



### **About Kevin Francis**

Kevin Francis, standing at an imposing 6 feet 7 inches (2.01m) tall, was officially known as the tallest player in the English football league during the 1990's. He rose to fame during a prolific career at Stockport County but began his career as a 19 year old at Derby County, under the guidance of Arthur Cox. Kevin played as a striker in the English football league in a career spanning 11 years and playing in all 4 divisions. Clubs Kevin played for include Derby County, Stockport County, twice, Birmingham City, Oxford United, Exeter City and Hull City.

In 202 appearances in all competitions for Stockport County, Kevin scored 117 goals, and achieved the remarkable feat of scoring 28 league goals in consecutive seasons with Stockport in 1992/93 and 1993/94. Due to this he earned the honor of "County Player of the Century". Kevin was instrumental in helping Birmingham and Stockport play at the prestigious Wembley Stadium in league cup finals and play off finals no less than five times.

Born in Birmingham, England, Kevin played international football for Saint Kitts and Nevis, playing his first international matches in the Caribbean Cup in April 1998. Kevin is currently living in Canada, working as a Police Officer in Calgary, Alberta.

I am so proud to see the strides that Netball America is making to heighten awareness of netball, a relatively new sport, to The United States. Growing a fan base and encouraging people to embrace a new sport when there are so many sports to choose from is a daunting task but one that Netball America is accomplishing across the country. I had the privilege of witnessing a demonstration game at The Staples Center, L.A, in 2009 and despite so many of the crowd not knowing netball they seemed to enjoy the display. Netball is a sport embraced all over the world largely in Europe, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand and being born and raised in England, netball is not new to me. It is a very popular in schools and also as a recreational activity. All of the females in my life, Mother, Sisters, Wife and 2 daughters have played netball at some point in their lives. My daughter Stacey chose netball as her primary sport at the age of 13 and after years of hard work and dedication has been blessed to go on and play netball for England. My youngest daughter Keisha is also following in her sisters footsteps and plays netball in our home town of Calgary. Keisha has represented Alberta at the under 18's level in several netball tournaments. Children and adults of all ages can play and enjoy netball. It is a wonderful opportunity to embrace a new sport and I applaud all of the dedicated staff and volunteers at Netball America who are working tirelessly to bring this opportunity to the American people.

Continued success to you all.

Kevin Francis