



North Oaks Soccer Club

*Established: 2015*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For more information, contact:*

Scott Larson – Club President  
[president@northoakssoccer.org](mailto:president@northoakssoccer.org)

*July 6, 2015 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

### **NORTH OAKS BLAST SOCCER COACH SARA JOHNSON LAUNCHES INTO BIG TEN COLLEGIATE RANKS**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (July 6, 2015) — North Oaks Blast soccer coach Sara Johnson has been hired as Director of Operations at Indiana University Women’s soccer program. In her new role, Johnson, a former three-sport standout at North St. Paul High School, will help prepare the Hoosier women for training and game-days, including travel, video analysis, equipment, and serving as a liaison between the athletic department’s sports information and marketing departments.

“We are extremely proud that one of our own has reached such a pinnacle in the women’s college soccer ranks,” says John Michaelson, North Oaks Director of Coaching and Player Development. “While we will miss Sara a great deal, we are very excited for her in this expanded role. Our club cherishes growth and development for all our players and coaches.”

Johnson played a key role in helping start the North Oaks Blast Soccer Club – a club which will see 95 percent of its U18 girls team graduate to play collegiate soccer at the D-1, D-2 and D-3 levels in its first year.

“My five years working with my mentor, John Michaelson, could not have prepared me any better for the opportunity I have in front of me. John’s knowledge and passion for the game along with his vision for developing athletes to be successful players and productive people has been inspirational.” Says Johnson. “I will miss being part of one of the most impressive youth programs I have ever seen built, but anxious to bring what I have learned here to the Indiana soccer program.”

Following Sara’s stand-out soccer, hockey and softball success at North St. Paul High School, she played for the University of Minnesota Women’s soccer program under Mikki Denney Wright from 2004 to 2007. As a Golden Gopher, Sara played as a solid midfielder and forward in a well-respected NCAA Division I program.

Together, Sara Johnson and John Michaelson have coached Minnesota Youth Soccer Association's (MYSA) most successful Premier women's program, taking two State Cup titles, and representing Minnesota at the USYSA Region 2 championships as U-16's and U-17's. The Blast has two MYSA Premier level titles and more than a half dozen elite level championships behind them.

"Our proudest moments are not the titles or the championships but rather seeing more than fifty players in the past five years be part of an elite soccer program that required the discipline and commitment to be successful," says Michaelson, whose program is designed to help prepare players to be elite athletes, students and members of the community.

Sara will finish out her 2015 MYSA summer season, coaching a U13 team, a collection of U12 players, playing as C1 U13 players, before making her way to Hoosier-land. "It will be a hard drive. I have so many years and so many proud moments. I will always have a very special place in my heart for the Blast program, the people, the players and the parents I have been fortunate to work with these past five years."

Johnson is planning to head to her new Indiana home on July 19th to be part of the Hoosier's Elite soccer camp before players report on August 4th. A formal announcement will be posted on the North Oaks Soccer Club website at: [www.northoakssoccer.org](http://www.northoakssoccer.org)

For more information, contact:

Scott Larson - Club President

President@northoakssoccerclub.org

###