

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## Colts soccer coach calls it a career



Franco Miceli, South High School's girls soccer coach, gives instruction to his team earlier this season at Dutch Clark Stadium. Miceli, who coached the Colts since 1988, announced that he's retiring. CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/BRYAN KELSEN

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***Franco Miceli led South's boys and girls teams for 21 years.***

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By TRACY RENCK  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Since 1987, Franco Miceli has been a staple in the South High School boys and girls soccer programs.

Miceli coached the Colts' boys teams from 1987-2000 and he was the South girls boss since the 1988 season.

Miceli, however, now has decided to retire as the girls coach.

"I have a lot of good memories from all my years of coaching," the 53-year-old Miceli said. "I enjoyed the players I coached and I loved seeing players who I coached who went on to become coaches themselves."

Francesco Miceli, Franco's son, just completed his first season as the head coach of the South boys soccer team this past fall. The elder Miceli's last game was May 9 when the Colts' girls squad lost a shootout to Cheyenne Mountain in the round of 16 of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Miceli doesn't know his career record at South, but there's no doubt that he was successful.

Back in 1990, Miceli's boys team made it into the Class 5A quarterfinals, which at that point was the best season of any Pueblo soccer squad.

On the girls side, Miceli leaves as the only coach to lead a team into the state quarterfinals twice.

Miceli's Colts advanced to the round of eight in 2006 and 2007 before losing to Broomfield (4-0) and Cheyenne Mountain (2-1), respectively. South's girls team also won the South-Central League title most recently in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

The most-decorated player, boy or girl, who played for Miceli was Katie Thiebaut. The 2007 graduate scored 150 goals in her four years with the Colts.

"Franco's longevity is impressive," veteran Centennial boys and girls soccer coach Jeff Sterling said. "To last as long as he did with the way everything has changed over the years is impressive."

Miceli moved to Pueblo from Porterville, Calif., in 1976. Miceli grew up in Luccasicula, Sicily, and moved to Porterville, in the Golden State's San Joaquin Valley in 1970.

Once Miceli arrived in Pueblo, he played and coached with men's league teams until 1985 and he was active in a variety of youth programs for years.

"Ever since I was a little boy, I've loved the game of soccer," said Miceli, who has been a shop foreman at Aspen Paint & Body for 17 years.