



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Lawton Joins OSA Spring 2008

Oklahoma Soccer Association may soon have the largest soccer club in the state in Lawton, Oklahoma. In November, Jeff Smith of Lawton Optimist and Tony Mendoza of Lawton United were present as OSA's Executive Director Sid Goodrich, Assistant Director of Coaching Mark Shannon, and Risk Management Chair Traci Frederick presented membership information. Shortly thereafter, the two clubs voted to unite and create Lawton Soccer Club.

"This is a significant move for OSA and the Lawton area," says Goodrich of the new combined clubs. "We will see as many as 2,000 new members when the club joins us in 2008."

Driving the unification of the clubs was the utilization of the Big Green Soccer Complex in Lawton. Situated on I-44 and Hwy 7, the facility has 30 fields, many already set for small-sided games. According to Smith and Mendoza, the complex can be arranged to



Lawton Soccer Club elected new officers for the new club. L to R: Burt Scroggins, Assignor; Bill Armstrong, Assignor; Jeff Smith, Recreational Coordinator; Steven McNeil, President; and Tony Mendoza, 1st VP.

support both full-sized fields and the small-sided games.

The club will host two state tournaments, the Kohl's American Cup and the Governor's Cup in the spring of 2008. "We have approved their applications for those two tournaments," says Goodrich. "Their

see *Lawton*, on page 3

Gayl Wilson Inducted To Hall of Fame

OSA's 2008 Hall of Fame ceremony drew dozens of friends and acquaintances of Gayl Wilson and her family to the Workshop in Tulsa on February 1. As expected, stories and anecdotes of early soccer in Oklahoma filled the room prior to Wilson's introduction by Tom Iadevaia, OSA's Hall of Fame committee chairman.



Wilson's acceptance speech focused on the "uniqueness of the American spirit" that she felt drove so many of the group who formed Oklahoma Soccer Association and Green Country Soccer Association. She reflected on the hard work and dedication of so many people who struggled to create a new sport in a state dominated by American football.

Sharing stories of her early coaching experiences and playing on a women's team, Wilson traced the early history of Northeastern Oklahoma Adult Soccer

see *Wilson*, on page 2

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Association and the growth of college and high school soccer. Her background in journalism served her well when she was presented with "a state of the art computer – a MacIntosh with 1meg of memory" that she used to publish the GCSA newsletter and the Smoke Signals.

Wilson commented on her memories of a trip to Russia and her travels with the US men's national team to the World Cup. Her conclusion drew the audience back to the single-mindedness of the small group who began soccer in the state and how with their intelligence and perseverance they could have run any small nation.

Below is the text of the plaque that will hang in the OSA office in Tulsa.

Inducted February 1, 2008

If you read anything about soccer in Oklahoma during the early years of OSA's existence, Gayl Wilson probably wrote it. From her home in Tulsa, she started and edited the Green Country newsletter, OSA's Smoke Signals and the US Youth Soccer newspaper while playing soccer and raising a family.

Gayl grew up in Tulsa riding horses on the family farm. She graduated from McLain High School and went to Oklahoma Baptist University where she majored in journalism. Writing is but one of her passions, another is soccer. Drawn to the game when her husband Mike was asked to coach a boys' team in the early 1970's, Gayl quickly joined the many parents of Green Country in locating books on the new sport in town.

"Mike and his friends learned the game by reading and going to nearby Boulder Park to play," says Gayl. Soon Mike joined a men's team. Not to be left out, Gayl and her friends formed a women's team. "We called ourselves the Pacers because we had to pace ourselves to survive to the end of the match," she says. Gayl's husband Mike coached both boys and girls for 20 years. His teams won several state championships and he was honored

as USYSA regional boys coach of the year.

As if she did not have enough to do, Gayl took on the task of organizing and coaching the first men's team at Claremore Junior College (now Rogers State). During this time, her two daughters, Leesa and Rachel, were quickly becoming soccer players of note. Both advanced to positions on the State Select squads (now ODP) and played high school soccer.

The United States Soccer Federation recognized Gayl's writing ability and asked her to create programs for the US Men's National team. "It was an amazing experience to travel with the youth regional teams and the US National team to various sites around the country and abroad. I learned a great deal from watching our teams compete in countries like Russia, Denmark, Germany and Holland. From a reporter's viewpoint, covering the World Cup in Italy was most remarkable. I had never seen media coverage of that magnitude," she says.

Gayl produced the GCSA newsletter on a typewriter. While working on Smoke Signals she graduated to the most modern computer available in the publishing business - a 1 mg Macintosh computer with a 6 inch screen. "It was a glorious day for me when USYSA provided me with a screen large enough to see most of a tabloid sized page," she said.

Gayl remembers those early days with fondness. "It was a special time. Simply wonderful. Everyone worked hard to have soccer in the state. The parents loved to learn with the kids. We were excited to be starting something no one in Oklahoma had ever done before."

Writing continues to be a big part of Gayl's life, but family is still her main focus. Leesa and her husband Hans Shrader live in Indonesia and have two children: Hanna and Cole. Rachel and her husband Ted Vogle live in the Tulsa area and have three children: Michael, Alixandra, and Kathryn.

Gayl Wilson's words of wisdom are based on her experiences as player, coach, administrator, editor and mother: "Those of us who work with children need to remember to keep our priorities straight. Few players will play in college or become professionals. Let them be who they will be and most importantly, care for them. They will become people of kindness and good character if we have people who are kind and decent working with them."

Paul Scott Officiated 100 MLS Matches



Paul Scott earned recognition for officiating 100 MLS matches with an award presented at the recent USSF training camp for professional referees. Scott has been a USSF National referee since 1993. An Oklahoma native, Paul and his father were often a officiating pair during the late 1980's and early 1990's in the Green Country area.

Scott was recently appointed as the Youth Board's 3rd Vice President in charge of recreational soccer and the TOPSoccer program.

"I am excited to be a part of the recreation soccer program in OSA," says Scott who coaches his sons, Nick and Alex, have played and are also officials. Some of the plans Scott wishes to pursue as 3rd VP is to enhance the communication from OSA to the many clubs around the state. "The majority of our players are recreational," says Scott. "I wish to provide service for those members."

OSA

Tulsa Office

9410 E. 51st St. Ste. B
Tulsa, OK 74145-8169
1-918-627-2663
P.O. Box 35174
Tulsa, OK 74153-0174
1-800-347-3590

Oklahoma City Office

1235 Sovereign Row, Suite C-11
OKC, OK 73108
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1340 Lake City Way
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206-367-2420

www.oksoccer.com

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Smoke Signals Story Submissions

Smoke Signals welcomes story submissions from teams, clubs, leagues and associations via e-mail or FAX. If you have a story or a story idea, please e-mail or FAX us at the following addresses: oksoccer@oksoccer.com -or- FAX: 1-918-627-2693 to the attention: Dale Watts



Lawton - OSA's Newest Club, continued from page 1

location is ideal for attracting a good number of teams from the west side of Oklahoma. Additionally, there are many new hotels in the area that make it easy for teams to stay in Lawton."

Another possibility for use of the facility is OPL and PLW sites. Many Texas teams would find the travel to Lawton easy to accomplish and it would be a midway site for such games.

The transition for the Lawton club will be gradual over a three-year period. Beginning in the spring of 2008, the club will continue to play its games in the format they are familiar with, but the fall of 2008 will see U6 and U8 small-sided games for their players.

In the fall of 2009, the U10's will start playing small-sided and by 2010 the U12's will play small-sided. The U13's and older teams will continue to play eleven-a-side as they have.

Michael Pollock, SRA, has agreed

that referee instruction will be provided to the club throughout the spring of 2008. "We wish to provide free training to as many referees as they can sign up," says Pollock. "They will have to pay their USSF registration, but we will waive the training fees just as we do for any new club. We are looking forward to training not only new referees, but instructors, assignors, and assessors in Lawton."

Matt Fansher, Director of Coaching, has already set up coaching clinics for the club and will continue to provide training for those coaches who wish to take the Youth Modules I & II as well as the E and D licenses.

As OSA begins its 41st year of existence, it is exciting that it will see a growth of soccer in Lawton. Welcome aboard, Lawton Soccer Club and the membership of OSA wishes you the best as you join us in providing soccer across the state.

Outside the Lines

Todd Goddard signs with Tulsa Revolution... Adam Mellor, president of the American Indoor Soccer League's Tulsa Revolution, announced this morning the signing of University of Tulsa forward Todd Goddard to a contract for the remainder of the 2007-08 season. A Tulsa native, Goddard has been a four-year member of the Hurricane's varsity men's soccer team, and was named to the Missouri Valley Conference's All-Freshman team in 2004.

Caitlin Mooney joins U18 National camp... Caitlin Mooney of Edmond Santa Fe will be playing with the Under-18 U.S. Women's National Team at a national camp. She is among 24 players across the country who has been chosen to participate in the U-18 U.S. National Team camp Feb. 17-24 at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

Tom Pecore selected for Positive Coaching Alliance award... Tom Pecore of Norman and boys' coach at Putnam City North will fly to Stanford University on April 12 to accept national recognition as a Double Goal Coach. The award is given to coaches of sports who strive to win while using sports to teach life lessons.

Correction... The previous Smoke Signals tournament scores should have read: TSC Sam Shannon Cup Showcase Boys U16

1st - TFC 92 -1 2nd - Thunder 92 Greece - 0

Susan Knapp honored... Susan Knapp, longtime adult soccer player, administrator, and wife of former SDA Ken Knapp passed away in 2006. After soccer, Susan became a passionate bike rider and her biking friends have placed a park bench on the Creek Turnpike Trail in her honor. Soccer friends of Susan should stop by and sit awhile.

Blake Brown inducted into NSU Hall of Fame... Blake Brown was inducted into Northeastern State's athletic Hall of Fame in February for his pioneering effort as one of the first soccer players in the school history. His father, Earnest, is an Oklahoma Soccer Association Hall of Fame member.

John Crouch named 2007 Responsible Coach... Liberty Mutual sponsors its Responsible Coach awards to coaches who provide responsible adult role models for their players. (See November/December issue) John Crouch of Tulsa is one of 16 soccer coaches from around the country to receive the award.

Four referees travel to Development Showcase... Michael Cap, Joe Forler, Darron Killman, and Doug Malfacini all traveled to Frisco, Texas to officiate in the US Soccer Developmental Winter Showcase Tournament February 16-18. Participating teams played 88 games during the two-day event and the Oklahoma contingent drew matches every day.

Preston Langholz and Juan Chavez selected to ODP trip... Two Oklahoma players have been named to the ODP Region III team roster for a trip to Barcelona, Spain. The team will play at least four games against the top youth teams in the Barcelona area.



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OSA Calendar

Please check club calendars as many clubs will not hold meetings during the holiday season.

MARCH

- 4 Metro Tulsa, Norman, Washington County
- 5 Youth Board Mtg; Davis, Sand Springs
- 6 Altus, Catoosa, Collinsville, NOKC, FCSA Competitive, GCSA Ex Bd, Ref Committee
- 7 Broken Arrow, Coweta, Cleveland, Midwest City, Northwest Oklahoma
- 11 FCSA, Owasso, SOS
- 12 Ada, Claremore, Elk City, Logan County, Muskogee, Mustang, Ponca City, SLSC
- 14 Beaver River
- 18 Choctaw/Nicoma Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 19 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah
- 21 Mayes County
- 25 Beeline, Yukon

APRIL

- 1 Youth Board Mtg, Davis, Sand Springs
- 2 Altus, Catoosa, Collinsville, NOKC, FCSA Competitive, GCSA Ex Bd, Ref Committee
- 3 Broken Arrow, Coweta, Cleveland, Midwest City, Northwest Oklahoma
- 7 Metro Tulsa, Norman, Washington County
- 8 Ada, Claremore, Elk City, Logan County, Muskogee, Mustang, Ponca City, SLSC
- 10 Beaver River
- 14 FCSA, Owasso, SOS
- 15 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah
- 17 Mayes County
- 19-20 President's Cup @ Broken Arrow
- 21 Choctaw/Nicoma Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 26-27 President's Cup Finals @ Broken Arrow
- 28 Beeline, Yukon

MAY

- 1 Broken Arrow, Cleveland, Inola, Midwest City, Northwest Oklahoma
- 3-4 American Cup & Governor's Cup @ Lawton
- 5 Metro Tulsa, Norman, Washington County
- 6 Youth Board Mtg, Davis, Sand Springs
- 7 Altus, Catoosa, Collinsville, NOKC, FCSA Competitive, GCSA Ex Bd, Ref Committee
- 8 Beaver River
- 12 FCSA, Owasso, SOS, Wagoner
- 13 Ada, Claremore, Elk City, Logan County, Mustang, Ponca City, SLSC
- 14 Bixby, Mayes County
- 16-18 State Cup Preliminaries @ Edmond
- 19 Choctaw/Nicoma Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 20 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah, Sapulpa
- 23-25 State Cup Finals & U18/19 prelims
- 26 Beeline, Yukon
- 31 State Cup Finals for U18/19

Monthly Meetings

Clinton
COASL Feb & Aug
Cordell
Great Plains
Hinton
Lawton United
NEOASA Jan, June, Aug, & Dec
Red Carpet
Three Cities
Verdigris

All other clubs meet "as called."

Stop the Tournaments

Dr. Martin has been the coach at Ohio Wesleyan University for 31 years and has a record of 530-102-40 in that time. His teams have played in 28 NCAA Tournaments and made it to the final four eight times. Martin is a past president of the NSCAA, an NSCAA Honor Award winner and currently is the editor of the NSCAA magazine Soccer Journal. He can be reached at jamartin@owu.edu.

Too many games, little preparation and no training opportunities By Jay Martin, Ph.D.

Tournaments, tournaments, tournaments. They are overwhelming youth soccer in this country. Everyone wants to play in tournaments. Every soccer publication in this country lists pages of tournaments for our children to attend! Every year the biggest decision a club team makes is "which tournaments do we attend?" Most clubs have a person or three who do nothing but prepare for tournaments.

Stop the tournaments, I want to get off.

Tournaments are hurting America's soccer playing youth.

Soccer tournaments started in this country as a way for clubs to raise funds to pay the bills. Great idea. Clubs would sponsor a tournament early in a playing season or in the summer when league play was suspended to make some cash. Now these tournaments rule youth soccer. It is now very important to participate in these types of events. Many clubs recruit players based on the tournaments they attend. Many coaches entice U-16's, U-17's and U-18's to their club by promising attendance at tournaments where college coaches will attend. Many players (and their parents) choose a club solely based on attendance and success in certain tournaments. Today, the main focus for teams, clubs, parents and players is tournaments.

The weekly league game (or two) is secondary to tournaments. And maybe games are even eliminated from the busy tournament schedule. In Central Ohio where club teams must participate in a sanctioned league in order to be allowed to play in tournaments, some clubs have a team for the weekly league (usually a weaker team) so the A team

can compete in tournaments all over the country. If you don't get into the tournaments of your choice? Change clubs or create your own tournament. It works. Try it.

These tournaments allow our soccer playing youth to play a variety of teams in a variety of states all year long. But they are expensive. It costs the average family a weekend, car mileage, hotel expense, entertainment for between games, food and video game money.

Why? Because everyone plays in tournaments. The kids will become better players. The college coaches can see them play. Yes, everyone plays in tournaments – except youth teams in other soccer playing countries.

The weekly game is the most important game in most other countries. The teams have one week of training. One week of learning. One week to prepare for the game on Saturday or Sunday. The most important aspect of learning the game happens in well-founded training programs. The habits necessary to become a complete player are developed in training.

Training is important. Training is critical to the success of these soccer-playing nations.

Why is training important? It allows a supervised and progressive means to learn the game, if done properly. It allows the player, coach and team to focus on the areas of the game that will influence performance. What are those areas?

- Fitness
- Constant technical improvement
- Improvement of tactical understanding based on problems in the previous game
- Improvement of the mental aspects of the game by applying stress in the training situation in a variety of situations
- Team building

Do any of these things happen during a tournament? Not very likely. The very nature of tournaments prevents this from happening.

Maybe in America we are uncomfortable with training. It is still a fact that some of our youth soccer coaches

see Stop the Tournaments, on page 5

Internet Addresses

OSA - oksoccer.com
Frontier Country- okfcsoccer.com
Green Country- gcsoccer.com
Fun Country- socceronline.com/clubs/funcountry
Red River Country- lawtonsoccer.com
Central OK Adult Soccer League - coasl.net
NEOASA - neoasa.org
Ponca City Adult Soccer - poncasoccer.com
Lawton Adult Soccer - lawtonsoccer.com

USSF- ussoccer.com
US Adult Soccer - usasa.com
US Youth Soccer- usyouthsoccer.com
NSCAA- nscaa.com
FIFA- fifa.com
USISL- usisl.com
Major League Soccer- mlsnet.com
Soccer America- socceramerica.com

Affiliations

Federation Internationale de Football Association - United States Soccer Federation

United States Youth Soccer Association - United States Adult Soccer Association

Stop the Tournaments, continued from page 4

still do not have the background in the game as a player to feel confident in the design and execution of a training session. The obvious solution is play games. So, we play games and don't train.

Soccer teams in Germany, England, Holland, etc. do play in tournaments, but those tournaments are usually during a holiday break or serve as an excuse to go to Madrid for a week. During the season it's the league games that count. The entire focus is on the league game. Promotion, relegation and rivalries all depend on the weekly game. Only in America do the players play in tournaments to collect patches for their bags or to add a medal to their collection or to spend Memorial Day in Lexington, Ky. Play, play, play. What happened to training?

Tournaments are killing soccer in this country. Young players can't learn how to play in these types of situations. Everything about these tournaments is bad for the development of American soccer players. Tournaments allow players and teams with slow pace or no pace to succeed. Teams play three games in a 24-hour period and, if they are lucky, play two more and win a trophy. Assuming we accept the fact that minimum recovery takes 24 hours, it is physically impossible to play that many games in a short time. In a recent tournament in Central Ohio, for example, a U-18 team played at 4:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday night and at 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning. What can a coach expect to get from the players in these games? Nothing. It's not possible to play soccer in these situations. These tournaments breed Underwater Soccer. Nice and slow, no change of pace, no defending.

Soccer is not meant to be played this way. Soccer is a game that is played when the player is uncomfortable, when the player closes in on fatigue, when the player runs, works and defends for 90 minutes. The very early laws of the game of soccer stressed a physical component by not allowing a lot of substitutions. Fitness is a part of the game. Ah, so you think there is a fitness component when playing in a tournament? No, there isn't. There is an energy conservation component, not fitness. American youth players stop running when they are uncomfortable. Since they're playing so many games in a short weekend, they just don't run at all.

When the players try to move on to the next level (college), they are shocked to realize they cannot make the team. They don't know how to play.

They don't know how to run and they don't know how to work. They don't know how to defend. They don't know what the physical aspect of soccer is all about. They have never been taught what it takes to play this game at a high level.

Technical development in a tournament situation?

No chance. The games do offer a variety of opportunities to cultivate technical improvement, but because the games are so slow and there is very little defending, the time and space available for players is not realistic for a real soccer game. In fact, it's counter-productive. When a player does get into a "real game" where time and space are limited he/she cannot play.

Tactical improvements?

Don't look here. There is no time between games to either discuss any tactical problems or work on them before the next game. If your team faces a "formation" or "tactic" you haven't seen before, what do you do? Hope you don't see it again. As a rule, there is very little teaching going on in regards to tactics in many clubs. The prevailing mentality is simply "find the best players and let 'em play!" Not a bad strategy. But as players move on in their soccer career, an understanding of tactics is very important. Even a constant teaching/review of 1 v. 1; 2 v. 1; 3 v. 2, etc., is essential to complete the maturation of a soccer player. This tournament mentality does not allow this teaching to take place.

A player who relies only on athletic ability without learning the game will hit a "soccer plateau" and not get any better. This happens far too often in the United States. There is too much emphasis on the athletic ability of a player at the expense of soccer ability. In addition, tactics are important in the development of the whole team.

If you agree with Alan Wade that the most difficult aspect of coaching a soccer team is "getting all the players on the same page," then you will agree that teaching tactics is very important. To accomplish that, the team must have time to train together and learn about tactics after each game.

And the problems do not end there. The mental aspect of the game is lost. Soccer is a game where the mental aspect is so very important. In



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fact we delight in selling the game as a players' game and as a mental game. But we do nothing about it. No less an authority than former German international Jurgen Klinsman believes that working on the mental side of the game is lacking right now in soccer all over the world. There is no mental preparation during tournaments at all. "If it's 2 o'clock it must be Vardar. Let's go play." The young players do not learn that a warmup prepares you to play physically and mentally. Rather they show up, perform some cursory warmup (or no warmup at all) and play. As a result they simply go through the motions of the game and never get any better.

Preparation is important for the individual and for the team. The game of soccer is both physically and mentally demanding. It is the responsibility of the coach to prepare for both. In tournaments preparation does not happen.

Fields?

Are you kidding? So many teams want to attend tournaments that most tournaments don't have the space necessary to supply good fields. Fields are created on any space possible. The grass is too long, the holes are too big,

the field is too narrow and very bumpy. The fields create problems with injuries and bad soccer. Narrow, bumpy, heavy fields are not the surface to learn how to play. These fields contribute to a very direct style of play and don't allow for any creativity or any positive dribbling. The fields at most tournaments are simply unplayable.

Officials?

There is a shortage of officials all over this country. Any fall weekend will see many officials working a high school game in the morning and a college game or two in the afternoon and evening. As the hours on the job increase, the quality goes down. This is exactly what happens with tournaments. Officials will do four, five or six games each day.

Officials have been known to eat lunch while working a line, and, how about that six o'clock game? What can anyone expect from an official who has been on the field for six or eight hours? These long hours for officials can cause real problems in tournaments.

Some parents and coaches argue that they "cannot get better" playing

OSA Grant Application

Deadline March 30

If your club/league needs funds to train coaches, repair fields, train referees, or develop players, consider applying for the OSA Grant. Applications are available on the OSA web site at www.oksoccer.com. Go to Programs and then Grants and Scholarships on the OSA site for an online registration.

The information below shows questions asked on the form. It should not be submitted as a form.

Over the past three years, OSA has distributed over \$10,000 to clubs across the state who have been awarded grants. Funds are normally distributed in the fall of each year and the award recognized at the OSA Workshop.

Name of Club Applying: _____

Is your club a current Oklahoma Soccer Association member? Yes _____ No _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: Oklahoma Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____

Intended Purpose of the Grant (check only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Referee	<input type="checkbox"/> Field equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Coaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Field development
<input type="checkbox"/> Player development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

(Use separate sheets to answer the following or go online to www.oksoccer.com and to Programs and then to Grants and Applications.)

Date of Project

Start date - _____ End date - _____

Amount of request: \$ _____

Will there be matching funds available or in-kind donations? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list the organization(s) providing such funding/donations and briefly explain how your organization will document those funds or in kind donations.

Club Board of Directors Approval – This section must be signed by your Board of Directors, otherwise it WILL NOT be accepted by the OSA Grant Committee.

This proposal was considered and approved by our Board of Directors, a quorum being present on the _____ day of _____, _____.

Signed: _____

(President)

Signed: _____

(Treasurer)

Project Summary – Briefly, outline what you plan to do with any funding from this grant. (Limit to 200 words.)

Project Goal – What is the purpose of this project? (Limit to 200 words.)

Project Need – Describe and document the need for this project. Include what its potential impact will be. (Limit to 200 words)

Project Evaluation Plan – Describe how you plan to evaluate the success of the program. (Limit to 200 words)

Budget Summary – Please identify the expenses and the organization receiving monies from the project.

Amount and Name of Company/Organization must be included.

Return the application to: Oklahoma Soccer Association
Grant Application
P.O. Box 35174
Tulsa, OK 74153

Application due date: March 30
Application available online at www.oksoccer.com under Programs.

Stop the Tournaments, continued from page 5

the same old teams, that tournaments allow better competition. Every other league in every other country plays the same teams each year. The concern for these teams is to make themselves better. There is very little concern about who they play. The teams train hard all week to put what they learned on the field on the weekend. They learn how to play the game systematically and with a sound progression.

Our “tournaments kids” miss out on a lot of necessary soccer information. Traveling eight hours to play three games in 18 hours does not make a team better. Quality of competition is important, but the quality of each team’s effort each game is what counts in the end. The time spent traveling would be better spent training at an intense level and preparing for the game on Saturday.

Some tournaments have addressed some of these problems. The Cincinnati Blue Chip Classic each April allows each team to play only once each day. The teams play three games in three days. Not great, but better than the usual five games in two or three days.

Recently adidas began an Elite Soccer Program (ESP), which brings some of the best male and female soccer players to a site for five days of training and games. Each of these programs allows the players to “be seen” by college coaches while playing only one game a day. The players have a chance to play the game at a higher level than the weekend tournaments. The college coach can see if the kid has a game. But these “new tournaments” come with their own problems.

The players attend these tournaments “to show”. They don’t care about the score, they care about showing. After a big loss it is not unusual to hear on the sidelines, “Hey dad, how did I do? Did I show well?” These types of tournaments promote selfish play and players who don’t care about the score. A recent unscientific survey by Soccer Journal asked college coaches what were the problems with incoming freshmen. Two of the top five responses said; 1) the players don’t know how to win; 2) the players are selfish and don’t know how to play as a team. So even these tournaments cause real problems with the players!

A tournament now and then is fine. It can be fun for the club, the players and the parents. Maybe they can travel to some cities that are fun. A tourna-

ment can bring a team “together” and build some morale. But too many tournaments will prevent the natural progression of learning that will take place in well-organized and thoughtful training sessions... training sessions that use the last game as a learning situation to build on and training sessions that prepare the team for the next opponent. The old coaching expression that “the game is the best teacher” is not true. Games used as a laboratory and supplemented by systematic and progressive training sessions are the best teacher.

Stop the tournaments!
Reprinted from The Administrator
I want to know your thoughts on tournaments. Post a comment below, send email to jon@bluesombrero.com.

Chance Tselee Dies In Car Wreck

While Lawton soccer players will begin the spring season enjoying their new club, many in the community will mourn the loss of Chance Tselee, player on the Cache Killer Clowns U10 soccer team.

Chance, his mother Dianne and sister were driving home January 16 from Lawton to Cache when a vehicle failed to stop at an intersection and struck the driver’s side. Chance was pronounced dead at the scene. A fourth grader at Cache Intermediate School and a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma, he enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, and golf when not playing soccer.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made in the name of Chance Tselee to the Bank of the Wichitas, 605 S 8th St Cache, OK 73527; phone (580)429-0063, account number 8020965.

President’s Cup and State Cup Applications Now Online!

If your team wishes to enter the Mazzio’s Italian Eatery President’s Cup or the State Cup, visit the OSA website at www.oksoccer.com and Tournament page for online applications to the two tournaments.

President’s Cup: April 19-20 in Broken Arrow (prelims); April 26-27 (finals)

State Cup: May 16-18 in Edmond (prelims); May 23-25 (finals); May 31 (U18-19 finals)

Oklahoma Soccer Association

Presents



Kohl's American Cup Festival for Under 6 through Under 10 Boys and Girls in a Festival format. Each team will play a guaranteed 3 games. Under 6 through Under 10 participants will receive medals. Referee fees are included in the application fee.

Tournament dates: May 2, 3, 4, 2008

Tournament sites: LAWTON, OKLAHOMA & SALLISAW, OKLAHOMA

Please print legibly or type and complete all information

Open to out-of-state teams!

Register online today by visiting our web site at www.oksoccer.com.

Club and Team Name _____

Age _____ Check One

Check the Site you wish to attend

Under 6 _____ Boys _____ Girls _____

Under 7 _____ Boys _____ Girls _____

_____ Lawton (Red River Country)

Under 8 _____ Boys _____ Girls _____

_____ Sallisaw (Kiamichi Country)

Under 9 _____ Boys _____ Girls _____

Under 10 _____ Boys _____ Girls _____

Coach's Name _____ email _____

Coach's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Coach's Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____

(C): _____

Manager's Name _____ email _____

Manager's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Manager's Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____

(C): _____

In order for your team to be eligible, this application must be completely filled out and the following provided:

- Current country stamped roster
- All of the above information and entry fees must be mailed and received by the date below to:

Oklahoma Soccer Association
PO Box 35174
Tulsa, OK 74153-0174

Coach's Statement: I certify this team is eligible to compete in this tournament. This is a recreational team only. (A copy of the rules is available on the OSA website at www.oksoccer.com)

Coach's Signature _____

Date _____

DEADLINE IS APRIL 11, 2008

TEAM REGISTRATION FEES:

Under 6 - \$75.00

Under 8 - \$130.00

Under 10 - \$150.00

Referee fees are included in entry fee.

For Office Use Only

Registration Fee _____ Check # _____ Cash _____
Amount \$ _____ Date Received _____

OSA Presents



State Recreational Championship Mazzio's Italian Eatery Governor's Cup

TOURNAMENT APPLICATION

May 2-3-4, 2008

Lawton Soccer Club, Lawton OK

Entry Deadline: Applications must be received by April 11, 2008 with payment
Format: Round-Robin – 3 games guaranteed (if # of entries allow)
Acceptance: Due to time and space availability, teams will be drawn for the slots available. Every effort will be made to eliminate teams from the same club/league or district being placed in the same preliminary brackets. An age level may be filled before the deadline, so APPLY EARLY.

Visit our website and register online today at www.oksoccer.com.

Club Name: _____ Team Name: _____

Country Association _____ State: Oklahoma Soccer

Association: USYSA

Check age and gender

Age	Gender
U12 _____	Boys _____ Girls _____
U14 _____	Boys _____ Girls _____
U16 _____	Boys _____ Girls _____
U19 _____	Boys _____ Girls _____

Coach's name: _____ Email: _____

Coach's address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Coach's telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Manager's name: _____ Email: _____

Manager's address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Manager's telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Season Record: Fall 2007 W: _____ L: _____ T: _____ Spring 2008 W: _____ L: _____ T: _____

List Tournament(s) attended

Tournament name: _____ W: _____ L: _____ T: _____

Tournament name: _____ W: _____ L: _____ T: _____

Tournament name: _____ W: _____ L: _____ T: _____

In order for your team to be eligible for this competition, this application must be filled out completely (type/print) and include:

1. **Club recreational roster** – all rosters must have the local club stamp by the club registrar.
2. **Entry fee of \$225 due April 11, 2008.**

Make checks payable to Oklahoma Soccer Association.

Referee fees are included in the entry fee.

Statement

I certify that this team is a legally registered recreational team that played in a league either Fall 2007 and/or Spring 2008, and I will abide by the Mazzio's Italian Eatery Governor's Cup and OSA rules.

Coach's signature: _____

Mail to: Oklahoma Soccer Association, PO Box 35174, Tulsa, OK 74153

For tournament officials use only

Registration fee – check #: _____ Cash: _____ Amount received: \$ _____

Date received _____ Receipt # _____

Goal Post Safety Contest Winners

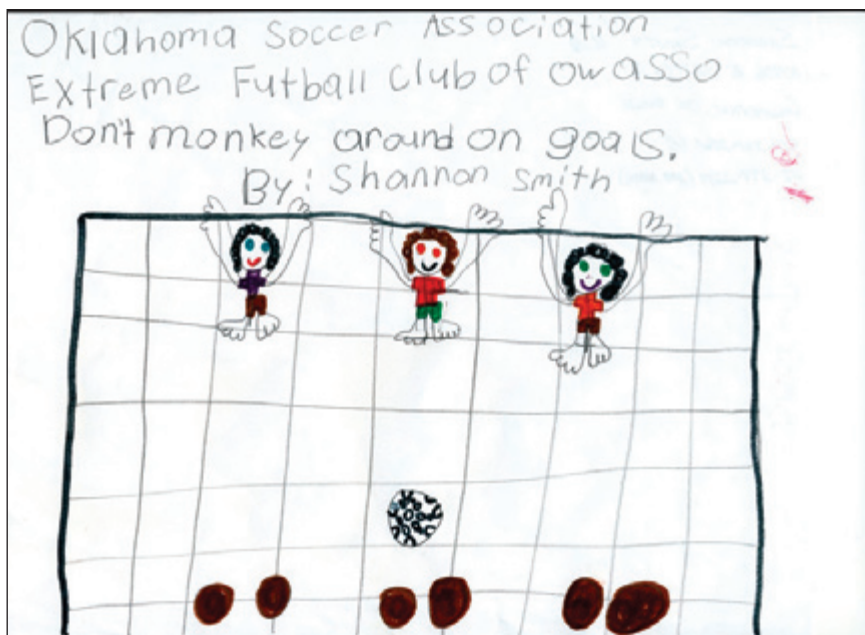
OSA's Goal Post Safety Contest winners were announced at the annual Workshop. Winning 10 soccer balls for their respective teams with their goal post safety posters are Kyle Alpers, Emily Jones, and Shannon Smith. Their posters are below. Congratulations and remember that goal post safety is a prime concern of OSA and all soccer organizations.



Emily Jones, goal post safety poster winner receives her prize from Traci Frederick, Risk Management Chair.



Emily Jones' poster



Shannon Smith poster



Shannon Smith receives her prize from Traci Frederick for a winning poster design in the goal post safety contest.



Kyle Alpers



Kyle Alpers' poster

Workshop Attracted Many New Visitors

Regardless of the weather forecast, hundreds of soccer faithful arrived in Tulsa the first weekend of February to participate in Oklahoma Soccer Association's annual Workshop. As usual, the Hall of Fame reception and induction ceremony attracted many new faces to the Friday evening event where Gayl Wilson was inducted into the 2008 Hall of Fame.

During the day, the National Soccer Coaches Association of American provided six hours of goalkeeper training that drew over 60 coaches from around the state. "It proved to be a highly attended class," said Matt Fansher, OSA's Director of Coaching. "We had many more than we anticipated, but that was great."

Friday evening's business sessions with the Youth and Adult boards concluded, but referees were

attending courses on Assignor training or Advanced Referee training until 10pm.

Got Soccer sponsored Friday evening's reception. With music provided by Tulsa-based AM60, soccer folk stayed until nearly midnight dining and dancing.

Saturday sessions and the vendor's hallway displays were packed all day as OSA members checked out the wares. The Awards Luncheon drew hundreds of diners who heard Tom McIntosh's keynote address. Coaches of the Year, Referees of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year all shared their appreciation for the recognition of their peers.

Soccer-Tennis finals moved off-site to Bishop Kelley High School and provided a fun-filled day for the many participants.

Saturday evening found many of the attendees driving to Soccer City to watch the Tulsa Revolution play one of their exhibition games against Massachusetts Twisters.

Sunday began with referees completing Advanced Training and NSCAA offering a day long goalkeeping course that drew over 25 candidates.

OSA's Workshop will remain in Tulsa through 2009 before returning to the Oklahoma City area. During the spring season, begin considering nominations for Coach of the Year (both recreational and competitive) and Volunteer of the Year as well as Hall of Fame nominations. Every club has members who qualify for an award – go to the OSA website and download the forms today. Then in 2009, perhaps your coach, volunteer, or special person will be recognized.



Gayl Wilson, Wilbert Maximore, and Mike Wilson celebrate Gayl's induction to Hall of Fame.



Tom McIntosh provided the Awards Luncheon keynote speech.



Brian Harvey, Competitive Boys Coach of the Year



AM 60 plays for the Hall of Fame reception sponsored by Got Soccer.



OSA Executive Director Sid Goodrich enjoys a pleasant moment during the Workshop



Amber, Savannah, and Kerry Shubert celebrate Kelly's competitive Coach of the Year selection.



Advanced Referee Class participants join instructor Austin Gomez (center front row) during a break in the three days of classwork.



Bethann Impey is always happy to see OSA members at the Workshop.



Brian Harvey received a special plaque from his boys' team.



Geron McGinnis receives his Boys' Recreational Coach of the Year award from Brandon Story.



Goalkeeper training during the day proved exhausting to the participants.



Matt Fansher presents Girls Competitive Coach of the Year award to Kerry Shubert.



Brandon Story presents Girls' Recreational Coach of the Year to Jim Weir.



Tony Mendoza of Lawton Soccer accepts the OSA grant for \$1,500 from Randy Donalson, OSA Advisor.



ODP player Amy Hodgen accepts her sweatshirt from Matt Fansher.



Donna and Gordon Wilson enjoy the Hall of Fame reception.



Camille Sanders smiles after receiving her ODP award.



Catherine Parish accepts her ODP sweatshirt from Matt Fansher.



Michael Trebilcock accepts his ODP award.



Omeed Azadpour and Gordon Wilson compare hand injuries.



Parris Sanders accepts his Adult Referee of the Year award from Milo.



Milo Slater presents Omeed Azadpour with Male Youth Referee of the Year.



Brandon Story presents Robert Muzny with his gifts as Volunteer of the Year.



Doug Lynch accepts the OSA Grant check for \$1,500 on behalf of Washington County Soccer Club (Bartlesville).



Matt Fansher presents Madison Mercado with her ODP sweatshirt.



Tom Orn accepts the OSA Grant check for \$500 on behalf of Sapulpa Soccer Club.



Milo presented Tonya Keener with the Female Youth Referee of the Year award




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Watts' What

By Dale Watts, Editor

Mom's Choice

As another spring season gets under way, many parents will soon face choices and decisions about their children's activities: "Do we try out for competitive? Do we keep taking music lessons? Do we play baseball? Do we stop playing soccer?"

Those decisions will be difficult.

Growing up the third child of two athletic parents (Mom played basketball and Dad was a track star), my brother inherited all the athletic talent. He weighed a whopping 130 pounds as a high school kid but when there are only 15 in your class, everybody plays all the sports.

All three of us were given the opportunity to play music (the word "opportunity" was Mother's) and a piano was purchased as well as a trumpet. The older ones gave up on the piano but my sister continued to play trumpet through high school. In first grade my opportunity came along. By third grade I was given the trumpet. Piano lessons continued through 9th grade and the trumpet was my instrument through college. It provided me with a means to meet friends for life.

After college, I returned to the piano and it provided me with decades of pleasure as a professional musician. Why did I keep playing and the others didn't? Both my siblings regret their not continuing, but it was their choice – not Mom's.

Mother never demanded, she pushed us to pursue our gift and when we finally determined that enough was enough she relented. I know the sacrifices she endured to pay for those lessons. Music lessons weren't cheap.

And so, why do some athletes, musicians, artists, or other talented youngsters follow their talents to a professional level and others don't? It's because most of them learn early on that to achieve that distinction, much must be sacrificed. Want to play in college? How much time will the youngster spend on his/her own practicing when no one is watching? Want to play at the professional level? Are you one of the 1/2 of 1% of the players in the country who manage to reach that level? What will you sacrifice to achieve that level? We've had only one national team player from Oklahoma in 40 years – Joe-Max Moore.

I didn't sacrifice much. But I also knew I didn't have the talent to be a



classical pianist. I knew that when my high school buddy, Skip Knappe (later to be known as Skip VanWinkle), would play at recitals and talent shows. I would play my classical piece and Skip would come out, kick the piano bench out of his way and play a boogie-woogie piece while standing up! The crowd would go nuts. In 1970 he had a national hit in "God, Love Rock & Roll" and I admired his talent and drive to put aside all distractions and focus on being a musician. I was happy with my family and my decisions.

As parents we have to decide if the child has the desire and focus to reach another level. If players don't, then relax and enjoy your child's pleasure in participating in whatever activity they choose. Most soccer folks are doing fine with that choice. How do I know? Look around the fields this weekend. We are in our second generation of player/coaches and Oklahoma's soccer development is in good hands.

What if Mom had insisted? I'm not sure, but I'm happy she didn't. I'm still playing and enjoying my limited gift. It's why her photo is on the piano at home. I play for her as well as me.



Beckham's beauties show off their outfits.

Soccer-Tennis Championships Held At Workshop

OSA's first Soccer-Tennis tournament drew over 100 participants to the venues in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Championship rounds were played in most of the 7 brackets at the OSA Workshop in Tulsa on February 2.

"I think we demonstrated that soccer-tennis is a fun activity and one that will develop skill as well," said Matt Fansher, OSA Director of Coaching. Fansher's idea to promote the tournament apparently generated a great deal of enthusiasm. At the OCU site in Oklahoma City, Brian Harvey and his staff assisted with the tournament and the university gym was filled with many teams.

The Tulsa venue was at Bishop Kelley High School and Troy Tokarchik and his staff helped created a fun time for all involved. Kelley became the site of the championship finals when the hotel was unable to provide space of the event.

"We plan on being back next year with another tournament and it should be even bigger and better," said Fansher.

Below are the finalist and/or champions of the bracket play. Some brackets do not contain a champion due to the inability of the teams to travel to Tulsa for the final.

Congratulations to all who participated.

U12 Boys

Finalist: Dynamic Duo (Tulsa Champion) – Max Lopez and Chad Keller
Champion: Posse (OKC Champion) – Austen Parker and Butch Hampton

U12 Girls No championship round

Finalist: 4Him (OKC Champion) – Alexis "Lexi" Carroll and Briana "Bri" Kuestersteffen
Finalist: Stricketts (OKC finalist) – Chloe Strickland and Lindsey Ricketts

U14 Boys

Finalist: 2 Girls & A Guy (Tulsa Champion) – Lauren King, Ashley McDaniel, and Keegan King
Champion: Wow (OKC Champion) – Brandon LittleAxe and Taylor Vanderford

U14 Girls No championship round

Finalist: HEAT (OKC Champion) – Alex Hickey and Madison Windham
Finalist: Blond Bombers (OKC Finalist) – Allison Worsham and Emily Precure

U16 Boys

Finalist: ESC 93 Gray (OKC Champion) – Cody Gray, Ethan Berney, and Will Conant
Champion: TSC 93 Red Boys (Tulsa Champion) – Tommy Hart, Scott Elliott, and Nicolas Lopez

U16 Girls

Finalist: The Winners (OKC Champion) – Sherri Collins, Mia Vabolis, and Lauren Vabolis
Champion: Team Jones (Tulsa Champion) – Alyssa Jones, Georgeanna Christie, and Allie Glazner

Open Division No championship round

Finalist: Boris & ??? (OKC Champion) – Matt Fansher and Alexis Vizarelis
Finalist: FIFA 2008 (OKC Finalist) – Austin Greenhaw and Chris Daniels



Open division participants enjoy the moment.

Tulsa Revolution Completes Exhibition Season

Tulsa's indoor professional soccer team, Revolution, completed its exhibition season and will join the American Indoor Soccer League in its 2009 season.

The Revolution is the brainchild of Tulsa soccer enthusiast Adam Mellor. A native of Wales, Mellor, who at 23 will be the AISL's youngest owner, has had a great passion for the game since he was a child.

"It has always been a dream of mine to play for a professional team until I was struck with injury," Mellor said. "I never thought actually owning a team would ever be a goal I could reach but I proved myself wrong. I've always had a strong passion for the game and will be a part of it forever. I want to bring the team to Tulsa mainly because this is my home. Although soccer is a growing sport here, it is still a small one. I would like to create a spark in the community giving them something to talk about and be excited about, and to give players a dream that they someday could fulfill."

The Revolution played 4 other AISL teams this year: Cincinnati Excite, Massachusetts Twisters, Rockford Rampage, and the Northern Illinois Rebels. The 1-4 record does not reflect the team's ability and they did well against the undefeated 10-0 Rampage from Rockford, according to coach Kerry Shubert, OSA's recently named competitive coach of the year.



The Revolution carries a roster of familiar names to Oklahoma soccer fans. Goalkeepers: Sonny Delasandro, Christopher Hansmann, and Stephen Hendrix. Defenders: Tama Aondofar, Sheldon Barrett, Monty Frazier III, Mike Nsien, Jason Rogers, Bab Ugbah, Mike Umelo, and Jesse Williams. Midfielders: Emerson Aguilera, Paul Davalos, Kevin Drouillard, Greg McKenna, Bryant Scrapper, and John Michael Waite. Forwards: Dave Leung, Dominique Nayaga, Michael Poneys, and Christian Porto. Head coach: Kerry Shubert.



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US Youth Soccer Releases Grant Applications for TOPSoccer and Soccer Start program

Organization nears \$2 million in total grant support.

US Youth Soccer announces the 2008 US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer and Soccer Start grant applications are now available on USYouthSoccer.org. The deadline for both grants has been set for March 18, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. CT.

Last year, as a part of the 10th grant cycle and in partnership with adidas, US Youth Soccer awarded \$85,000 in grants. Grants were first made available in 1998 with nearly \$2 million given to date. US Youth Soccer has is-

sued 380 awards to groups of various sizes across the United States. Specifically for TOPSoccer and Soccer Start programs, these grants continue to assist in developing soccer programs and furthering The Game for ALL Kids!®.

US Youth Soccer's Soccer Start is designed to introduce the sport of soccer to youngsters living in communities not yet served by existing clubs and leagues. Focused on making soccer available to lower-income children in underserved communities, Soccer Start provides soccer training and ad-

ministrative guidance to players and organizations that might otherwise not be exposed to the sport.

US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability.

"We believe US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer and Soccer Start programs further our mission of fostering the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition," said Jim Cosgrove, executive director of US Youth Soccer. "These are two outstanding programs and each year we look forward to assisting the opportunities that are provided to youth across the country."

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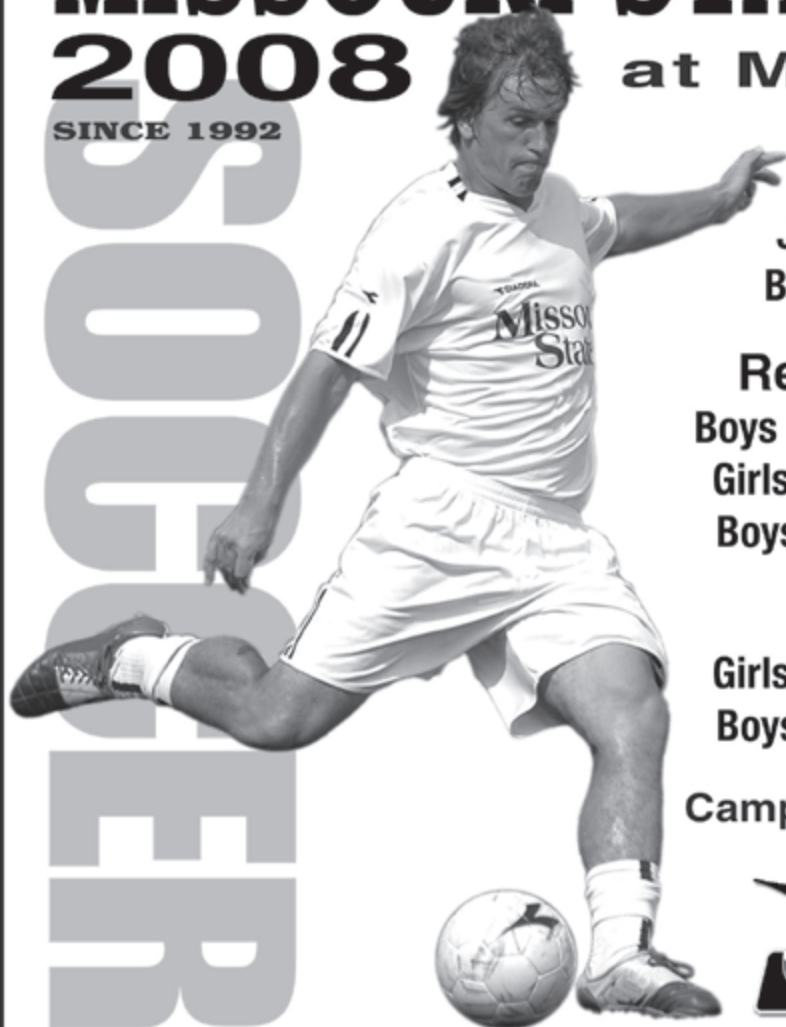


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Making Dreams Come True

by Dan Freigang Ph.D

Josh Wolff spun out of pressure to set up a goal to beat Mexico in the bitter cold qualifier for an American victory. I have never buried a winning goal against Mexico but I can beat Josh in a shootout. Now you are probably saying to yourself, "Dano, are you loopy or what?" All I have to do is blindfold Josh and he's done. How can you score if you don't know what to shoot at? In other words, how can you be successful if you don't know what you want? Without clear goals we waste time, procrastinate, and never achieve our potential. On the positive side, you can achieve what you believe. You must have visions and dreams!

The Meaning of Dreams – all of us have dreams. They are not often spoken aloud because these dreams can start out in our minds as outrageous. Yes, we dream of becoming a pilot, a doctor, or a musician. We have fun imagining ourselves playing in the MLS or burying the game winner in a World Cup shootout. At first, these visions are far away but call to our hearts and minds. All of us start with normal fears and

doubts about our dreams. But we may also have enough confidence to make small daily progressions toward our dream. Over time, little things come true. We find ways to practice skills at home, find high quality games to play in and when the time comes to take a World Cup PK we have practiced this scenario a hundred times before. Like Josh, we have made our dreams our daily reality. Dreams can lead us into action.

Making a Map for Success – by clarifying goals, we can focus our training. When we do this we create a map for success. Identifying the dream comes first. Use imagination and let a dream goal come to your mind. At first it may seem far away and impossible to reach. Let the dream sit in your mind for a week to see if it is something you want. If the attraction is strong then begin the journey with a first small step. Break it apart into smaller pieces. Try to look at dreams first in yearly, then monthly, then in weekly chunks. These smaller pieces are easier to start and control. Setting goals in the preseason

and then forgetting about them is where goal-setting falls apart. A map can help keep you focused.

Map-Making Skills – daily training should be enjoyable, not a grind. Great players know this. By using their dreams as a map they are in control. Feeling in control motivates us to improve and try harder. It's important to realize we all need to spend a lot of time creating, testing, and revisiting our dreams. Writing out your dreams, posting them at home, keeping your finger on the pulse will help motivation and enjoyment.

The Dream Never Dies – what happens if the dream changes? It is normal to change the focus of your life. You may find a goal you set for yourself two years ago is not really what you want. Change is a desirable part of our life and it's OK to rewrite your map.

We will all make mistakes so allow yourself some flexibility in achieving goals. That puts you in control and improves motivation. Finally, improvement takes time. Be patient when you encounter setbacks. Use them as step-

ping stones for your map.

Maximizing Motivation – targets set too high or too low will hurt motivation. This is where coaches can help set up smaller, achievable targets to provide success every day.

There is a simple technique called SMART that will help you achieve your dreams.

S - Use specific small progressions and goals

M - Try to measure your feel, play and performance to gauge improvements

A - Adjust your daily routine to fit the demand and your needs

R - Realistic goals starting from today that are your personal standards are best

T - Use some form of a time line to help push yourself and test but never let your dreams die.

Dan Freigang Ph.D
Caldan@earthlink.net

adidas is the global soccer leader with strategic alignments with some of the most successful clubs and players in the world including Major League Soccer, AC Milan, Chelsea FC, Liverpool FC, Real Madrid, Kaka, David Beckham, Lionel Messi and Kristine Lilly.

OSA Coach's Corner

By Matt Fansher, Director of Coaching, and Mark Shannon, Assistant Director of Coaching

Welcome to the Coach's Corner.

This is the first installment of articles designed to help you as a coach see why we are such big proponents of making developmentally appropriate practices and games. We really want the coaches and parents to understand why we do what we do in the coaching education department at O.S.A.

We couldn't think of a better place to start than to share with you a poem by Mike Berticelli. Mike is the former coach for Notre Dame and NSCAA Director of Coaching. He now rests peacefully in Heaven and many who believe that American youth soccer can go to a new level share his vision and goals.

As you read the poem, please make sure you see how we as coaches are vital to controlling the environment that our players and team are involved in. Especially with the young players, games should be a time of fun, filled with success and failures in an environment that they have a sideline of cheerleaders!

We hope that you will take this poem to heart (heck, print it off and pass it out to all of the parents on your team!) If we can ever be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to email us with questions, comments, thoughts, etc.

Matt Fansher-
m.fansher@oksoccer.com

Mark Shannon-
m.shannon@oksoccer.com

A Soccer Poem

by
Mike Berticelli

You donate your time for the good of our youth, But you scream and you yell and are often uncouth.
The ref is just twelve and still learning the game, But you call him a jerk and say he's not sane.
The parents are screaming and follow your lead, As you sprint up the sideline at uncontrollable speed.
You jump as you yell, "Pass, pass the ball!" You turn red as you bellow, "Ref, make the darn call!"
"You're the left back, get in your position, If you don't we might lose and ruin our tradition!"
Positions are needed so we look like a team, 'Cause they're miniature pros, or so it does seem
The fullback is bored, he picks at his nose, While the others run wild and kick with their toes.
You scream for a goal, no matter how it goes in, The skill doesn't matter, just as long as we win!
The parents go crazy as the ball nears the goal, Their advice and instructions will soon take their toll.
You see, "Junior" feels pressure, he's not having much fun, We tell him to pass, when to shoot, and to run.
He came here to play and to use his own mind, 'Cause soccer's the most creative game that you'll find.
Imagination is needed on the part of each child, Solving problems on the field is what makes them go wild.
A week of long practice, while just standing in line, Waiting to shoot, just using one ball at a time.
This just doesn't cut it, and for some it is too late, Make your practices fun, don't be the coach that they hate.
They come to "play" soccer, not to work at the game, Their excitement is something we don't want to tame.
Maradona had moves that are beyond comprehension, No coach taught those moves while threatening detention!
He learned from his friends, and tried copying others, While playing in games, without coaches and mothers.
Soccer is different, not like baseball at all, We don't need positions, just give them the ball.
They, first must learn skill, it's the meat of the game, If they can't dribble or shoot, then who should we blame?
Skill must be learned through repeated trials, If motivation is present you will see them run miles.
"Fun games" are the answer to encourage repetition, They laugh and they scream and enjoy competition.
Without the skill to dribble past an opponent at will, Your players may win, but their growth will stand still.
I dream of the day when the parents just cheer, And losing the game doesn't bring out a tear.
When practice is fun, not dull and so boring, And playing the game means more than just scoring.
I know you mean well, and you donate your time, But bury your ego, and try something sublime.
Call all the parents, and ask for their aid, You're teaching their kids and not getting paid.
Your goal's to develop a youngster with skill, Not a team that must win, or some fancy new drill!
You see players are not judged by their wins and their losses, Instead they are judged by their shots, heads, or crosses!
Scholarships are given to players with great names, Not to those who played on youth teams who never lost games.
A pro player gets paid 'cause his skills are real fine, Not because his team never lost when he was nine.
It's time to bring soccer to new heights in this nation, The future's in players, not a coaching citation!
Let's start to say "dribble" and stop yelling "Pass!" You'll then see players go to the head of the class.
I hope you're concerned, but not really offended, It's the need for more skill that I have defended.
You're giving your all, from the good of your heart, Why not make sure the kids get the right start?



2008 U.S. VETERAN'S CUP

July 8-13, 2008
Bellingham, Washington

Key Facts

- National Tournament for Men and Women's Adult Amateur Soccer
- Women's Age Groups- Over 30, 40 Premier, 40 1st Div, 45, 50, 55 & 60
- Men's Age Groups- Over 30, 35, 40 Premier, 40 1st Div, 45, 50, 55 & 60
- 11th Veteran's Cup ... previously held in North Carolina '05-06; Hawaii '03-'04; West Virginia '01-'02; New Hampshire '00; Washington State '98-'99
- Expecting over 100 teams again with over 3,000 players and supporters!
- Bellingham, Washington is located along side some of the most beautiful coast line with majestic mountain sights surrounding beautiful soccer pitches.
- Veteran's Cup represents the true spirit of our sport ~ the game for life. It is an annual celebration of all that makes our sport great – competition, sportsmanship, camaraderie plus lots of evening time fun!

Contact Information

- Tim Busch – Veteran's Cup Chair - (360) 708-8751- TimBusch19@comcast.net
- Robin Gordon – Washington State Soccer - (425) 485-7855 - Robin@WSSA.ORG
- Tom O'Shea – Region III VC Commissioner – 336-282-1211 or oshea2@aol.com

For Complete Information check out www.veteranscup.us

Approved OSA 2008 Tournaments

This is not a final listing. Some applications are still pending.

March 28, 29, 30, 2008

Broken Arrow Spring Recreational
All US Soccer affiliate teams
Broken Arrow, OK
Fields: Indian Springs Sports Complex
Contact: Mike Naumann
Phone: 918-258-5770
Fax: 918-258-6957
Email: basc@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
U9 – U10 Academy Boys & Girls
U7, U8, U12 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Jim Brittain
Email: refereeassignor@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
Website: www.brokenarrowsoccerclub.org

March 22-23, 2008

Westside Spring Shootout
US Youth teams only
Oklahoma City, OK
Fields: Westside Soccer Complex
Contact: Jim McClung
Phone: 405-820-3737
Email: jmcclung@cox.net
U6 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Gail Nash
Email: gdnash4@aol.com
Website: www.westsidesoccerokc.com

April 4, 5, 6, 2008

WSA Cup
All US Soccer affiliate teams
Sand Springs, OK
Fields: Rivercity Parks
Contact: Roger Bush
Phone: 918-629-4476
Email: rogerwsa@aol.com
U9 – U10 Academy Boys & Girls
U11 – U19 Competitive Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Nabel Kharoubeh
Email: nabelk@yahoo.com
Website: www.wsasoccer.org

April 4, 5, 2008

Weatherford 3v3
USYS Oklahoma teams only
Weatherford, OK
Fields: Rader Park
Contact: Aaron Winters
Phone: 580-772-2571
Fax: 580-772-2686
Email: 4winters@sbcglobal.net
U8 – U12 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Travis Hale
Email: travishale@hotmail.com
Website: www.weatherfordsoccerclub.org

April 11, 12, 13, 2008

Tulsa Thunder Friendship Cup
All US Soccer affiliate teams
Tulsa, OK
Fields: PSO Westbank Soccer Complex
Contact: Gary McDonald
Phone: 918-582-6001
Fax: 918-582-4421
U11 – U19 Competitive Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Rick McDowell
Email: info@tulsathunder.org
Website: www.tulsathunder.org

April 11, 12, 13, 2008

Midwest City Spring Spectacular
USYS teams only
Midwest City, OK
Fields: Midwest City Soccer Complex
Contact: Chip Mitchell
Phone: 405-474-4092
Fax: 405-840-9748
U9-U10 Academy Boys & Girls
U6 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Email: chipmitchell@cox.net
Referee Assignor: Amber Carter
Email: ajayc112@yahoo.com
Website: www.mwcsoccer.net

May 9, 10, 11, 2008

Day of Champions - FCSA
Frontier Country teams only
Oklahoma City, OK
Fields: FCSA club venues
Contact: Johnny Lozano
Phone: 405-378-2597
Fax: 405-946-5266
U9 – U10 Academy Boys & Girls
U6 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Email: thedaofjc@aol.com
Referee Assignor: Gail Nash
Email: gdnash4@aol.com

May 9, 10, 11, 2008

Green Country Tournament
Green Country member clubs only
Claremore, OK
Fields: Claremore Soccer Club Complex
Contact: Don Taylor
Phone: 918-343-1926
Email: don@claremoresoccer.com
U6 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Clint Durr
Email: clint@mailok.com
Website: www.claremoresoccer.com

May 10, 11, 2008

Mother's Day Tournament
USYS teams only
Enid, OK
Fields: Enid Soccer Complex
Contact: Hamid Habibi
Phone: 580-242-4007
Email: hamid33@yahoo.com
U8 – U10 Recreational Boys & Girls
U11 – U19 Competitive Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Roy Conrad
Email: referee@enidsoccer.com
Website: www.enidsoccer.com

August 29, 30 September 1, 2008

Broken Arrow Labor Day Tournament
All US Soccer affiliate teams
Broken Arrow, OK
Contact: Mike Naumann
Phone: 918-258-5770
Fax: 918-258-6957
Email: basc@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
U9 – U10 Academy Boys & Girls
U11 – U19 Competitive Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Jim Brittain
Email: refereeassignor@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
Website: www.brokenarrowsoccerclub.org

November 14, 15, 16, 2008

Broken Arrow Fall Recreational Tournament
All US Soccer affiliate teams
Broken Arrow, OK
Contact: Mike Naumann
Phone: 918-258-5770
Fax: 918-258-6957
Email: basc@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
U7 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Jim Brittain
Email: refereeassignor@brokenarrowsoccerclub.org
Website: www.brokenarrowsoccerclub.org



Kohl's US Youth Soccer American Cup interactive tours kick off in March Second Soccer Experience Vehicle added

The United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) and Kohl's Department Stores announce a three-year contract extension as the "Official Department Store of US Youth Soccer." The three-year extension will bring Kohl's partnership with the nation's largest youth sports organization to nine years.

The 2008 Kohl's US Youth Soccer American Cup events will kick off in March. The Oklahoma Soccer Association tournament will be held at two sites: Lawton and Sallisaw. Adding to the excitement of the US Youth Soccer Kohl's American Cup events will be the addition of the second Kohl's American Cup Soccer Experience Vehicle complete with three interactive inflatables, prizes and souvenirs. The truck and trailer combination with high impact soccer

graphics will serve as a focal point for the Interactive Soccer Village, and will provide select Kohl's American Cup host organizations a central location for conducting registration and presenting participant awards.

"We are very excited to have Kohl's Department Stores continue as a part of the US Youth Soccer family," said Larry Monaco, president of US Youth Soccer. "Over the past six years Kohl's has been a great partner and a tremendous supporter of our organization and we look forward to our continued partnership. Through its sponsorship, the Kohl's US Youth Soccer American Cup continues to grow and provide our recreational players a great opportunity for friendly competition in a festival-like atmosphere."

Additionally, Kohl's will continue

to support the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, the crown jewel of competitive youth soccer, at the regional and national levels, as well as supporting future US Youth Soccer opportunities to further the membership benefits of the association.

"Kohl's is very focused on children's initiatives nationwide through our Kohl's Cares for Kids® program and we are excited to extend that reach through a continued partnership with US Youth Soccer," said Julie Gardner, executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Kohl's Department Stores. "With the addition of another Experience Vehicle, we not only hope to hold more events, but we also hope to give more people the opportunity to experience the US Youth Soccer Kohl's American Cup interactive village."

It is the Kohl's American Cup philosophy that all players should receive equal opportunities and benefits within their level of play. All players have the right to participate in competitions where they can develop and exhibit their skills while enjoying themselves. The Kohl's American Cup provides recreational players this opportunity and places emphasis on participation, as opposed to competition.

Throughout its history, the Kohl's American Cup has served as an avenue to highlight recreational soccer players and promote fair play. As the largest recreational youth soccer tournament in the United States, the Kohl's American Cup has boasted more than 65,000 participants and more than 100,000 attendees annually since its inception in 2000.

KIDS' PAGE



KNOCK KNOCK JOKES

Q: Who's there?

A: Scotta

Q: Scotta who?

A: Scotta be funnier jokes than this.

Q: Who's there?

A: Humphrey

Q: Humphrey who?

A: Humphrey notes and I'll tell you the song

Q: Who's there?

A: Howard

Q: Howard who?

A: Howard was the math test today?

Q: Who's there?

A: Goliath

Q: Goliath who?

A: Goliath down, you look tired.



RIDDLES

What do elves do after school?
Gnomework!

What has forty feet and sings?
The school choir!

Why does a flamingo lift up one leg?
Because if he lifted up both legs he
would fall down!

What sort of an animal is a slug?
A snail with a housing problem.



PUNS

The gingerbread man thought he couldn't be caught, until he met his baker.

People have a happy time vacationing in Ireland because they are walking on Eire.

A guy goes to a psychiatrist. "Doc, I keep having these alternating recurring dreams. First I'm a teepee, then I'm a wigwam, then I'm a teepee, then I'm a wigwam. It's driving me crazy. What's wrong with me?"

The doctor replies: "It's very simple. You're two tents."



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR COACH



Don't you hate when your hand falls asleep and you know it will be up all night?

Is everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time?

Why do irons have a setting for permanent press?

How young can you die of old age?

We had 13 lucky winners of our Sudoku puzzle from January. I think we'll go back to the Word Search for this month. It's spring in Oklahoma and that means it will soon be St. Patrick's Day and April Fools! We'll also have some soccer tournaments to enter and enjoy. Find all 22 words in the puzzle and send me your entry. Good luck and enjoy Spring!

WINNERS: Connor Bandy, Poteau; Mattie Bivens, Duncan; Lucas Bloyer, Winfield, KS; Leslie Bross, Yukon; Jason Bugos, Red Oak; Joshua Forgione, Tulsa; Caitlin King, Sapulpa; Melanie Marshall, Muskogee; Sara Nash, McLoud; Daniel Olanirah, Tulsa; Jake Purton, Moore; Chyann Reeder, Foss; and Sheridan Spillers, Yukon.
CONGRATULATIONS!

PUZZLE

As before, solve the puzzle and clip it out and send it to me at Smoke Signals, PO Box 35174, Tulsa, OK 74153. I'll see that you get a prize mailed to you and include your name in the next issue of Smoke Signals. Good Luck! *Deadline: March 15, 2008.*

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Words in the puzzle:

AMERICAN
APRIL
ASSOCIATION
BROKENARROW
CUP
FESTIVAL
FOOL
GOVERNORS
IRISH
LAWTON
MADNESS
MARCH
OKLAHOMA
PATRICK
PRESIDENTS
SAINT
SALLISAW
SIGNALS
SMOKE
SOCCER
STATE
TOURNAMENTS

F	S	H	Y	V	S	P	J	S	P	S	O	I	C	H
T	N	H	I	N	S	Q	A	E	T	K	S	Z	U	N
S	H	O	C	T	E	I	A	N	L	L	J	P	E	S
T	K	C	I	M	N	Q	E	A	A	M	A	Y	T	J
W	E	L	R	T	D	M	H	N	S	T	S	F	N	F
O	O	R	N	A	A	O	G	I	R	R	Y	S	L	Q
X	T	R	T	N	M	I	F	I	O	V	A	I	H	W
T	L	C	R	A	S	E	C	N	X	L	R	F	L	C
N	O	U	Y	A	S	K	R	O	L	I	R	P	A	D
O	O	O	S	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	E	R
T	F	B	I	T	V	E	S	H	C	S	K	V	Q	T
W	B	V	Q	O	A	A	K	C	Y	A	A	O	T	F
A	A	Q	G	S	W	T	O	O	U	J	N	V	M	V
L	N	G	X	V	A	S	E	M	R	P	E	J	Q	S
H	A	B	A	X	X	K	F	S	V	B	E	R	M	H



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