



Dano Thorne ~ Kwa'liiquinum – Soccer

Dano's family has a strong and long connection to soccer within the First Nations and Indigenous community. A former elite athlete, now coach and administrator, and Cowichan Tribes member, Dano is dedicated to the development of youth sports within the aboriginal community.

Dano was inducted into the BC Soccer Hall of Fame in 2021. He has also won five BC Coaching Awards, three National Coach Awards and in 1999 the first ever Indigenous National Coach of the Year. While Dano was the the head coach of the women's NIFA Indigenous Team Canada, in 2015 and 2017 they were the world gold medal champions. In 2022, Dano, along with the 2015 team, was inducted into the North American Indigenous Athletic Hall of Fame.

As an athlete, Dano played for Indigenous Team Canada Indoor Soccer, Pacific Coast Soccer League, Premier League Men's Soccer, Duncan United Indigenous Men Provincial Champions and held numerous MVP honors.

Dano brings a holistic approach to the sport and remembers the cultural teachings passed on from his family and elders. He is recognized for his humility, integrity and respect of diversity in working for all people of Indigenous ancestry and beyond.