

# HEAD COACH SHANNON HIGGINS-CIROVSKI

Third season at Maryland  
 Tenth season overall as a head coach  
 North Carolina '90



If you look up the word winner in a dictionary, 1999 ACC Coach of the Year Shannon Higgins-Cirovski might be one of the definitions.

Higgins-Cirovski could be defined as a person possessing every quality of a winner. Those qualities include the desire to be victorious, the will to achieve, the ambition to accomplish, the wish to be successful and the ability to triumph over every obstacle in one's path.

Higgins-Cirovski, though, is much more than just a definition. She is the epitome of someone who strives to be a winner in every facet of their life.

One of the most prestigious honors was bestowed upon Higgins-Cirovski this past summer when she was named a finalist nominee for induction to the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

The former head coach of the U.S. U-18 women's team and former head coach at George Washington University, Higgins-Cirovski was named head coach of the Maryland women's soccer program on Jan. 13, 1999.

She joined her husband, Sasho, on the Maryland athletic staff. Sasho Cirovski has been the men's soccer coach since 1993.

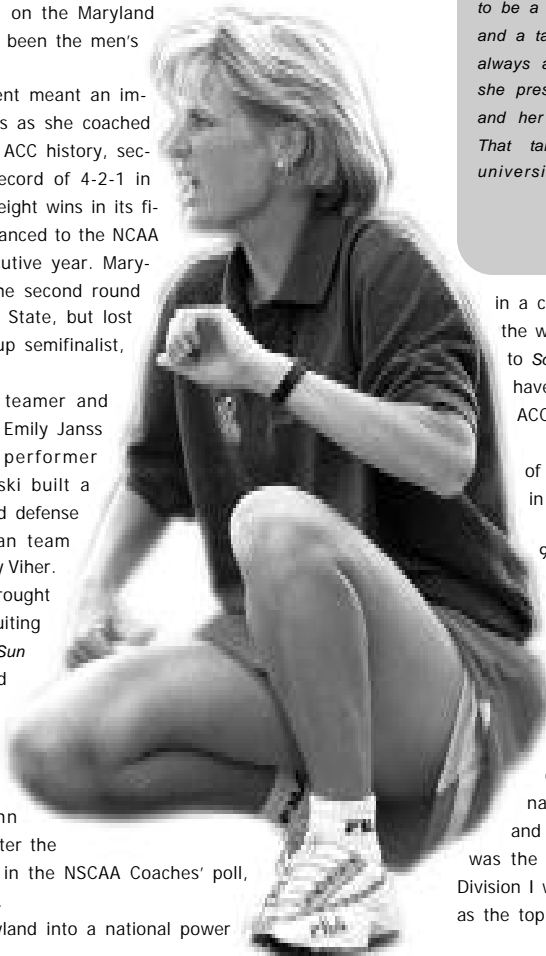
Higgins-Cirovski's appointment meant an immediate impact for the Terrapins as she coached Maryland to its highest finish in ACC history, second place, with a conference record of 4-2-1 in 1999. She coached Maryland to eight wins in its final 11 games and the Terps advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth consecutive year. Maryland put up a valiant fight in the second round of the tournament against Penn State, but lost to the eventual 1999 College Cup semifinalist, 3-2.

She coached All-ACC first teamer and honorable mention All-American Emily Janss and Mid-Atlantic first team performer Jackie Mynarski. Higgins-Cirovski built a team around a tough, hard-nosed defense led by Mid-Atlantic All-Freshman team members Lindsay Givens and Carly Viher.

In 2000, Higgins-Cirovski brought in one of the nation's top recruiting classes including *Baltimore Sun* Player of the Year Jen Biscoe and *Washington Post* Player of the Year Audra Poulin.

She led Maryland to its first-ever win over a Top-5 team as Maryland upset No. 4 Penn State, 3-1, on Aug. 29, 2000. After the win, the Terps soared to No. 9 in the NSCAA Coaches' poll, their highest ranking since 1997.

She continues to build Maryland into a national power



## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING...

"Shannon Cirovski is a proven winner at all levels of the game. She is widely respected at the collegiate and international levels, and is the person we believe will elevate Maryland into one of the country's elite programs, eventually competing for a national championship. We feel that the combination of Shannon and Sasho leading our women's and men's soccer programs is a unique fit for us and them."

— Deborah A. Yow, Director of Athletics  
 University of Maryland



"Shannon was one of our best midfielders. She has done a tremendous amount for the sport as a player and as a coach. Tactically, her knowledge of the game was a major reason she was the player she was. It has helped and will help her to become one of the nation's top coaches."

— Mia Hamm, U.S. National Team & Washington Freedom Forward and Higgins-Cirovski's former college and national team teammate



"Of all the players I have coached, no one is more suited to be a coach than Shannon. She is a brilliant field organizer and a tactical genius. The cliché 'coach on the field' certainly always applied to her during her playing career. Every team she presents will be well-organized and difficult to play. She and her husband will do something impressive for Maryland. That tandem will have tremendous repercussions for the university."

— Anson Dorrance, Head Coach  
 University of North Carolina



in a conference in which she is generally regarded as one of the pioneers of the women's game in the United States. At the end of 1999, she was named to *Soccer America's* Team of the Century, as one of the top 11 players to have impacted women's soccer in the 1900s. She was also honored by the ACC as one of the conference's all-time top players.

Cirovski played on four NCAA championship teams at the University of North Carolina, was the consensus national college Player of the Year in 1989, and helped lead the U.S. to the 1991 World Cup title.

Cirovski, 33, served as head coach at George Washington from 1991-97, leading the Colonials to their only NCAA Tournament appearance (1996) in school history. She was named the Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year in 1994 when she led the Colonials to a 12-8-0 record. One year later she led George Washington to the Atlantic-10 West Division title. She is the winningest women's soccer coach in the school's history, posting a seven-year mark of 69-59-11.

A 1990 graduate of North Carolina, the former Shannon Higgins helped lead the Tar Heels to four NCAA titles and a cumulative record of 89-0-6 from 1986-89. A two-time first-team All-American, she was named national Player of the Year by *Soccer America* magazine in 1988 and 1989 and consensus national Player of the Year in 1989. Higgins-Cirovski was the 1989 recipient of the prestigious Hermann Award as the nation's top Division I women's soccer player. In addition, she won the Honda-Broderick award as the top female athlete in the nation, also in 1989.

Shannon Higgins in action at UNC >>> Higgins-Cirovski discussing strategy at halftime >>> Sasho Cirovski, U.S. National Team Coach April Heinrichs and Higgins-Cirovski



2001  
 Terps



Women's  
 Soccer



She pulled off the remarkable feat of scoring the game-winning goals in the 1987, 1988 and 1989 NCAA championship matches. She ended her career at UNC tied for first in career assists (51), fifth in scoring (129 points) and seventh in goals (39). She is one of five women's soccer players in UNC history to have her jersey number (3) retired by the university.

She continued her playing career at the international level, representing the United States in competition 51 times. She assisted on both of the U.S. team's goals in a 2-1 win over Norway in the 1991 World Cup final, this country's first world soccer title. She retired as a player following the '91 World Cup. Higgins-Cirovski was honored by FIFA two summers ago, along with the entire 1991 world champion U.S. women's team, at halftime of the 1999 World Cup championship game at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Higgins-Cirovski served as head coach of the U.S. Under-18 women's national team in 1998, with responsibilities to identify, select and train the top U-18 female players in the U.S., while also serving as an assistant on the women's national team and the women's U-20 team. The U-18 team was undefeated during her time as head coach.

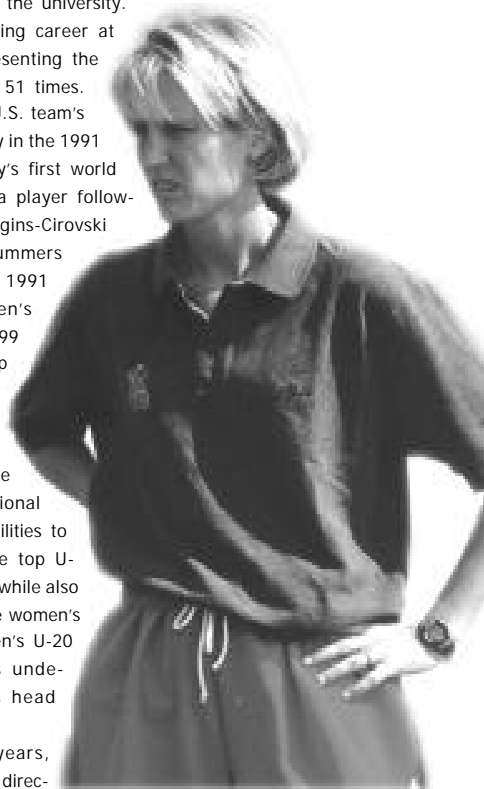
Over the last eight years, Higgins-Cirovski has been the director of her own soccer camp.

Higgins-Cirovski holds a U.S. Soccer "A" coaching license, and from 1994-98 served as the director of the Maryland State Girls Olympic Development Program in addition to her duties as a Region I staff coach. She is also a clinician for the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America convention.

She is a 1990 graduate of North Carolina with a bachelor of arts degree in industrial relations.

In the summer of 2001, she served as a color commentator for the WUSA's Washington Freedom in television broadcasts aired on Comcast SportsNet.

The Cirovskis' have two daughters, Hailey (7) and Karli (5).



### THE HIGGINS-CIROVSKI FILE

**Full Name:** Shannon Danise Higgins-Cirovski  
**Birthdate:** Feb. 20, 1968  
**Hometown:** Kent, Washington  
**Family:** Husband Sasho, daughters Hailey (6) and Karli (4)  
**Began at Maryland:** Named Maryland's sixth head coach on Jan. 13, 1999  
**Education:** B.S. in industrial relations, University of North Carolina, 1990  
**Coaching Experience:** The George Washington University, 1991-97; U.S. Under-18 National Team, 1998; University of Maryland, 1999-present  
**Coaching Honors:** 1994 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year, 1996 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year, 1999 ACC Coach of the Year  
**All-Conference:** 19 all-conference selections including 10 first team selections  
**Conference Player of the Year:** Tanya Vogel (1996, GW)  
**Conference Rookie of the Year:** Chemar Smith (1994, GW), Jane Anderson (1995, GW)

### Married to the game



The Cirovski family was featured on the front page of the *Baltimore Sun* sports section in Sept. 1999.

Higgins-Cirovski was featured on this mural as one of the ACC's national team players at the conference's 1999 tournament.



### HIGGINS-CIROVSKI'S CAREER COLLEGE COACHING RECORD

Year	School	W	L	T	Pct.	Highlights
1991	George Washington	9	10	1	.475	Defeated No. 13 James Madison, 1-0, in fourth career game as a head coach
1992	George Washington	8	8	2	.500	
1993	George Washington	9	11	1	.452	Advanced to Atlantic 10 Tournament championship game
1994	George Washington	12	8	0	.600	Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
1995	George Washington	8	9	1	.472	Regular-season Atlantic 10 West Division title
1996	George Washington	10	7	4	.571	School's first NCAA Tournament berth, Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
1997	George Washington	13	6	2	.643	Career-high for victories
1999	Maryland	11	10	1	.523	NCAA Second Round, ACC Coach of the Year
2000	Maryland	8	11	0	.421	Defeated No. 4 Penn State for Maryland's first-ever win over a Top-5 team
<b>8 years</b>	<b>Career Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>.522</b>	<b>Two NCAA Tournament Appearances, Three Conference Coach of the Year Awards</b>
<b>2 years</b>	<b>Maryland Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.476</b>	<b>One NCAA Tournament Appearance, ACC Coach of the Year Award</b>

Higgins-Cirovski with her daughter Karli >>> Higgins-Cirovski with trainer Phyllis Sanders and asst. Kerry Diczkaniec >>> Higgins-Cirovski with Pele at the 1994 World Cup



2001  
Tops



Women's  
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# 2001 Maryland Women's Soccer

## KERRY DZICZKANIEC

Assistant Coach  
 Third season at Maryland  
 Ninth season overall  
 George Washington '93



Kerry Dzikkaniec is in her third season as an assistant coach at the University of Maryland and her ninth as a coach on the Division I level. She is involved in all aspects of the program with an emphasis in on-field coaching, scouting, and recruiting. Dzikkaniec was a standout goalkeeper during her playing days and relies on that knowledge and experience in working with the Terp netminders.

She has spent nearly her entire career coaching in the Atlantic Coast Conference, with stints at Virginia (1994-96) and Florida State (1996-99) before coming to Maryland in 1999. Dzikkaniec began her

coaching career as an assistant coach at Georgetown in 1993.

In her first season with the Terps, Dzikkaniec helped Maryland keepers Ali Wolff and Riki-Ann Serrins to strong seasons. The tandem combined to record eight shutouts including a stretch of three straight during the middle of October. Serrins posted a career-best 1.01 goals against average and Wolff started 20 of 22 games, making 57 saves.

While at Virginia, Dzikkaniec worked on the staff of head coach Lauren Gregg, a former assistant coach for the world champion U.S. national team. During her tenure, Dzikkaniec worked with two of the top goalies in Cavalier women's soccer history. She tutored Becky Hornbacher, who holds program records for career goals against average (0.78) and shutouts in a single season (11 in 1994). Virginia was ranked among the nation's top 10 and played in the NCAA Tournament during both of her years in Charlottesville.

She also realized success during her three years at Florida State. The Lady Seminoles established the school record for victories in a season (12) in 1996 and averaged nearly 10 wins a year during her tenure. The program also won its first-ever ACC regular season game (1997) and defeated a ranked team for the first time in school history (1998).

A 1993 graduate of George Washington University, she earned a degree in exercise and sport science. Playing under coach Shannon Higgins at George Washington, she was the starting goalkeeper in 1991 and 1992 and a four-year varsity letterwinner. She recorded a career-best six shutouts in 1991 and a career-best 1.20 goals-against average in 1992. She earned team MVP honors in 1991 as she led the Colonials to nine victories, and served as team captain during the 1991 and 1992 seasons.

Dzikkaniec was a member of the Virginia and Maryland Olympic Development Program coaching staffs from 1992-95. She holds a United States Soccer Federation "C" coaching license. Her professional playing experience includes the Baltimore Lady Bays and Maryland Pride of the W-League.

Among her accomplishments were playing with the 1996 women's amateur division national championship team, the Virginia-based Soccer Academy United. She was a starter on the championship squad with the Maryland Pride as they won the USISL W-League 1996 national championship. Dzikkaniec was selected to the all-tournament team at the national tournament.

She is very active on the youth level with the Soccer Association of Columbia-Howard County.

Dzikkaniec is a native of Syracuse, N.Y.

## STEVE CAMPBELL

Assistant Coach  
 First season at Maryland  
 First season overall  
 Maryland '96



Steve Campbell begins his first season as an assistant coach with the Maryland women's soccer team. Campbell was hired by head coach Shannon Higgins-Cirovski in May 2001.

Campbell returns to his alma mater, where he was a four-year soccer player on the men's team under Higgins-Cirovski's husband Sasho Cirovski from 1992-95.

Campbell has an extensive background in coaching girls' and women's soccer. Since his graduation from Maryland in 1996, Campbell has coached several programs in the state of Maryland. From

1996-98 and in 2000, he was the co-coach of the Maryland Olympic Development Program (ODP) U-13 team. In 1999, he coached the Maryland ODP U-19 team. In 2001, he was hired as an ODP Region 1 staff coach.

Also, since 1998, he has served as head coach of the Bethesda Dragons U-16 club team. With the Dragons, Campbell helped his team to numerous honors including the Region I championship, Maryland State championship and Washington Area Girls Soccer (WAGS) title in 1999. The Dragons were named the Team of the Year by the Bethesda Soccer club in both 1999 and 2000. The Dragons captured the Columbia Invitational Tournament in 2001.

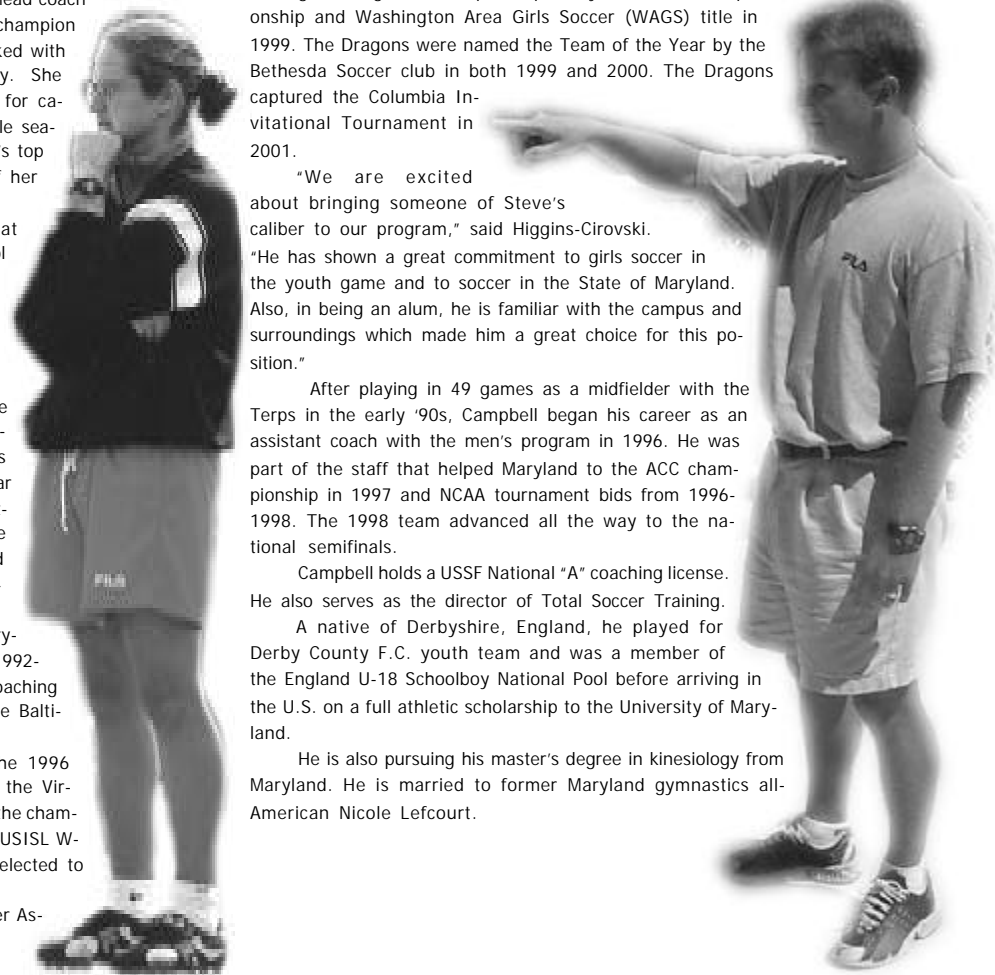
"We are excited about bringing someone of Steve's caliber to our program," said Higgins-Cirovski. "He has shown a great commitment to girls soccer in the youth game and to soccer in the State of Maryland. Also, in being an alum, he is familiar with the campus and surroundings which made him a great choice for this position."

After playing in 49 games as a midfielder with the Terps in the early '90s, Campbell began his career as an assistant coach with the men's program in 1996. He was part of the staff that helped Maryland to the ACC championship in 1997 and NCAA tournament bids from 1996-1998. The 1998 team advanced all the way to the national semifinals.

Campbell holds a USSF National "A" coaching license. He also serves as the director of Total Soccer Training.

A native of Derbyshire, England, he played for Derby County F.C. youth team and was a member of the England U-18 Schoolboy National Pool before arriving in the U.S. on a full athletic scholarship to the University of Maryland.

He is also pursuing his master's degree in kinesiology from Maryland. He is married to former Maryland gymnastics all-American Nicole Lefcourt.



Steve Campbell in his playing days with the Terps >>> Kerry Dzikkaniec in the lockerroom preparing for a road trip >>> Dzikkaniec working the phones on the recruiting trail



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