fun and competitive environment will bring out the best in everyone!" Click this link to learn more about it. <http://www.kristinelilly13.com/kl-soccer-academy/index.php> She is one supermom that does not let the moss grow under her feet and she gives it her all as attested by her favorite quote by which she lives: "What lies before us and what lies after us are small compared to what lies with in us."

She has overcome mountains in the world of women's soccer by providing women with the inspiration and thus, the opportunity to play soccer through her commitment, hard work, dedication, time and love of the game. Without her and people like her, where would women's soccer be today? When asked what the WSC can do to help women's soccer continue to succeed and grow besides encouraging more women to play in the WSC at all ages and levels, Kristine replied, "Buy season tickets for a team like the Chicago Red Stars in your neck of the woods. Talk about it as much as possible. Set up Saturday afternoons to watch the game of the week. Go to the games and give a show of support to other women playing soccer." Kristine Lilly is one amazing woman on and off the field and it has been a joy getting to know her. She is welcome to play on my team anytime! GO Boston Breakers! GO WSC!

Evidence of what she has accomplished:

Career Stats as of January 2008

Caps: 342

Goals: 129

Assists: 103

2007 Stats: 21 games played, 21 starts, 1772 minutes played, 12 goals, 8 assists, 32 points, 1 yellow card

2006 Stats: 20 games played, 19 starts, 1727 minutes played, 13 goals, 7 assists, 33 points

Quick facts:

- Member of the Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) team, Boston Breakers
- 20 year veteran of the National Team.
- 2005–2007 Captain of the U.S. National Team
- Runner up World Player of the Year '06
- Made the team in 1987– 16 years old, a Jr. in High school
- First game August 3, 1987 vs China in China
- First goal August 13, 1987 vs China in China
- Played in 5 World Cups– 1991,1995,1999,2003,2007
- Played in 3 Olympics– 1996, 2000, 2004
- Gold Medal– 1996, 2004

- Silver Medal– 2000
- World Champion– 1991, 1999
- The second all time leading scorer in U.S and world history
- All time leader in minutes played
- May 21, 1998 Kobe Japan– became the most capped player in the world at 152 vs Japan
- May 7, 2000 Portland Oregon– played my 200th cap vs. Canada
- January 18, 2006 China– 300th cap vs. Norway
- Graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1993, degree in communications
- Four Time NCAA Champion '89–92
- UNC Captain '90, '92
- Graduated from Wilton High School in Ct. in 1989
- Wilton High School State Champions '86, '87, '89