



Rick Pierce (right) with Lenoir Youth Soccer Association receives the "Pioneer of the Game" award from Andre' Burger with the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association. The award was presented January 27 at the NCYSA Annual Awards Luncheon that is held in Conjunction with the North Carolina Soccer Hall of Fame weekend. The "Pioneer of the Game" is awarded to individuals that are nominated by the NC Soccer Hall of Fame Committee. It is recognized as the highest award presented by NCYSA on an annual basis. It was presented to Rick "In Recognition of Notable Establishment of and Dedication to the Sport of Soccer in North Carolina" Also, during the weekend, Mia Hamm was inducted into the NC Soccer Hall of Fame and Elmar Bolowich (head soccer coach at UNC) received an award for his service to the youth in NCYSA.