



SMOKE SIGNALS

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OSA Hall of Fame Selects Gayl Wilson



Gayl Wilson's selection as the inductee for the Hall of Fame Class of 2008 comes as no surprise to Tom Iadevaia, Hall of Fame committee chairman. "She was a player, administrator, Smoke Signals editor, OSA officer, and coach just to name a few," says Iadevaia.

Gayl and her husband, Mike, have been mainstays of Oklahoma soccer for decades and her nomination by Peter Aradi, Hall of Fame class of 2006, is indicative of her value by her peers.

OSA members are invited to attend the Hall of Fame reception to be held on Friday, February 1, 2008

see Wilson, on page 2



Four Coaches Selected For Honors

For the first time Oklahoma Soccer Association will honor two competitive coaches and two recreational coaches as Coach of the Year. "US Youth decided to begin honoring both our competitive and recreational coaches," says Brandon Story, OSA Youth Board president. "We are very pleased to be able to recognize four outstanding coaches from our state. Two of them have already been selected as candidates for the National Coach of the Year to be announced at the US Youth National Workshop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in February."

Recreational Coaches of the Year

Geron McGinnis of Broken Arrow will be the first boys' Recreational Coach of the Year and will represent Region III at the US Youth Workshop. Jim Weir of Broken Arrow will be the first girls' Recreational Coach of the Year from Oklahoma.

Competitive Coaches of the Year

Bryan Harvey of Oklahoma City is the Oklahoma Competitive Boys' Coach of the Year. He will represent Region III at the US Youth Workshop. This is the second CoY award for Harvey; he was the recipient of the award in 2000 as girls' Coach of the Year. Kerry Shubert of Broken Arrow is the Oklahoma Competitive Girls' Coach of the Year. Congratulations to these coaches, their families, and their teams. An article on each coach follows inside this issue.



Robert Muzny – Volunteer of the Year

Soccer in Oklahoma is blessed with hundreds of volunteers but few across the state have the credentials of Robert Muzny of South Lakes Soccer Club. His claim to fame is the development and maintenance of the fields at the SLSC complex and it took all of Robert's skill and assistance from hundreds of volunteers to survive the onslaught of 40 days of rain prior to the Southern Regionals in the summer of 2007.

see Muzny, on page 2

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"I am so proud of our club and its volunteers," says Muzny. "We worked for a year to prepare for the regional tournament and had our fields ready for the teams when the rains came. Every day we had hundreds of our club volunteers show up to do what was needed." Those hundreds were needed as the rains seldom stopped during the entire week. Despite the mud, Muzny and his volunteers have returned the SLSC complex to its original condition. "We did lots of top dressing to each field and the city helped in getting the fields back to playing condition. It was a team effort."

Robert's leadership and willingness to go several "extra" miles made the difference in the tournament. "Robert coaches, referees, paints fields, organizes and stocks the concession stand, and serves as vice-president on the board," says David Brunette. "He never asks for money for his services or the time he spends. SLSC could not have hosted regionals without him."

Robert is one of a growing number of Oklahoma Soccer Association members who grew up playing the game in Oklahoma. "I played for Moore Soccer Club and was on the Moore High School varsity team," says Muzny. "My mother was the club registrar and my team, the Rufnax, was coached by Kyle Cussen's dad. I got a late start at playing because I joined as an under 12 player, but those were great times."

Robert met his wife Kimberly in 5th grade. "On our first date we went to the movie, Friday the 13th, the first one." When Zachary (who is now 14) came along, Robert dusted off the soccer gear and began coaching. He began coaching a second team when Kye (now 12) wished to join his older brother playing soccer.

"Kye is playing for the SLSC Cosmos 96 and Zach has focused on refereeing," says Muzny. "I found out I loved coaching and for a while I had two Jaguar teams, one for each boy."

As if he didn't have enough to do, Muzny soon volunteered to referee matches and became equipment manager for the soccer club. "I recertified as a referee and began officiating matches," says Muzny. He also found time to complete the USSF National "D" coaching course.

Robert enjoys seeing kids playing soccer. "If the kids are going to play, they need fields that are marked and safe, they need coaches and referees, and they need parents watching them. Kids shouldn't have to worry about all that – they should just be able to play. And the other stuff is the job of the volunteer."

The movement to small-sided soccer was a major improvement in the game, according to Muzny. "The number of touches each player gets when playing 3v3 or 4v4 is amazing," says Muzny. "Watching the Jaguars play, it was a drastic improvement over the 11 vs 11 days with that age group. I coach the 90 Cosmos Girls and I have to believe that the changes that were made when they were young players has impacted their game in a positive way."

Robert may be busy volunteering and coaching and refereeing, but he still finds time to play the game he devotes so much of his life to. "I play with on Sundays with Central Oklahoma Adult Soccer Association and I encourage all my youth players to keep playing the game. It's one of the few sports that someone can play throughout his lifetime." And don't think Robert doesn't volunteer for the COASL program. Just ask Bryan Marks, President of COASL: "Rob-

ert is always willing to work with us. Last season after a heavy overnight rain, rather than canceling the Sunday matches, Robert worked to move all the games to different fields on the complex so we could have our games. He is also a big part of COASL's success over the past few seasons. I speak for our board in support of his volunteer of the year award."

As for the future, Muzny plans to stay with his girls' team until they graduate and then return to volunteer work for the club and continue recruiting volunteers for SLSC. It appears that Robert Muzny has found an avocation that he dearly loves and Oklahoma Soccer Association, Frontier Country, COASL, and South Lakes Soccer Club are very thankful. Congratulations, Robert Muzny!

OSA Hall of Fame Gayl Wilson,

story continued from page 1

in the Promenade B ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa.

"The reception begins at 6:30 p.m.," says Iadevaia, "and we want all of Gayl's friends and former teammates and business associates to come wish her well."

On Saturday, February 2, Gayl will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon and past Hall of Fame members in attendance will also be introduced.

Congratulations, Gayl Wilson as the newest member of OSA's Hall of Fame!

OSA

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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



Tulsa Revolution Begins Indoor Season

The Tulsa Revolution will play a partial schedule for the 2007-08 season, but will join the American Indoor Soccer League full-time for the 2008-09 campaign. Games will be played at Soccer City in Tulsa at 5817 S 118th E. Ave (61st and Garnett area).

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."

Coaches for the Revolution are Kerry Shubert (selected OSA Coach of the Year 2007), head coach, and Tama Aondofar (Director of Coaching Tulsa Thunder), assistant. The roster of players will feature numerous local soccer coaches and a blend of young and older players, according to Shubert. "We hope that players will come out to watch their coaches play the game," says Shubert.

For tickets and schedules, visit the Revolution website at www.soccercitytulsa.com.



Dr. Stan Honored As Distinguished International Citizen of Ada

Dr. Stanley "Stan" Nnochirionye has been selected to be recognized as the fourth Distinguished International Citizen of Ada according to Global Ada event organizers. He is a native of Nigeria and will be recognized on Friday, Dec. 7, as a part of the fourth annual Global Ada Celebration. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Wagner Ballroom on the East Central University campus.

A dinner consisting of a mix of Nigerian and Bulgarian food will be served. Mrs. Silviya Nnochirionye is a native of Bulgaria. The Nnochirionyes have a daughter, Kalina Popova, and a two-month old son, Noah.

Those recognized in the past as Distinguished International Citizens of Ada include Loretta Yin (2005), Dr. Tawfik and Mrs. Siham Ramadan (2006) and Erna Leach (2007).

Nominations were taken from the community and then a committee selected this year's honoree based on the information provided in the nominations. Dr. Nnochirionye was nominated by a number of people for this honor including colleagues, community members and ECU students.

Nnochirionye came to Ada in

1992 to join the ECU faculty and to serve as the Coordinator of Distance Education I-TV/Multimedia Services. He came to the United States from Nigeria in 1975 on an academic and soccer scholarship to attend the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, N.Y.

Since his graduation from SUNY-Buffalo with a B.A. in Radio/TV Broadcasting he has gone on to earn both Masters and Educational Specialists degrees from Indiana State University as well as a doctorate in Communication from the University of Oklahoma.

In addition to his Distance Education responsibilities he is also an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at ECU.

Known to many as Ada's "Mr. Soccer" for his passion for the game and his eagerness to share his knowledge and love of the game, he has been instrumental in the growth of soccer in not only Ada, but also in Columbia, Tennessee where he worked prior to taking his position at ECU.

In both towns his efforts to coach youth soccer players planted seeds that led to the establishment of soccer



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as a recognized varsity high school sport.

He has served as the faculty advisor and coach of the ECU Soccer Club since its founding in 1994.

In 1996 he became the first coach of the ECU Women's Varsity Soccer Team. His efforts to travel from coast to coast to watch his beloved Nigerian National Team in the World Cup of 1994, hosted here in the USA, are still talked about in local soccer circles.

Dr. Nnochirionye has a distinguished record of service to ECU, the Ada Community and to a number of professional organizations. At ECU he was a longtime member and past chair of the Human Diversity Committee, has been the faculty advisor of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity since 1994 and has a long history of being an advisor/co-advisor or helper with the International Student's Connection organization. He has also served on a number of other committees.

In the Ada community he is a member of the Ada Boy's and Girl's Club Board of Directors and an active volunteer coach, referee and referee instructor. He has also participated in

the Relay for Life event and has been a guest soccer coach at a number of local schools over the years. In addition he is active in a number of professional organizations related to his work.

"As in past years more than one outstanding individual was nominated and it is always difficult for the selection committee to pick just one person to represent so many," said Elaine Rhynes, a SIFE Advisory Board Member and a member of the Ada Sunrise Rotary Club. "We hope everyone will join us in honoring Dr. Nnochirionye and in saluting all of Ada's international citizens."

She added that the public is not only invited to the event, but that those who wish to do so are also invited to join local citizens and the international students of ECU in wearing the costumes of their home countries for the occasion.

For more information or to purchase or reserve tickets call the ECU Switchboard at 310-5666. Tickets are \$15.00 and must be purchased or reserved before 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 1. After that time a limited number of tickets will be available and will be sold until they are gone.



OSA Calendar

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

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Altus, Catoosa, Collinsville, NOKC, FCSA Competitive, GCSA Ex Bd, Ref Committee
- 3 Midwest City, Northwest Oklahoma
- 7 Metro Tulsa, Norman, Washington County
- 8 Ada, Claremore, Elk City, Logan County, Mustang, Ponca City, SLSC
- 10 Beaver River
- 14 FCSA, Owasso, SOS
- 15 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah
- 17 Mayes County
- 18-19 Upgrade Referee Clinic at OSU
- 21 Choctaw/Nicom Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 23 Bristow
- 24 GCSA
- 25-26 Assessor clinic at OSU

February

- 1-2 **OSA Workshop in Tulsa**
- 4 Metro Tulsa, Norman, Washington County
- 5 Youth Board Mtg; Davis, Stilwell
- 6 Altus, Catoosa, Collinsville, NOKC, FCSA Competitive, GCSA Ex Bd, Ref Committee
- 7 Midwest City, Northwest Oklahoma
- 11 FCSA, Owasso, SOS
- 12 Ada, Claremore, Elk City, Logan County, Mustang, Ponca City, SLSC
- 14 Beaver River, Valentine's Day
- 18 Choctaw/Nicom Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 19 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah, Sapulpa
- 21 Bixby, Mayes County
- 25 Beeline, Yukon
- 27 Bristow
- 28 GCSA Gen Mtg

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/Nicom Park, El Reno, Shawnee, Stillwater, Westside
- 19 Chickasha, Edmond, Harrah
- 21 Mayes County
- 25 Beeline, Yukon

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."

US Youth National League Inaugural Season Begins

HFC 92 Shubert First Oklahoma Team

US Youth Soccer held the first weekend of play in the US Youth National League on Friday, November 23-25, 2007 in Raleigh, NC.

The newly developed league is an extension of the highly successful US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues. Selected regional league teams in the Under-15 and Under-16 Boys' and Girls' divisions are expected to showcase their abilities and talent on the newly formed national league stage.

National League play will continue with matches held on December 27-30 (boys) and December 30-January 2 (girls) during Disney's Soccer Showcase near Orlando, Fla., as well play dates in April (Detroit for the Boys U15 division; Dallas for the Boys U16 and Girls U15 and U16 divisions). Each National League team will face opponents within its division once in round-robin competition. The only Oklahoma Soccer Association team currently participating in the league is the HFC 92 Shubert team from Broken Arrow.

Paul Luchowski, US Youth Soccer National League Commissioner,

said "US Youth Soccer has long stood as the leader in youth soccer and in the organization of events that allow the country's youth to showcase their talents in an environment that is designed for the players. The addition of the US Youth Soccer National League provides a truly national opportunity for players to develop and test themselves in meaningful competition."

In addition to the scouting opportunities for collegiate and U.S. Soccer National Staff coaches, the top two teams that do not capture Regional Cup titles in each age group will earn berths to the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships at the end of July. The National Championships is the culmination of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series where the nation's champions are crowned in six age groups (Under-14 through Under-19) for boys and girls.

The top four teams in the National League will retain their slots in the league for the 2008-09 seasons, provided that the teams meet all eligibility requirements. The league will look to add the Under-17 age group, boys and girls, in 2008.

Veteran's Cup Date Set

A date for the annual USASA Veteran's Cup has been set for July 8-13, 2008 and is being held at the Northwest Soccer Park in Bellingham, WA.

It's never too late to start the Referees recruitment process, and that's why event coordinators are already looking for those individuals who would like to referee the exciting 2008 tournament!

Because of the level of play, we are looking for officials that are Grade "7" and above. Officials will need ap-

proval of their State SRA to travel to Bellingham and are expected to arrive by mid-day on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

Although referees will not be paid for working during this event, housing and meals will be provided. If you are a referee and are interested in working the National Championship, please complete the Veterans Cup Referee Form available at www.veteranscup.us. Referees will be contacted by March 2008 if selected.

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

Pia Sundhage Named Head Coach Of The U.S. Women's National Team



Pia Sundhage has been named the new head coach of the U.S. Women's

National Soccer Team, it was announced by U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati. Sundhage, 47, brings an extensive and impressive resume to the position as both a player and coach, most recently as an assistant for the Chinese National Team during the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Sundhage has been hired to coach the U.S. team through 2008 and the Beijing Olympics, and will begin work immediately on preparation for Olympic qualifying. While final CONCACAF qualifying dates have not yet been announced, it is anticipated the tournament will take place early next year.

Sundhage (pronounced Soondhahg-Eh) coached in the WUSA during all three years of its existence, serving as the top assistant for the Philadelphia Charge during the 2001 and 2002 seasons before taking over as head coach of the Boston Breakers in 2003. She led the Breakers, a team that had not made the playoffs in its first two seasons, to the regular season championship and its first playoff berth.

"Pia is a highly accomplished player and coach with the vision to guide our Women's National Team into this next phase," said Gulati. "She brings a fresh perspective and a tremendous amount of experience to the job. She knows the international game and has a great track record of not only winning, but getting the most out of players and teams. We feel that she is a great fit for this team moving forward."

One of the most respected coaches in the women's game and widely regarded as one of the world's all-time greatest female players during her international career that spanned 22 years, Sundhage becomes the sixth head coach in the history of a program that has compiled a record of 303-51-44 since its inception in 1985. She is the first foreign coach to take

the helm of the U.S. team and second woman. This will not be her first assignment for U.S. Soccer. Sundhage served as a scout for the USA during the 2004 Olympics.

"Of course, I am very excited and happy that I have this opportunity," said Sundhage. "I see myself as being a part of a group that wants to be challenged. In order to be successful, I do think it is important that the coaching staff and the players know that we create our own environment. We are the environment that brings out the best performances in each other. In coaching, it's about communication, so feedback is important and that is something that will help improve our team as we develop the way we will play."

Sundhage started her coaching career while still playing, serving as player-coach for the Hammarby club from 1992-1994. She also coached Sweden's Youth National Teams for 11 years from 1990-2001, coaching the U-16s, the U-19s and U-21s. After her retirement from the international game in 1996, she became head coach of the Sweden Under-19 Women's National Team, leading the team to one gold medal and two bronze medals at the European Championships. She has also served as a scout for Sweden during the 1997 European Championships, the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup, the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup and the 2000 Olympics. Sundhage has also worked for FIFA on its Technical Study Group staff for the 2004 FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship in Thailand.

"When I started playing, I played with boys, and I wasn't supposed to play because I was a girl," said Sundhage. "Women's soccer has evolved to the point where I played in the 1996 Olympics and 12 years later, I get this huge opportunity. It is a unique moment in many aspects, including U.S. Soccer hiring a foreigner. It takes brave people to make a change. If you want to make changes you have to be brave and like the situation, which I certainly do, moving to the USA to take on this responsibility and challenge while getting the chance to coach some of the best players in the world. I like that feeling."

Sundhage played for a number

of clubs in Sweden as her role on the field evolved over the years, although she played mostly as a forward, before moving to midfielder and then to sweeper. She started her club soccer career at age 11 with the women's club Ulricehamn, as there were no girls teams at that time, playing with women as old as 30.

She then played with Falkoping KIK before moving to Jitex BK of Gothenburg where she played during three different stints in the 1980s. She won the Swedish Cup four times, twice with Jitex BK and twice with Hammarby, and she won the league title four times with Jitex BK. While playing with Osters in 1982 and 1983, she led the league in scoring with 30 and 35 goals, respectively. She had a brief stint with Lazio in Italy in 1985, helping the club to a second place finish in the league as she scored 17 goals. She played at Hammarby in 1986, then back to Jitex from 1987-89, but moved to Stockholm when she got the job with the Sweden Federation, and played at Hammarby from 1990-96.

After the WUSA ceased operations, Sundhage coached for one year in Norway at Kolbotn, one of that country's top clubs, before returning to her native Sweden where she coached KIF Orebro in Sweden's top division for two and half years. For several months in the spring 2005, U.S. veterans Kristine Lilly and Kate Markgraf, who played for her on the Breakers, played for her at Orebro.

A legendary player in Sweden, she played for her country in the 1991 and 1995 Women's World Cups, and 1996 Olympics. She scored four goals for Sweden at the 1991 Women's World Cup, helping the Swedes to a third-place finish. She scored one goal in the 1995 Women's World Cup (against Germany) and played every minute of all three matches at the Atlanta Olympics.

She captained the national team for many years, playing 146 international games while scoring 71 goals, for years a record until recently matched by Sweden's star forward Hanna Ljungberg. She debuted for Sweden at age 15 in 1975 against Finland and ended her 22-year international career at the 1996 Olympics in a win over Denmark. Sundhage led

Sweden to the first European Women's Championship in 1984, scoring the winning penalty kick against England to give her country its only European title. She also helped Sweden to two silver medal finishes and one bronze at the European Women's Championships.

During her international career, Sundhage played against the United States numerous times, including matches at the 1991 Women's World Cup and in the 1996 Olympics. In 2000, she finished sixth in the voting for FIFA Women's Player of the Century.

An accomplished guitar player and talented singer, Sundhage's fame in Sweden reached new levels in the mid-1980s when her image was put on a postage stamp. A true women's soccer pioneer who finished her schooling in the 1970s when European women's soccer was still in its infancy, she held a variety of jobs, including working at a car wash and as a secretary before embarking on her prolific career in soccer. She holds the highest level of coaching license in Sweden.

Sundhage's first games as head coach will come in January at the Four Nations Tournament in China, ironically the country she recently left after helping the 2007 Women's World Cup hosts to the quarterfinals. With the Chinese National Team, Sundhage worked with then-head coach Marika Domanski-Lyfors, who was also Sweden's head coach for years, including the entire time Sundhage coached the Sweden Youth National Teams. Dates and venues for the Four Nations have yet to be confirmed.

Sundhage is actually the fourth foreign-born coach in U.S. Women's National Team history, after the team's first coach Mike Ryan (who was born in Ireland but relocated to the United States in 1958 at age 23), Anson Dorrance (born in India) and Greg Ryan (born in Germany).

The U.S. Women's National Team has won four world championships – two Women's World Cup and two Olympics -- and finished in the top three in all eight women's world championships staged by FIFA since the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1991, the only team in the world to medal in every tournament.



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US Soccer AGM Meets In Hawaii

The 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort in Waikoloa, Hawaii on February 15 and 16, 2008.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) serves as U.S. Soccer's national meeting with all constituents from the youth, adult, professional and athlete councils.

Donnelly Cup Moved To January 2008

The USASA Elite Player Program - the organization's select soccer program - will hold its National Championship "George F. Donnelly Cup" in Carson, CA during the Martin L. King Holiday Weekend.

Top Select Teams from each of the four USASA regions will compete for the National title in both Men's and Women's divisions.

Participating teams in the Men's division are Eastern New York (Region I), Illinois (Region II), North Texas (Region III), and Utah (Region IV). Women's division is conformed by Massachusetts (Region I), Minnesota (Region II), Florida (Region III), and Utah (Region IV).

The championship will take place at the Home Depot Center Sports Complex (U.S. Soccer National Training Facility), located in the Los Angeles area. Best of luck to all teams from USASA!

For more information use the USASA website at www.usasa.com.
Host Hotel: Torrance Marriott, South Bay
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, California 90503
Phone: 310-316-3636, Fax: 310-543-6076

2007 USASA Mid-Year Meeting Recap

The 4 day event kicked off with a reception to welcome all the US Adult Soccer administrators, coaches, and Hall of Fame members. The evening was sponsored by K&K Insurance and was capped off with a year in review slideshow of various US Adult Soccer events.

While the rest of the weekend was devoted to soccer business, USASA inducted its second class of Hall of Fame honorees. The Friday night event was dedicated to recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions toward the development and advancement of adult amateur soccer at the national or regional level.

"Adult Soccer is rich with history and tradition and the list of Inductees over the last two years exemplifies the contributions of these individuals that have helped shape soccer in the United States" said Stephanie Walker, USASA National Administrator.

Every year, USASA pays tribute to the regional Coach and Referee of the Year through an Awards Luncheon that also takes place at the Mid Year Meeting. The guests were captivated by an inspiring speech given by Tony DiCicco, former Head Coach of the U.S. Women's National Team, who has won both World Cup and Olympic gold, author of "Catch Them Being Good," and is also the winningest coach in soccer history.

"It's an honor to be here sharing my coaching stories with you, but most importantly it's an honor to be part of this ceremony. This is all about those coaches and referees that have dedicated countless hours to adult soccer, lets recognize their work" DiCicco expressed during his speech.

This year's coaching honorees include Joe Manso – Region I, Minos Vlamakis – Region II, Terry Woodberry – Region III, and Paul Scherer from Region IV.

Minos Vlamakis won the 2006 Coach of the Year Award. Minos is presently the Head Coach of the Illinois Men's State Select Team.

The Official Sports International (OSI) Referee of the Year Program is presented each year to a referee who has distinguished himself/herself through outstanding contributions to soccer refereeing in the USASA.

The 2006 Referee of the Year finalists included Mike Rugnetta – Region I, Edvin Jurisevic – Region II, Newman W. "Zoom" Stemple – Region III, and John Davis from Region IV.

The 2006 Referee of the Year award was given to Region III Referee - Newman W. "Zoom" Stemple.

Stemple has been involved with the Florida State Soccer Association for several years. He is a Lifetime Member of the US Soccer Federation and a Referee Instructor for the Florida State Referee Academy.

After all the business and awards were concluded, guests were treated to an evening cruise down Ft. Lauderdale's scenic intercoastal waterways.

The 2007 USASA Mid Year Meeting came to a close with its National Council Meeting, where the entire membership and Executive Committee gathered to discuss the organization's current state of affairs as well as upcoming programs and events.

The National Council Meeting also included the unveiling of USA-SA's Promotional Video, Veteran's Cup Video and a presentation from the US Soccer Foundation.

Assignor Course Offered At Workshop

For the seventh year in a row, the State Referee Committee will offer the Assignor course as part of the registration packet if you attend Workshop 2008.

"We hope to have at least twenty candidates at the Workshop," says David Ooten, State Coordinator of Assignors. "Each club is required to have a registered Assignor to place referees on matches. Those clubs without Assignors are placing themselves at risk and need to be aware that the SRC offers Assignor training twice a year. In the fall we provide Assignor courses on the east and west side of the state. During the Workshop, we provide a central location for the training."

Assignors must also attend recertification clinics held during the summer of each year and register annually with USSF.

"If an Assignor missed the recert clinics, he/she may attend the Workshop class and be allowed to register for 2008," says Ooten.

Only registered Assignors have access to the USSF database of referees and when scheduling leagues or tournaments, such information is invaluable. "No club should be assigning un-registered referees to matches. If the club has a registered Assignor, he/she can tell quickly who is or who is not registered for the 2008 year."

Registration for the Assignor clinic is available online through the OSA website at www.oksoccer.com.

Soccer Tennis Tournament Finals Held At Workshop 2008

"Soccer tennis is one of the games my boys' team will play anytime we have the opportunity," says Assistant Director of Coaching, Mark Shannon. "We'll grab benches and put them on the floor and then it's two versus two and the fun never ends until I make them quit so we can go home."

Matt Fansher, OSA's Director of Coaching, devised the soccer tennis tournament to coincide with the OSA Workshop 2008. Fansher felt the tournament would draw members to the Workshop if a finals round were held during the annual event.

Two tournament sites are available for teams and/or parents/coaches or even referees to join in the fun.

Oklahoma City University is the site of the January 12, 2008 preliminary tournament. The games will be played beginning at 9:00a.m.

Bishop Kelley High School will offer an east side preliminary tournament on January 27 beginning at 12:00 p.m.

"The tournament format will be 2v2 soccer tennis matches. The court size is approximately 9 yards wide by 14 yards long (that means the net divides the court into two 9 x 7 areas)," says Fansher. "Teams can have up to (3) three players on a roster, but will only be allowed two players on the court at a time. Minimum # of games for each team is 3 games."

Cost to play is \$50 per team. Age brackets are U12, U14, U16, U19, college, and Open (any age). Co-ed play is allowed.

For a complete set of rules, visit the OSA website at www.oksoccer.com and click on the link provided.

Be the first to apply! Deadline: January 2, 2008 for the OCU venue; January 15 for the Bishop Kelley venue.

Referees Offered Advanced USSF Training At Workshop

"We are pleased to announce that USSF has agreed to send us National Instructor and National Assessor Austin Gomez from St. Louis to teach an advanced referee course during our Workshop," says Wayne Ewing, SYRA.

"We feel that this offering is so important the any referee who wishes to attend the Workshop will be reimbursed half of the registration fee of \$50."

The course will begin Friday evening, February 1, 2008 at 6:30pm and run through noon on Sunday, February 2, 2008.

"Referees who wish to attend must register through OSA and indicate they will attend the Advanced Referee Course. When the course is completed, those who attended will be reimbursed for half of the registration fee," states Ewing.

Seven years ago, the State Referee Committee brought a National Instructor to the Workshop and referees have requested such training again.

Use the link on the OSA website to register or call the OSA office at 800-347-3590 for more information. "If referees wish to stay at the hotel, they must contact the Crowne Plaza and place that registration. The OSA Workshop has a special rate of \$89 per double room for the weekend," says Ewing.

DEMOSPHERE

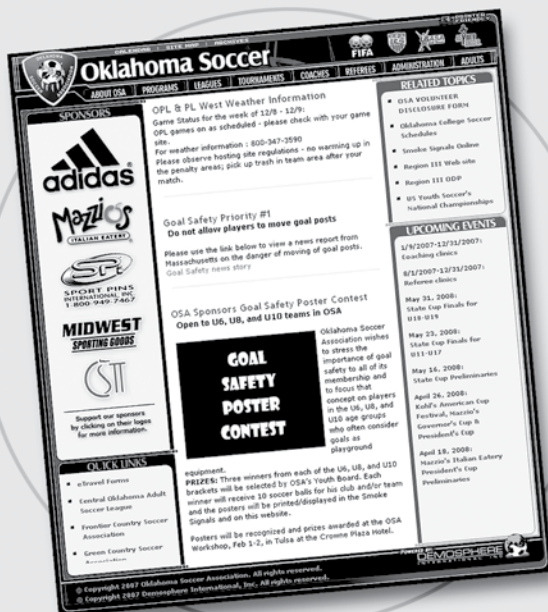
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Geron McGinnis – Coach of the Year Recreational Boys & Region III Coach of the Year

In speaking with Geron McGinnis it doesn't take long before his passion for the game of soccer begins to show through. Growing up the son of an Air Force service man, Geron was born in Texas and lived in New York, Ohio, and Maryland before coming to Oklahoma to attend OU. He is a Navy veteran and holds a Bachelor of Science from OU but his focus is now on kids and soccer.

Diana, his wife, is a math teacher at Booker T. Washington and both daughters, Molly and Jamie, have played for their dad. "Molly married into another soccer family," says McGinnis. "She and Jimmy Guernsey married in August. Molly played soccer in Broken Arrow and at OCU. Jamie is a sophomore at OCU and is on the soccer team."

Like many other dads, Geron became involved when Molly decided to play soccer. He helped Russ Hodel coach the team and soon stepped up to take on the position of coach.

"I took the "F" license in 1995 and then the "E" and in 1998 I completed the "D" course. I even went back in 2002 and took the Youth Modules I & II just to keep up," says McGinnis.

Geron has many quotes he likes to share, but his favorite concerns the role of a coach: "My job as a coach is not to build voice activated robots."

At one point, Diana asked Geron to help out by coaching a team of 5-year-olds. "I asked her how many teams didn't have coaches and she said at least three. I told her I would coach all three if I could get a parent to be the "game facilitator" so I could coach my team and not have to be the coach of three teams on game day."

Until 2000, BA had co-ed teams but the change to small-sided created boys and girls segregated teams didn't bother Geron. He continued to practice the kids together and at times had as many as six teams practicing at the complex. "I was limited to the number of teams to practice on the number of fields and goals we

had. But it was challenging and fun to work with all those kids and then on game day have them just play."

McGinnis' philosophy connects with US Youth's concept of letting the kids play and not try to coach too much during the game. "I feel coaching is simple for adults. If we eliminate the stigma of responsibility for the outcome on the coach, the game loses its pressure. The coach doesn't win or lose the game. I've had players kick the ball in the wrong goal. So what? I would tell him that the next time try and kick it in the other goal."

McGinnis played basketball in his youth and understood that game. "I saw quickly that basketball and soccer are very similar. When I first started coaching I would tell the kids to 'fill the lane' or 'get those garbage goals' until I realized the terms didn't match the game."

If you don't believe McGinnis is "laid back" in his coaching approach, just watch him on the touchline of a game. He's sitting in a chair and tries to let his players know that whatever they do is not going to upset him. "It also helps keep the parents calm," says McGinnis.

David Morgan, head recreational coach at BA, says "Geron is the reason I became a coach. My story is like at least a 100 others and I'm not exaggerating. My daughter was going to play U6 and they needed a coach. Geron said he would take me under his wing and show me the ropes. That was several years ago and two kids later he's still showing me the ropes."

The Little Kickers program (now called BASC U5) is the creation of McGinnis. As the U5 program director, Geron determined that on Saturdays he would take 4 and 5 year old youngsters and show them the basics of soccer. "Imagine two classes of 50 kids ages 4 and 5, their



Jim Weir – Coach of the Year Recreational Girls

Volunteering seems to be in Weir's blood. He works for Modern Woodmen of America and John Hurst, Agency Manager, states: "Jim organizes numerous activities with our group and some of his accomplishments this year include monthly camp dinners, planting trees and flowers, donating park benches, and donating groceries to local Broken Arrow community members. He also raised \$5,000 for schools and parks. He even saw that 4,000 jump ropes were donated for exercise and nutrition classes at schools. He is a great example for our Camp Secretaries and Junior Club leaders."

When he's not donating time for soccer or his job, Jim works with his homeowner's association. "I've been a nine-year board member of Vandever Trails Homeowners and I love being involved with my neighborhood."

Asked who was the most influential person in his coaching career, Weir quickly brought up David Frye. "He was my football, basketball, and track coach in high school. We didn't have soccer, but he taught me by example the importance of sportsmanship. I visited with him after he retired and told him how influential he has been in my life."

Jim shared a moment that every coach knows of. "I was working at the BA complex a few weeks ago and one of my former players whom I have seen in years, came up to me and said, 'Coach, how are you?' That word 'coach' made me feel that I had earned respect from the young man. You can't beat that as a coach."

After seven years of coaching, Weir is still excited about the sport he and his family have adopted. "I love the game of soccer and before moving to Oklahoma I didn't know much about it. But having the opportunity to coach my son and daughter for all of these years and be a part of other kids' lives has been very rewarding."

Congratulations, Jim Weir, Coach of the Year.

Soccer was not a commodity for Jim Weir who was born in Belleville, Kansas, just a few miles from the Nebraska border. After graduating from Mankato High School, Jim moved to Nebraska and in 1998 he and the family moved to Tulsa. Jim's wife, Lynette, and his son Ryan (14 and playing for Manchester United in BA) and daughter Erica (13 and playing for the Lady Scorpions in BA) arrived in Broken Arrow and were soon drawn in to the sport of soccer.

"I became aware of the sport when Erica and Ryan began playing soccer in the living room," laughs Weir. As with most volunteer coaches, Jim was asked to assist in coaching Erica's team by her coach, Mike McCormick. "Soon I was reading books on soccer, watching soccer on television, and signing up to take coaching courses," says Weir. "I currently have my E license from USSF and will take the D in 2008."

It wasn't long before Weir found himself coaching Ryan's team also. Success at coaching is evident by Weir's record. "My girls' team has won our division 3 times and the boys have won 3 times in the past 5 years. I owe much of that to the help of my assistants, Kirk Vantriest (girls) and Jan Lehew (boys). They started as I did, by learning with the kids."

Keith Ash, Broken Arrow Soccer Club president, states: "Jim is prepared for his training sessions and trains them at the appropriate age level. Although he has two teams, he never lets them just "scrimmage" but has practice plans for both teams. As to his character and its affect on the team, the boys won the Sam Shannon Sportsmanship Award at the BASC Fall Recreational Tournament this year."



Brian Harvey

Coach of the Year Competitive Boys & Region III Coach of the Year

"I'm a soccer parent/coach," Brian Harvey proudly states, "just like many of the parents in Oklahoma soccer." OSA's Coach of the Year for Boys' competitive has a few more credentials than most coaches, however. He began playing soccer at the age of five in Liverpool, England.

"We played in the streets," says Harvey. "We didn't have organized practices where someone shows up and on Tuesday and Thursday with a bag of balls and nets. We just played."

Harvey played for Sheffield Wednesday as a junior in school and eventually signed with Chester Soccer Club staying with them until his move to the NASL in 1968. He signed with the Dallas Tornados owned by Lamar Hunt and stayed with them until 1970.

"I moved to Australia in 1971 and played a year with the Wollongong Wolves before going to Hong Kong and playing in that league for seven years," says Harvey. "It was a league that limited the foreign players, much like the NASL did, but most foreign players were from England. I moved back to Dallas in 1978 after a stint with the Minnesota Kicks and began teaching at private schools in the Dallas area."

Harvey worked with Club America and took a U16 boys' team to the national championship in 1979. "Many of those youngsters went on to careers in the NASL and/or college. Some have become coaches in the Dallas area." He stayed in the Dallas area until 1981 when he moved to the Oklahoma City area to coach the Oklahoma City Slickers professional team.

Brian has established roots in the Oklahoma City area. His wife, Judy, is a teacher at the Learning Tree Center and his daughter, Nicole, was a member of the Shockers '82 squad and the Putnam City North High School team.

Brian's professional coaching career led him to Tulsa in 1985 to work with the Tulsa Tornados. "It was a strange situation," he says, "because you had two professional soccer teams in Tulsa for a year. We were in Skelly Stadium and so were the Roughnecks. But the NASL folded that year and I left that situation and returned to Oklahoma City and began working for Coca Cola as their youth marketing director. I then formed the Spirit Soccer Club as a competitive boys' program. We added the girls in about 1988. In 1986 I took the job at Oklahoma City University as boys' coach and been there since." Harvey's move to coaching the college girls in 1994 took some adjustment. "I found they're more analytical than the boys, they listen more, and are in many ways more coachable. But I had to learn to be patient."

"I think as a coach you must realize everybody's different," says Harvey. "I know that sounds simple, but teams are like a stew and you've got to have more than tomatoes. You need a bit of salt, pepper and some garlic along with the main ingredients. In youth soccer as well, the main focus must be on development."

Brian doesn't consider winning to be the goal that so many of his parent/coach colleagues get caught up in. "If you are a youth player, you'll play a 1,000 games in your career. You can't win all those games. You're not going to lose them all, either. Bottom line - you've got to enjoy the game. It's more about how to win or lose with class. If the game is fun, they will stay with it."

As with most coaches, Harvey has a few quotes that he lives by. One of his favorites: "Your last game is your next practice." Another one is: "The best coach in the world is the game. The more kids play the game, the more likely they are to figure it

Harvey story on page 16



Kerry Shubert

Competitive Girls Coach of the Year

Kerry's home life is now centered on his eighteen-month-old daughter, Savannah, and his wife Amber. "Savannah is in my 'Lil Kickers' program at Soccer City," says Kerry. Shubert is owner of Soccer City, an indoor facility in Tulsa. He was named as coach of the Tulsa Revolution in their inaugural year of the franchise.

"We're in our first year in the American Indoor Soccer League and our season will begin in January of 2008," says Shubert. The Revolution will play a match on the Saturday evening of the OSA Workshop states Shubert.

During his stay in Oklahoma City, Shubert coached high school soccer at Edmond Santa Fe where in 1996 he won the 5A boys championship and was named Oklahoma High School Boys Coach of the Year. That year was a milestone for Shubert as his club team EFC Capital Elite reached the US Youth Nationals, the first girls' team from Oklahoma to do so.

During his coaching career to date, Kerry has coached teams to 18 state finals, 13 state championships, and 11 Oklahoma Premier League championships with 7 different teams. Currently he is coaching with the Hurricane Football Club's 92 and 93 girls' squads. The 92 girls are currently the only Oklahoma team to participate in the US Youth National League.

Through years of coaching soccer in Oklahoma, Kerry has developed his own philosophy now. "Everyone has a will to win, but very few people have the will to prepare to win."

Development of players is a cornerstone of Kerry's training. "If you concentrate on developing players, the best will come to you."

Another aspect of his vision is that teams must play quality competition on a weekly basis. "The OPL and PLW have helped us in Oklahoma, but too many teams are still not playing high quality matches every week. Playing non-challenging matches gives the players a false confidence

Shubert story on page 16

Kerry Shubert, OSA's Competitive Girls Coach of the Year, remembers his first coach fondly. "Suzi Page was my first coach," says Kerry. Page, who was honored as Oklahoma's first National Coach of the Year in 1988, is joined by her former player in recognition for contributions to youth soccer.

While he doesn't remember many details of those U6 practices with the exception of the half-time oranges, Kerry does remember the influence of coaches on him as a player and as a coach. The most influential coach I had was Tom Iadevaia, states Shubert. He was the first to coach me in how to read the game and be aware of tactics.

"Tom's philosophy to the team was straightforward: a high work rate will win out over talent," says Shubert. "Tom's influence is still with me because I stress to my players the importance of the will to work hard at getting better."

During his youth playing days, Kerry remained with the Broken Arrow Soccer Club until joining the Tulsa Football Club (TFC) and Coach Iadevaia. After graduating from high school, Kerry moved to Oklahoma City to attend Oklahoma Christian University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1992. During his final two years at OCU, Kerry served as team captain while working at Iraj Danaeifard's soccer shop. It was during his junior year he was approached at Iraj's by a customer to assist in coaching a youth team. "It was a recreational team and I agreed to help," says Kerry. "It wasn't long before I was coaching competitive teams."

During those two final college years Shubert also played for the Oklahoma City Warriors and began pursuing coaching courses. He attained a USSF National License and then completed the NSCAA national diploma during the next several years.

Workshop '08



12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Awards Luncheon

Welcome

Gordon Wilson
Chairman, OSA

Invocation

Introductions
Gordon Wilson
Chairman, OSA

Hall of Fame
Inductees Recognition
Gordon Wilson
Chairman, OSA

2007 Elite Players
ODP Recognition
Mickey Weatherfly
OSA Youth Board 1st VP
Presenter: **Matt Fansher**

Keynote Speaker
Tom McIntosh
University of Tulsa
Men's Soccer Coach

Soccer Goal Post
Safety Contest Winners
Sid Goodrich
Executive Director, OSA

Referees of the Year
Michael Pollock
State Referee Administrator

Volunteer of the Year
Brandon Story
OSA Youth Board President
Gordon Wilson
Chairman, OSA

Keynote Speaker – Tom McIntosh

University of Tulsa Men's Soccer Coach



Tom McIntosh grew up playing soccer in Tulsa and then for TU before accepting the head coaching position of the Golden Hurricane in 1995. He is only the fourth head coach in the 26-year history of the Tulsa men's soccer program.

Since his first season as head coach, McIntosh has built Tulsa into a conference powerhouse, first in the Western Athletic Conference (1996-1999), six seasons in the Missouri Valley Conference (1995, 2000-04) and through two seasons in Conference USA (2005-present), and has brought the Hurricane back into the national spotlight. Tulsa has advanced to the NCAA Tournament in two of the last four seasons, including a national quarterfinal appearance in 2004. TU has a 3-2-1 NCAA Tournament mark under McIntosh. Over the past four seasons, Tulsa has been

ranked or received votes in the national poll for 27 weeks and has been ranked as high as No. 8.

At the state level, McIntosh led his U16 squad to two state championships and has been an ODP coach for OSA. McIntosh and his wife, Denise, have one son, Ian Thomas (3), and one daughter Avery Elizabeth (1). The family resides in Tulsa.

OSA 2008 Honorees

Gayl Wilson
OSA Hall
of Fame
Recipient



Robert Muzny
OSA Volunteer
of the Year



Brian Harvey
Coach of
the Year
Comp. Boys
and Region III
Representative



Geron McGinnis
Coach of
the Year
Rec. Boys
and Region III
Representative



Jim Weir
Coach of
the Year
Rec. Girls



Kerry Shubert
Coach of
the Year
Comp. Girls



Parris Sanders
Adult
Referee
of the Year



Tonya Keener
Girls
Youth Referee
of the Year



Omeed Azadpour
Boys
Youth Referee
of the Year





Workshop '08

COACHING - REF ASSIGNOR - RISK MANAGEMENT - COLLEGE Q & A

Session Information and Awards Luncheon

Friday, February 1, 2008

2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

COACHING

Topic: NSCAA State Goalkeeping Course

The overall objective of the State Goalkeeping Diploma is to explore some of the myths and mystiques surrounding the goalkeeping function. The course is directed towards the team coach - not the specialist goalkeeper coach.

The object is to empower the coach with knowledge and practice methods that will enable the coach to evaluate a goalkeeper in game situations and then design an appropriate practice program for goalkeepers in and outside of team practices. The course includes lecture (theory) and field (practical) sessions.

Presenter: NSCAA National Staff

Location: (off site) Soccer City 5817 S 118th E. Ave

Friday 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

REFEREE

Topic: Referee Assignor Course Parts 1 & 2

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

A four-part course provides required USSF training in referee assigning. Every club in Oklahoma is required to have a registered assignor who is responsible for assigning referees to its matches. Attendance at all four sessions is required. Assignors will gain access to all registered referees in the state and learn techniques on how to assign matches and tournaments.

Presenter: David Ooten, State Coordinator of Assignors

Location: Promenade A Ballroom

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08. Each session is a separate presentation.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row, Room 3

COACHING

Topic: Youth Module I Coaching Course

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Beginning sessions for those coaches who wish to attain the Youth Module as part of their required licensing. Youth Module I is for U6-U8 coaches. Attendance at all sessions is required. Sessions will cover such topics as philosophy of coaching, characteristics of the U6/U8 player, team management, risk management, care and prevention of injuries, and developmentally appropriate field activities and games.

Presenter: OSA State Staff

Location: Promenade C Ballroom

Topic: Youth Module II Coaching Course

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Games, activities, and demonstrations appropriate for the U10 player and coach will be the focus of this session.

Presenter: OSA State Staff

Location: Promenade C Ballroom

ADMINISTRATION

OSA Welcome Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception – 6:30 p.m.

OSA reception and Induction Ceremony honoring the Nominees for the Class of 2008

Location: Promenade Ballroom B

Youth General Membership Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

Country presidents meet with the Youth Division for a business meeting.

Location: Executive Room

Adult General Membership Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

Adult and league club presidents and officers meet with the Adult Division for a business meeting.

Location: Diplomat Room

OSA Hall of Fame Reception, continued – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Promenade B Ballroom

Saturday, February 2, 2008

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

OSA Hosted Continental Breakfast presented by OSA Youth Board in Promenade Ballroom Foyer
Vendor Booths and Exhibits open

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

COACHING

Topic: Coaching Youth Module I, continued

Beginning sessions for those coaches who wish to attain the Youth Module as part of their required licensing. Youth Module I is for U6-U8 coaches. Attendance at all sessions is required. Sessions will cover such topics as philosophy of coaching, characteristics of the U6/U8 player, team management, risk management, care and prevention of injuries, and developmentally appropriate field activities and games.

Presenter: OSA State Staff

Location: Tulsa Ballroom downstairs

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SOCCER-TENNIS State Championship Finals

Location: Promenade Ballrooms A&B

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

COACHING

Topic: Coaching Youth Module I, continued

Beginning sessions for those coaches who wish to attain the Youth Module as part of their required licensing.

Presenter: OSA State Staff

Location: Tulsa Ballroom downstairs

ADMINISTRATION

Topic: Registrar Session 1 – Club/Country Registration 2008

Club registrars will be given first hand information on how to properly register players for the 2008 year. This is the first of four sessions of the registrar certification course. Attendance at all three is required to complete the course.

Presenter: Tom Wedding, OSA Registrar

Location: Executive Room

REFEREE

Topic: Area Referee Meeting

Overview of the role of the Area Referee and discussion of topics pertinent to the development of the referee program at the local level as overseen by the Area Referee.

Presenter: Michael Pollock, SRA;
Wayne Ewing, SYRA

Location: Director's Row, Room 4

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08. Each session is a separate presentation.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row, Room 3

SPORTS MEDICINE

Topic: ACL I

Learn about the infamous ACL injury, its care and prevention.

Presenter: Dr. Bond, OU Medical School

Location: Director's Row, Room 5

Morning break – visit the vendor area for coffee, cookies, and much more!

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Topic: Risk Management I – How to have an effective RM program

Learn how to organize and set up the Risk Management program required of all soccer leagues and clubs.

Presenters: Traci Frederick – OSA Risk Management Chair

Location: Executive Room

Topic: Oklahoma Premier League 2008-2009

Presentation on the future goals and policies of the Oklahoma Premier League for the next year.

Presenter: Scott Hughes – OSA 2nd VP Competitive

Location: Director's Row, Room 4



February 1-3, 2008

SPORTS MEDICINE - YOUTH MODULES - REGISTRAR - REF TRAINING

SPORTS MEDICINE

Topic: ACL II

Learn more about the infamous ACL injury, its care and prevention.

Presenter: Dr. Bond, OU Medical School

Location: Director's Row, Room 5

REFEREE

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08. Each session is a separate presentation.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row Room 3

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

REFEREE

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08. Each session is a separate presentation.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row, Room 3

ADMINISTRATION

Topic: Adult Soccer - Roundtable

Meet with leaders of the Adult soccer program to discuss adult soccer leagues, development of adult soccer, and ways to grow adult soccer in Oklahoma.

Presenter: Adult Division Board

Location: Director's Row, Room 1

Topic: 2008 Recreational Program Project

The backbone of Oklahoma Soccer Association is the recreational soccer team. Learn ways to make the program grow for your club. Tips on how to accomplish these tasks will be discussed.

Presenter: Paul Scott, 3rd Vice President OSA Youth Board

Location: Director's Row, Room 4

Topic: Risk Management II – Darkness to Light Program

Be made aware of the startling ways in which your children/players may be at risk.

Presenter: Traci Frederick, OSA Risk Management Chair

Location: Executive room

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Location: Promenade Ballrooms C & D

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

COACHING

Topic: Youth Module II Coaching Course, cont'd

Games, activities, and demonstrations appropriate for the U10 player and coach will be the focus.

Presenter: OSA Coaching Staff

Location: Tulsa Ballroom downstairs

ADMINISTRATION

Topic: Marketing for college – The Sport Source.

How do you present your college-bound player to the colleges who are looking for players? Charlie Kadupski can show you and provides practical tips for securing scholarships.

Presenter: Sport Source

Location: Diplomat Room

Topic: Holding an Appeals & Disciplinary Hearing

How to set up and present hearings that provide due process to all parties concerned and that will eliminate many appeals due to improperly convened hearings.

Presenter: Gail Wettstein – OSA Vice Chair Executive Board

Location: Director's Row, Room 4

REFEREE

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08. Each session is a separate presentation.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Topic: Referee Assignor Course Part 3

Part four of the Assignor course.

Presenter: David Ooten, State Coordinator of Assignors

Location: Executive Room

3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

COACHING

Topic: Youth Module II Coaching Course, cont'd.

Games, activities, and demonstrations appropriate for the U10 player and coach will be the focus of this session.

Presenter: OSA Coaching Staff

Location: Tulsa Ballroom downstairs

Topic: College Soccer Panel – Meet the Coaches Q & A

Several college coaches from around Oklahoma and the region will be available to discuss the prospects for scholarships, what they look for in athletes, and how to present your players in the best possible light. Plenty of time will be given for questions.

Presenters: Oklahoma College Coaches Panel

Location: Diplomat Room

REFEREE

Topic: Referee Assignor Course Part 4

Part four of the Assignor course.

Presenter: David Ooten, State Coordinator of Assignors

Location: Executive Room

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row, Room 3

ADMINISTRATION

Topic: How to hold an Appeals and Disciplinary Hearing, Part II

Continuation of the material presented in the previous session on how to set up and provide due process in the hearings held at club and league level.

Presenter: Gail Wettstein – OSA Vice Chair Executive Board

Location: Director's Row, Room 4

Sunday, February 3, 2008

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

COACHING

Topic: NSCAA Regional Goalkeeper Training

The overall objective of the State Goalkeeping Diploma is to explore some of the myths and mystiques surrounding the goalkeeping function. The course is directed towards the team coach - not the specialist goalkeeper coach.

The object is to empower the coach with knowledge and practice methods that will enable the coach to evaluate a goalkeeper in game situations and then design an appropriate practice program for goalkeepers in and outside of team practices. The course includes lecture (theory) and field (practical) sessions.

Presenter: NSCAA National Staff

Location: Crowne Plaza Tulsa Ballroom

Sunday, February 3, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

REFEREE

Topic: Advanced Referee Training

United States Soccer Federation instruction on the latest techniques and policies regarding officiating in the United States. Class is geared to upper level referees who have attained a minimum of Grade 08.

Presenter: Austin Gomez, USSF National Instructor/ Assessor

Location: Director's Row Room 3

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Vs

THE PITCH



IS MY STAGE

adidas.com/soccer IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING



AS WORN BY TEAM MEMBERS: MESSI, ROBBEN, PODOLSKI, CISSÉ.





Omeed Azadpour – Youth Referee of the Year Boys

When a teenager recognizes that becoming a soccer referee gives you the opportunity to gain confidence and maturity, he/she is well on the way to becoming an adult. “Being a referee has changed me so much,” says Omeed Azadpour. “I know that many of my referee friends won’t believe this, but I was often shy around people I didn’t know. But after being around so many referees who have befriended me and taught me and share stories with me, I now feel more open to begin conversations and meet new people.”

Most referees in Oklahoma who have been around Omeed know the young man with the constant chatter, the ever-present smile, and the good-natured jesting who entertains in the referee tent.

“I took the 09 Recreational Referee class when I was ten years old,” says Azadpour. “I wanted to be with my dad as he officiated matches. It was never about the money – it was about being with him and around all the referees.”

Although Omeed made money officiating those early years, his father, Alex, kept it and saved it for him. “I didn’t get to keep it,” says Omeed. “Dad took it and put it away for my first car.”

Omeed’s mother, Robey, his sister Azeta (14), and Elmera (10) make up the Azadpour family. “Other than mother, we’re all officials or will be soon,” says Omeed. “I’m trying to get Elmera to take the referee class this spring and Azeta to join us.”

While Azeta is not playing soccer now, both Omeed and Elmera play on teams in Edmond. “I play for Revolution and Elmera plays for the Red Hots. My dad coaches them and he’s had a great time this year going back to coaching the game.”

Every referee has the game that makes him or her lose confidence in the ability to call a match. For Omeed it was his first U10 center. He had been working lines and was comfort-

able with that but when given the center of a U10 at the age of 12, Omeed was nervous. “My dad was pretty blunt with me,” says Omeed. “He just said to me ‘Get out there and do it and do it now!’ and I did.” It appears that Alex’s admonition worked because soon Omeed was taking the 08 referee course and quickly moving on to advanced games.

“Dad worked with me on how to handle players and coaches and aspects of the game,” says Omeed. “I appreciate his support of my effort.”

Omeed’s father was not the only influence on his referee career. After being observed by upper level referees at various tournaments, Omeed was asked to join a mentor program supported by the State Referee Committee. “I was given the opportunity to work with Jonathan Johnson, Paul Scott, Parris Sanders, Brandon Story, Wayne Ewing, Michael Pollock, and other experienced referees. I found out they weren’t there to judge me, as much as to help me get better. I can’t explain how much that helped me become a better official.”

In one match, Sanders stood across the field from Azadpour and ran up and down the line to show where the AR was supposed to be. “I still laugh about that today,” says Omeed, “but in my heart I know he was doing it because he wanted me to succeed and to make sure I knew where that darned second to last defender was.”

Story was the assignor who had faith in Omeed’s ability and gave him his first U12 middle. “I was nervous that day and Brandon told me that I could do it if I believed in myself and had enough perseverance to handle it. It was good to know that he knew my limits and my ability. I respect him for that.”

As of 2007 Omeed has worked state tournaments, Regionals, Regional President’s Cup, OPL, and PLW matches as well as local tour-

see Azadpour story on page 16



Tonya Keener – Female Youth Referee of the Year

Tonya Keener began playing soccer in her hometown of Broken Arrow and in the fall of 2000 she decided that to be a better player she needed to know the game. “I took the 09 class because I wanted to know the rules,” says Keener. “After the class was over I had a new appreciation of how the game was played.”

Not only did she have a new appreciation, her mom was there with her during the class and soon Beau Keener convinced her husband, Ken, to take the course, too. “My mom and dad have both been very supportive of my refereeing,” says Keener. “They don’t referee but they understand the pressures referees face and how difficult it is to manage players and coaches.”

The Keener household has four referees in it. While Tonya is the oldest, her brothers have followed in her footsteps as a player and referee. Brandon, 16, plays for Bixby Highlanders 92; Preston, 13, plays for TSC 94; and Austin, 11, plays for TSC 96. All four work tournaments and matches in their home club at Metro Tulsa and other venues.

Asked what advice she would share with younger referees, Tonya quickly replied, “It’s what I tell my brothers – If you have a bad game where the coach or players are yelling at you and you just want to go home and never officiate another match, convince yourself to do one more game and to do one at a younger level or run a line on an older game. The way to get better is to do more and more games so that you get the experience to deal with the difficulties.”

Tonya’s first game was a U14 line. Not an easy introduction to soccer officiating. “I remember it very well,” says Keener. “I ran the line for Neal Mercer and I was so proud of my two offside calls, but then I missed one and Neal caught it. He was very understanding.”

Tonya is one of several referees around the state who benefit from a

mentor program that recognizes referees with potential and then strives to place them in matches with experienced referees who can develop the skills needed to advance as an official.

“Neal Mercer, Bill Harn, and Jim Brittain were very helpful as I came along,” says Keener. “They found a group of us who were willing to listen and work hard at being better officials. We would meet every weekend and discuss our matches and what needed to be done to get better.”

After Tonya graduates from Jenks High School this spring, she’ll most likely continue to hold that 4.1 GPA and then enroll in college at either Rice University or Southern Methodist University to study engineering. While the referee community may miss her while she’s away, Tonya plans on officiating while in college and returning home to continue working matches in the Tulsa area. “Atef Iskander, National Referee Emeritus, has tried to convince me to enroll in an Oklahoma college,” laughs Keener. “He wants me to stay in Oklahoma and keeps trying to make me stay.”

It’s doubtful that Iskander will have any affect on Tonya’s decision. One thing she credits officiating with is confidence. “I am no longer afraid of accepting assignments or facing coaches who have a reputation of yelling,” says Keener. “I try to have fun while on the field. I’ve even calmed down coaches who are yelling at me by approaching them and offering them a lollipop. Sometimes I’ll walk over and give them a piece of gum and ask them to just calm down. It’s been useful for me to learn to deal with someone much older than I am and not be intimidated.”

Just recently, according to Keener, she was assigned a U19 boys’ match and one of the coaches complained to the Assignor that he did not want a female on his match. When informed the choices were play the

see Keener story on page 16

Coach McGinnis,

story from page 9

parents and one coach and one assistant, says Morgan. By showing parents it's easy to coach kids to play the game, McGinnis has created a talent pool of future coaches in Broken Arrow.

Robbie Evans is the Young Families Minister with First Baptist Church in Broken Arrow. "I had to opportunity to place myself (parents must participate) with my youngest in the BASC U5 program last spring. I learned so much about teaching ball skills and motivating the kids from Geron. He's devised a great program that creates an atmosphere for the parent and the player to work together."

Tim Boyd helped Geron begin the program and like many others states: "If it weren't for Geron I probably wouldn't be coaching. Geron was always willing to help and show the ropes to any new coach. His motto was to 'have fun' and anyone who can be with 4 and 5 year olds and their parents for an hour on Saturday, is truly a great coach." McGinnis' program in the fall of 2007 had 70 youngsters playing.

In his real life, Geron is a component maintenance supervisor in the Wheel Shop of American Airlines. He is proud of his daughters' accomplishments and supports OCU's soccer program. And now the family has another reason to be proud of Geron – he is the first recipient of the Region III Recreational Coach of the Year Award and will travel to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to be recognized for his years of work. But the real benefactors of Geron's hard work are the players and parents of Oklahoma Soccer Association.

Congratulations, Geron McGinnis.

Coach Shubert,

story from page 10

and when strong competition emerges, the team suffers."

Kerry resides in Tulsa and spends his days at a job he loves – operating an indoor soccer facility. "We had over 300 teams enrolled for the winter and 120 adult teams that play here year round," says Shubert. The Tulsa market appears to support the indoor facility and Shubert is pleased that the site is busy every day.

"I'm ready for the first match of the AISL on January 5," says Shubert and it will be fun because about 65% of our players are youth coaches." He

NSCAA Goalkeeper Courses Offered At Workshop

Two levels of goalkeeper training will be offered at the OSA Soccer Workshop on February 1-3, 2008. Matt Fansher, OSA Director of Coaching, set up the state level goalkeeper course with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America to provide training for high school coaches and competitive coaches.

"We will offer the six hour course for an additional \$30 beyond the regular OSA Workshop fee," says Fansher. The class will be held offsite at Soccer City (indoor soccer facility) in Tulsa from 1pm to 8pm.

The NSCAA Regional Goalkeeper course will run Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Soccer City site.

"The NSCAA schools are some of the finest coaching courses available," says Fansher. "We hope that we can have a large number of our coaches trained in this skill because goalkeeper training is vital to the success of any squad."

The cost of the NSCAA Regional course is an additional \$60 beyond the OSA Workshop registration fee.

The overall objective of the State and Regional Goalkeeping Diploma is to explore some of the myths and mystiques surrounding the goalkeeping function. The courses are directed towards the team coach - not the specialist goalkeeper coach.

The object is to empower the coach with knowledge and practice methods that will enable the coach to evaluate a goalkeeper in game situations and then design an appropriate practice program for goalkeepers in and outside of team practices. The course includes lecture (theory) and field (practical) sessions.

expects many of the players to come watch their coach play the indoor game.

Whether coaching outdoor or indoor, Kerry Shubert demonstrates his philosophy to all – outwork your opponent and you will be a winner.

Coach Harvey,

story from page 10

out. That little player on the field, he is the decision maker; there is very little a parent or coach can do – the player has got to figure it out."

The OCU women tallied a 15-5 season in 2007 reaching the semifinals of the NAIA Region VI tournament.

The men's college program is equally successful this year compiling a 15-5-1 record reaching the championship rounds in both the Sooner Athletic Conference and the NAIA Region VI tournament. OCU teams have never had a losing season, and his graduation rate is 90 percent. His college players have gone on to be lawyers, doctors and college coaches themselves – Todd McPherson coaches at St. Gregory's in Shawnee; Jed Jones is head coach at Centenary; Billy Martin is now an assistant coach at with Brian at OCU.

Harvey believes Oklahoma must identify its top players and the ODP does that even though it often lets some slip through the cracks. "I think looking at players in their own environment is important," says Harvey. "In Oklahoma you've great distances for players to travel and the financial obligation is difficult. I think scouting for players is a better way to find those outstanding players. I like to draw the parallel between youngsters who wind up in college and have great GPA's but whose ACT scores were not very good. Some of them are just not very good test takers, and some of our kids just don't excel at try-outs but are fine players of the game."

The ESC 93 Black squad of young men are the focus of Harvey's attention at the club level. According to Laura Berney, "The boys love practice and that's a direct result of the way Brian coaches. He is trying to develop the boys as well as the team."

The team recently traveled to Europe competing in the Welsh International Super Cup and brought home the championship in their age group.

Brian Harvey continues his hectic pace of college coach, club coach, and ODP coach. Although recently recovering from two hip replacements, he never missed practices and continued to coach all his squads, commented Laura Berney.

That dedication and perseverance is but a part of why Brian Harvey is a "coach" in the eyes of his players.

Ref Azadpour,

story from page 15

naments. "The more games I work, the more I respect the players and the coaches who are trying to make the game more competitive. Parents pay money for coaches to get the best out of their children and as officials we need to give them the best game we can."

Although Omeed has his 07 badge, he is working to become a State referee. "I have a dream of becoming a FIFA referee. It's my goal and I am working hard to achieve that."

Experience is the key to officiating, according to Omeed. He has seen that the better officials have accumulated hundreds of matches and learned from each one. "Decisions come easier when you've experienced situations," says Omeed. "Without the experience a referee can harm the game with poor decisions. I often explain my decisions to players and coaches and I have the confidence to know how to approach situations that a few years ago would have confused me."

Omeed is looking forward to bringing Elmera along in his footsteps. "I want her to be the first FIFA female referee in Oklahoma. I will support her and be there for her."

If dedication and hard work are the basis for Omeed's dream, he should have that white FIFA badge some day. Congratulations, Omeed Azadpour.

Ref Keener,

story from page 15

game with Tonya officiating or take a forfeit, the coach accepted Keener's appointment. "After the game was over," says Keener, "the boys from both teams commented that they appreciated what a good job I had done and that I was one of the better referees they had that season."

Wise for her age and mature for her referee grade level, Tonya will attend the Upgrade Clinic in January to attain her 07 grade badge. It is the beginning of a process that she looks forward to and the referee corps in Oklahoma is supporting. Tonya and her referee "sisters" in Oklahoma are making an impact on USSF officials. If you are a true soccer fan, you might be lucky enough to watch this amazing young lady officiate one of your matches. Congratulations, Tonya Keener on selection as Youth Referee of the Year.

Referee News

Assessor Clinic Set For January

USSF announced that all Assessor training beginning in the fall of 2007 must be given by a national assessor/instructor. In order to meet the needs of the state for Assessors, Milo Slater, Director of Assessments, requested an Assessor course for January 25-27, 2008.

"We will provide the facility for David Olmos, a National Assessor from South Texas, and will train approximately 15 State referees in the art of assessment," says Slater.

While Olmos presents the material, Oklahoma State Instructors will participate and observe the training and then be able to present the material to future assessor courses.

USSF altered its training of Assessors to attain more standardization of class. "The course no longer depends on a live game to be viewed," says Slater. "Instead, the class will view a taped version of a match. The points made during the assessment of the match will thus be consistent with what is taught throughout the United States."

The three-day class will be held at the OSU campus and the candidates will be required to assess a number of matches during the 2008 year in order to maintain their registration.

USSF's assessment program strives to serve the referees as a teaching tool, rather than a punishment, according to the SRC members. "The Assessor is but one of the many resources referees have while they are officiating. We have mentors, instructors, and academy training for our referees," says Michael Pollock, SRA. "Most referees look upon assessments as the best way to improve their game and not something negative. Assessors are referees who have experience in the game and are willing to share that knowledge with other referees."

Upgrade Class Scheduled for Referees

"This will be our largest Upgrade class for referees in recent years," says Dale Watts, State Director of Instruction. "We have over 30 candidates coming to OSU on January 18-19, 2008 to upgrade to either the 07 grade, 06 grade (State 2), or 05 grade (State 1). The last class that was this large met at Stroud back in the late 1980's."

The 07 and 05 candidates will meet on Saturday at the Wes Watkins Center for eight hours of instruction. The 06 candidates meet Friday evening and Saturday for a total of 12 hours of instruction.

"We provide eight hours of training for our 07 candidates," says Watts. "We do that so they will be prepared for the type of matches they will face as upper level referees. Most of our 07 referees will work every level of game available in the state. Therefore, they need to be prepared for that."

Every referee attending the course must have passed assessments, taken a recert class, and passed a fitness exam. "Our State 2 candidates spend twelve hours with us. That's added to the training they received as 07's and means the State referee will have had twenty hours of additional training before he/she steps on the field as a State referee," says Watts.

State 1 candidates take an eight-hour course and are eligible to begin the process of becoming a National referee. "State 1 or grade 5 referees are actually considered National referee candidates if they are young enough. A State 5 referee is supposed to be capable of officiating any match in our state. It's our task to see that they meet that criteria."

Referees who are 17 years of age may begin the upgrading process by visiting the OSA website at www.oksoccer.com and the Referee page. Look for the "How to Upgrade" link for information.



Parris Sanders, Adult Referee of the Year

Parris Sanders loves the challenge of officiating soccer matches. "It's one of the most difficult jobs you can have," says Sanders of the referee's task. "You have to think on your feet while running up and down the field and you have to do it well. It's a challenge but it's also a lot of fun."

Parris arrived in Edmond in 1996 when his wife Sheryl was transferred from Boston. "As we were driving around the city, Ian and Camille spotted kids playing soccer and wanted to sign up. Naturally, when they did I had to agree to coach them."

Ian now plays for ESC 91 Black and Camille for ESC 93 Black. Parris signed up for the US Youth coaching schools and took the E, F, and D license courses. "I enjoyed coaching my kids and learning about the game. We didn't play soccer in my hometown of Chicago," says Sanders.

During a U8 match he was coaching, Parris became upset with the official calling the match. "I complained to the Edmond club about the officiating and they told me they didn't have enough referees. I was asked if I would referee and I said I would."

Soon Parris was refereeing matches and working closely with Gene and Anna Naukaum. "Gene became my mentor," says Sanders. "He showed me how to have fun while doing the games and how to enjoy being a referee. Gene told me to work with officials and learn from them and copy the good things they do."

Sanders is a firm believer in gaining lots of experience before upgrading to higher levels of officiating. "You face adversity in matches and if you have no experience in how to deal with it you will not enjoy refereeing. I learned to be honest with myself and to accept my good games and my bad games and to learn from those experiences."

By slowly moving up the age brackets from U7 to adult matches, Sanders experienced methods of game control and man management. He remembers Naukaum assigning him to a high level match as an Assistant Referee. "Gene said I'm giving you this assignment with a good referee and I want you to watch how he does the match. Before Gene brought the referee over, he also said to 'ignore his badge.' The referee was Michael Pollock and he was a State referee. I was so impressed with Pollock's game that I wanted to wear that badge, too."

Sanders has since earned the State badge and has also become a Referee instructor and will soon attend an Assessor clinic. The former Eagle Scout sees much similarity between the grades of referee badges and Boy Scout badges. "Each requires a certain amount of work and time before you can move up," says Sanders. "Each organization expects you to work with a leader or mentor."

As Adult Referee of the Year, Sanders reminds new referees and those still trying to advance to learn the material. "We have to study the Laws of the Game and get a good foundation before we can move up the ladder."

Parris Sanders has shown that studying the game and spending the time to experience it at many levels pays off. Congratulations, Parris on your accomplishments.

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Watts' What

By Dale Watts, Editor



Two questions mark the year 2007: "Is it still raining?" and "Do you have power?"

For soccer folk, the first one was part of the spring of 2007 and continued right into early summer. Folks in Oklahoma City and South Lakes Soccer Club know all about question number one.

Some folks thought the 40 days and 40 nights of rain was a bit too much. The weather forecasters were loving the extra time they received to show us Doppler, and Doppler quadzillion, and Zircon 6 from planet 9, or some such stuff that caused the television to flood with magnificent colors.

I traveled to Yukon in the middle of June to prepare for the high school all-state games and got a taste of what Regionals would face. It's not much fun to spend your afternoon watching a television monitor and wonder if the field will be playable. The games were played in several downpours and re-scheduled when lightning was a factor. But in true Okie fashion, we managed.

Two weeks later, teams from eleven states arrived in Oklahoma City and the rain had continued through those days. Even though Governor Brad Henry and Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett promised the rains would stop, their influence didn't seem to affect the storm.

The organization and teamwork of the US Youth, OSA, Frontier Country, and South Lakes demonstrated how activities could be held with cooperation and flexibility. When the fields became muddy, high schools sites with all-weather turf were used. When games were delayed, they were played under lights at other sites. Helicopters were used to blow water off the fields and parents and teams often

grabbed brooms to push water out of the goal areas.

An unfortunate side of the event is that SLSC's concession stand took a huge hit. Instead of thousands of folk clamoring for cold drinks and food, the players, coaches, parents, and family members came to the game, watched from under umbrellas, and quickly headed back to the shelter of the hotel.

Just to let you know, Robert Muzny, our Volunteer of the Year, is in charge of fields at SLSC and he says the fields are back to normal thanks to lots of volunteers and help from Oklahoma City.

And so we headed through the fall and early winter without too much aggravation. Then came the ice. If you're like me, you probably spent several days sitting in your home with a flashlight while trying to read a book or find a saw to cut the trees blocking your driveway.

"Do you have power?" became the catch phrase of December. There will be many stories of the long wait for electricity to return. Thankfully, we had no tournaments scheduled during that stretch of time, but the OSA office was down for two days and without telephones for nearly a week. How quickly we become reliant on technology. I can't count the number of times I would pick up the phone to call, turn on the light switch to the bathroom, press the garage door opener, or start to make a pot of coffee before I remembered – no power!

So soccer fans, we've gone past 2007. It was book ended by ice in January of 2007 and ended with ice again in December. As we approach the Workshop of 2008, I do not want ice in the forecast. So let's all pitch in and make that Doppler stuff melt any approaching ice storm. I want 2008 to be a year without weather quotes.



RUNNING IN SOCCER – MERELY LOCOMOTION OR SOMETHING MORE?

By, Sam Snow, Director of Coaching for US Youth Soccer
U. S. Soccer National Staff Instructor

Why do coaches have players run? There are generally three reasons most coaches have players do running exercises. They are for punishment, warm-up and fitness. Examining each of these three reasons punishment is the most erroneous.

Frequently coaches use running as a punishment for misbehavior during a training session. Some coaches have even used running as a punishment for an entire team at the end of a match if the team did not meet the coach's expectations of performance. For the individual and the team using running as a punishment hurts team moral more than it solves any behavior problem. First of all soccer is a game that requires a lot of running. You have to like running to play the game. Why give something so integral to the sport a negative connotation both mentally and emotionally for the players? This is just the opposite of what the coach should be trying to achieve in developing a team. If punishment is needed for misbehavior then there are many other options the coach could use other than running as punishment. Soccer coaches should never use running as a punishment!

Far too many coaches use running laps as a way to warm-up players for a training session or match. Coaches who have earned the "Y" License or have attended a Youth Module course know running laps is one of the three Ls to be avoided. The three Ls are laps, lines and lectures. Please avoid the three Ls during your training sessions. There are many activities that a coach can do with the ball to warm-up players for a training session or match. These activities will get the blood flowing and the muscles, tendons and ligaments warmed-up for a good stretch. The boon of this approach to warm-up is increased contact time with the ball, which has a positive impact on the players' ball skills. It also is more effective in getting the players mentally warmed-up to play soccer. Running

laps has nothing to do with playing soccer, for soccer players don't run in straight lines at the same pace for 100 or more yards during a match. So what in the world does running laps around the field have to do with the game? The physical aspect of the warm-up should simulate the physical demands of the game.

Running exercises of course are necessary to improve players' physical fitness to meet the demands of the game. With children in the U6 to U14 age groups fitness improvement can be accomplished in activities with the ball. Check out the book [The Baffled Parent's Guide To Coaching Youth Soccer](#) by Bobby Clark for some great activities you can use to this end. Adolescent (15- to 23-years-old) and adult players will need some exercises without the ball for the overload principle to come into affect to maximize their match fitness. Coaches working with the players 15 or older should attend the "C" License coaching course to learn more about fitness training for older soccer players.

There are two words in soccer that I dislike. They are drill and hustle. To find out why drills destroy skills and should not be used in youth soccer please attend the "Y" License coaching course. As for hustle it is so often misused that it has come to mean run around the field like a chicken with your head cut off. In other words the coach saw a soccer game once and everyone was running so if you are not "hustling" then you are not playing soccer. Hustle has come to mean mindless running, merely for the sake of running. Do soccer players need to have a high work rate? YES! But it means tactical running, on and off the ball movement with a purpose.

Soccer players need to learn when to run and when to not run. There are times when it is tactically correct to not run. They also need to learn at what angle to run. Far too many American players run constant-

see *Running*, story on page 20

Tournament Scores

Editor's Note: Publication of tournament scores is dependent on the host club to submit the Tournament Evaluation report to the OSA, which includes final scores. If a tournament's scores/standings are not printed, they did not reach the editor in time for the publication's deadline.

Broken Arrow Fall Recreation November 16-18

Boys
U19
1st – Miami Dawg House – 7
2nd – Tahlequah Galaxy – 2
U16
1st – Muskogee MSI Gladiators – 5
2nd – CTSC Shooting Stars – 1
U14
1st – TUSC Triumph – 5
2nd – Coweta Tigers – 1
U12 Gold
1st – Mayes County Thunder – 2
2nd – Verdigris Blaze – 1
U12 Silver
1st – BA Kaos – 7
2nd – Grove Immortals – 5
U10 Gold
1st – BA Fireballs – 2
2nd – Claremore Freedom – 1
U10 Silver
1st – BA Wolfpack – 4
2nd – BA Spirit – 0
U10 Bronze
1st – TUSA Cobras – 7
2nd – Heavener Strikers – 1
U9
1st – TUSC Blue Wolves – 1
2nd – Ponca City Gators – 0
U8
1st – BA Havoc – 4
2nd – Ft Gibson Crush – 2
U7 Gold
1st – BA Fire – 3
2nd – Muskogee Arsenal – 2
U7 Silver
1st – BA Storm – 3
2nd – BA Explosion – 2
Girls
U19
1st – BA Crush – 3
2nd – Skiatook United – 0
U16
1st – Tri-City Chaos – 2
2nd – Edmond Challengers – 1
U14
1st – BA Ambush – 3
2nd – Wagoner K-OSS – 2
U12 Gold
1st – BA Crushers – 4
2nd – Coweta Wildcats – 3
U12 Silver
1st – Westville Hazardous – 2
2nd – Mayes County Select – 0
U10 Gold
1st – Yukon Cheetah Girls – 5
2nd – Skiatook Red Hots – 0
U10 Silver
1st – BA Cyclones – 2
2nd – St Pius Cheetas – 1
U8 Gold
1st – Ft Gibson Shockers – 9
2nd – Owasso United – 4

U8 Silver
1st – Owasso Angels – 6
2nd – BA Cheetas – 2
U7
1st – BA Lightning – 5
2nd – BA Shooting Stars – 1

TSC Sam Shannon Cup Showcase November 17-18 Girls

U16
1st – TSC 91 White – 5
2nd – Genesis 92 – 0
U15
1st – HFC 93 Beattie – 1
2nd – SSC 93 Red – 0
U14
1st – TSC 94 White – 3
2nd – KS ODP Orange – 1
U13
1st – TSC 95 White – 1
2nd – HFC 95 Rheim – 0
U12 Gold
1st – KC Comets Select – 4
2nd – Thunder 96 Black – 0
U12 Silver
1st – Thunder Black 97 – 2
2nd – JP Marine – 0
U11
1st – Nationals 97 Black – 3
2nd – Canadian Valley FC 97 Red – 1
U10
1st – EFA 98 Black – 4
2nd – Basers 99 – 1

TSC Sam Shannon Cup Showcase November 26-27 Boys

U16
1st – TSC 92 – 1
2nd – Thunder 92 Green – 0
U15
1st – TSC 93 Red – 4
2nd – KC Wizards Jr's – 1
U14
1st – TSC 94 Black – 1
2nd – CD Independiente 94 – 0
U13
1st – KS ODP Blue – 3
2nd – TSC 96 Red – 2
U12
1st – TSC 96 White – 2
2nd – DC Vaqueros – 0

Norman Classic Cup November 17-18

Scores were not provided
Boys
U18
1st – NYSA Celtic 91 Green
2nd – ESC 91 Black
U17
1st – Magic 92
2nd – NYC Celtic 92 Green
U16
1st – WSC Wizards 92
2nd – ESC 92 White
U15
1st – NYSA Celtic 94 Green
2nd – Magic 94
U14
1st – Longhorns 94 Orange
2nd – Blazers FC
U13
1st – Thunder 95 Black
2nd – Ft Worth United 95 Gold

U12
1st – ESC 96 Black
2nd – NYSA Celtic 96 Green
U11
1st – ESC 97 Hampton
2nd – Thunder 97 Black
U10
1st – ESC 98 Hampton
2nd – NYSA Celtic
U9
1st – ESC 99 Soesbie
2nd – NYSA Celtic Claras

Girls
U19
1st – NYSA Fury 90 Black
2nd – NYSA Fury 91 Green
U14
1st – NYSA Fury 94 Green
2nd – ESC 94 Black
U13
1st – HFC Nigh
2nd – Thunder 95 Italy
U12
1st – SLSC Cosmos
2nd – NYSA Fury 97 Green
U11
1st – NOKC 97 Red
2nd – Canadian Valley FC 97
U10
1st – ESC 98 Soesbie
2nd – Thunder 98 Black
U9
1st – NYSA Fury 99
2nd – NOKC United 99

Running In Soccer

continued from page 19

ly in straight lines on the field. They look more like a track team doing the 100-yard dash than a soccer team. Coaches must teach players when to make straight runs and when to make diagonal, square and bent runs. Of course these runs could be forward or backward on offense or defense.

Players must also learn about the timing of runs, when to start and when to stop. Most off the ball runs start too early so the player is marked up once he or she arrives in the space where he or she hopes to meet the ball. Directly incorporated to the timing of runs is the pace of the run. Recovery runs on defense are probably going to be all out. Tracking runs on defense will have to match the pace of the opponent being marked. Many, but not all, offense runs without the ball will start off slow or at a moderate pace and then accelerate at the last moment darting past an opponent to meet the pass. Well, this leads us back to the title of the article; there is something more to running than mere locomotion. Hustle, run Forrest run, doesn't quite make it for the game of soccer. Put some brains as well as brawn in your players' running.

Fair Play Generates Sportsmanship

by Andrew Ward

Certain acts of sportsmanship are common - kicking the ball out of play for the sake of an injured player - but others can take the football world by surprise. Steve Kember (Crystal Palace) told a referee that his shot had sent the ball through the side-netting and therefore it shouldn't be a goal during a crucial league defeat (1988-89), and Paolo Di Canio (West Ham) caught the ball rather than try to head a stoppage-time winner because Everton goalkeeper Paul Gerrard was incapacitated with a bad knee injury (December 2000).

In a Carlsberg Cup match, Denmark was awarded a penalty-kick when an Iran defender handled the ball thinking the whistle had gone (February 2003). On instructions from his coach, Morten Wieghorst (Denmark) deliberately shot wide

from the penalty mark.

Yeovil Town manager Gary Johnson told his side to concede a goal to Plymouth after a Yeovil player (ironically, Johnson's son) had accidentally scored when trying to return the ball to the Plymouth goalkeeper (August 2004). Crawford (Plymouth Argyle) was permitted to walk the ball through straight from the kick-off.

An American coach once offered to replay a match between two college teams when he realized that the opposition should have had a late equalizer because the ball had gone between the goalposts and through a hole in the goal-net. The opposition accepted the offer, and that 'probably did more to cement good relations between the schools than any other event in our history'.

The game of football continues because of a shared ethic. The ideal of

see Fair Play, on page 22

What Kind of Coach Are You?

Have you ever evaluated yourself and your coaching style? This test from the National Institute for Child Centered Coaching will determine if you're a traditional coach, a child-centered facilitator, or somewhere in-between.

Don't think about each question too long. Your first response will give the best indication.

1. The major reason children should play sports is to have fun, not to win.

- a. Winning is important to children.
- b. Winning is important but not necessary.
- c. Enjoyment is the key; winning is secondary.

2. Children should learn how to compete at an early age.

- a. They stand a better chance of being successful later in life.
- b. Competition is important, but it shouldn't be the basis for playing sports for young children.
- c. The earlier young children learn to be competitive, the less enjoyment they might have playing.

3. A strong self-image can be developed in young children with a strict, no-nonsense approach to coaching.

- a. They need to know who's the boss and follow the rules.
- b. Children need to be managed with a firm, yet reasonable approach.
- c. Children need to be encouraged to try their best.

4. Praising a child's ability is okay, but don't overdo it.

- a. If praised too often, they'll develop a false sense of their abilities.
- b. Children need to be told accurately and honestly about their weaknesses.
- c. If it's honest praise, there's no such thing as overdoing it.

5. Children who develop too much self-esteem will become spoiled.

- a. Look at any superstar in today's sports and you'll see what a spoiled child is like.
- b. Children must be taught humility; those with high self-esteem often act conceited.
- c. Children with high self-esteem often make the best players.

6. Most parents want their young children to win, not necessarily to have fun.

- a. Agree. Winning equals improvement.
- b. Some do, but not all.

c. Disagree. Parents need to be educated.

7. Disciplining a child in front of the team can set an example for others.

- a. Everyone learns to do the right thing really fast.
- b. Peer pressure is the most effective form of team discipline.
- c. Discipline should be a private issue between coach and child.

8. The coach should set the rules and give them to the players.

- a. Showing who's in charge will teach children to respect authority.
- b. Coaches need to demonstrate leadership, and children need to comply.
- c. Coaches should provide guidance only, which will empower children.

9. The coach should sometimes act like a teacher; sometimes like a parent.

- a. Playing both roles can confuse children. A coach is a coach.
- b. A coach might sometimes take on the role of a teacher or a parent but should remain first a coach.
- c. A coach should be a parent and a teacher.

10. A parent's role in children's sports should be:

- a. Mildly involved.
- b. Moderately involved.
- c. Maximally involved.

Scoring

Give each "a" response 1 point

Give each "b" response 2 points

Give each "c" response 3 points

10-16 points. You're a traditional coach. You believe winning is the primary reason for playing sports, take a hard line in discipline, use an autocratic approach, and find little value for parental involvement. Seek instruction in child-centered coaching philosophies and techniques.

17-23 points. You're a partly traditional, partly child-centered coach. You're a leader but not autocratic, a problem-solver but not a ruler, and a motivator but not commanding. Improve your child-centered coaching philosophies and techniques.

24-30 points. You're a child-centered coach. You believe in making the game fun; being both a parent figure and a teacher; offering guidance, encouragement, and support; and maximizing parental involvement. Maintain your child-centered philosophies and techniques. Reprinted from the Foot4kids website at www.footy4kids.co.uk.

Nominations Being Accepted for 2008 Werner Fricker Builder Award

The award was created in 2002 and is the greatest recognition bestowed by U.S. Soccer on its membership.

"To receive the Werner Fricker Builder Award is truly a prestigious honor. It is a distinction that helps personify a man whose dedication to the growth of soccer in the was unrivaled," said Sunil Gulati, the 2003 recipient of the award who was elected to the presidency of U.S. Soccer earlier this year.

The award is designed to honor those who have created or fostered programs that will outlast their own active involvement in the sport and that establish a lasting legacy in the history and structure of soccer in the United States.

Interested persons can nominate individuals for the annual Werner

Fricker Builder Award by downloading and completing the application and mailing it to U.S. Soccer, c/o the Werner Fricker Builder Award Committee, 1801 S. Prairie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616 or emailing it to wernerfrickeraward@ussoccer.org. Applications must be postmarked or sent by January 4, 2008.

Werner Fricker himself was honored posthumously with the inaugural award in 2002, with his son, Werner Jr., accepting the award on his behalf. With U.S. Soccer's Annual General Meeting moving from the summer months to March, no award was bestowed in 2004.

The award returned in 2005, with the honor going to Michigan Soccer Association President Gerhard Mengel. In 2006, the award was given to Sal Rapaglia, president of the Eastern

New York Amateur Soccer Association. And in 2007 the Award was presented to Francisco Marcos for his contributions to building the professional game in the United States.

The President of U.S. Soccer appoints a selection committee to review the nominations and select a winner. The selection committee appointees are representative of U.S. Soccer and all nominations are received from the membership. The 2008 Award will be presented at U.S. Soccer's Annual General Meeting in Kona, Hawaii on February 16, 2008.

Werner Fricker is widely credited for his role in bringing the 1994 FIFA World Cup to the United States. Born in Yugoslavia and raised in Austria, he lived his adult life in Pennsylvania, where he was a star midfielder for the United German Hungarians of

Philadelphia soccer club from 1954 to 1969 and was a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympic Team. He served as U.S. Soccer President from 1984 to 1990 and was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, N.Y., in 1992.

WERNER FRICKER AWARD

Year	Recipient
2002	Werner Fricker, Sr.
2003	Sunil Gulati
2005	Gerhard Mengel
2006	Sal Rapaglia
2007	Francisco Marcos



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

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

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@claremoressoccer.com
U6 – U19 Recreational Boys & Girls
Referee Assignor: Clint Durr
Email: clint@mailok.com
Website: www.claremoressoccer.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

Fair Play, story continued from page 20

fair play is to respect the laws, respect opponents, and respect officials and their decisions. By all means play to win, but play fair, learn and observe the laws, accept defeat with dignity, never argue with the referee or assistants, retire ten yards when a free-kick is given against you, keep your self-control at all times, do not retaliate, put the sport of football before yourself (or your team), reject drugs and other addictions, fight racism, and honour good sportspeople. As it said in the English Schools code of the 1970s, 'Accept victory modestly and defeat cheerfully.'

Sportsmanship was common in the game's early days. Indeed, it was even present in wars. I F C Fuller described the Boer War (1899-1902) as 'the last of the gentleman's wars', regretting the disappearance of the time when sportsmanship was the essence of soldiering. This attitude was known as the Corinthian spirit.

In the 1950s, it was common for players to carry the ball back when they were caught offside, and this would generate a round of applause from the crowd. It saved the goalkeeper fetching the ball, but it also gave the attacker and his colleagues time to regroup. Gradually the professional world began to frown on sportsmanship. Winning was what really mattered. John Cues was a professional for twenty years (1957 to 1977): 'When you're playing for your living the sportsmanship goes out of it very, very quickly, and you do what you can to win. And in the 1960s there was a shift towards that.' Nobby Stiles, a World Cup winner, later looked back on a key incident in England's 4-3 win over Scotland (April 1966): 'There was a foul on the

halfway-line and the ball had gone on to the track at Hampden Park. And Alf Ramsey, in a team-talk, said, "Can you remember what happened?" Well, from the free-kick Scotland scored. He said, "I'll tell you what happened. John Connelly went on to the track to pick the ball up and bring it back and give it to the Scotsman. Let them go and get it. You go and get organized."

Since 1987, FIFA has presented Fair Play awards for services to football on and off the field. Gary Lineker (England), winner in 1990, was a model of integrity on the field. George Weah (Liberia), honored in 1996, had helped former child soldiers and worked on AIDS and HIV awareness schemes. Julie Foudy, a Fair Play award winner in 1997, not only won 271 international caps for the USA women's team but she fought child-labor abuses and promoted causes for disabled children and female athletes.

Certain competitions are designed to reward fair play. The Neidersachsen Fair Play Cup is an annual children's tournament where points for fair play are awarded to players, coaches and opponents. Some major tournaments use fair play as a criterion if two teams finish level on points and are equal in other respects (e.g. goal difference and goals scored). Since 1999 UEFA Cup places have been made available for countries whose teams have good fair play records. Teams were marked according to the number of cards received, positive play, behaviour towards officials and opponents, and behaviour of team officials.

In England, in 1970-71, the Ford Sporting League gave two points for an away goal, one

point for a home goal, and deducted five points for each caution and ten points for each sending-off. The winners, Oldham Athletic, received substantial prize money (for a new grandstand).

Reprinted from 'Soccerpedia', a book by Andrew Ward available at www.amazon.com. The book uses the Laws of the Game in A to Z format.

Collinsville Soccer Loses Cheryl McColley

Collinsville Soccer Club and Oklahoma Soccer Association lost a leader when Cheryl McColley, 47, passed away on Friday, December 28. Cheryl and her husband Jerry were prominent members of the Collinsville club as referees, administrators, and volunteers. She and Jerry often officiated matches in the Tulsa metro area and both held positions on the club board.

A lifelong resident of Collinsville, Cheryl was the registrar as well as the Area Referee and Assignor for the local soccer club.

Well known as a vibrant and passionate supporter of her adopted game, Cheryl was a strong supporter of recreational and high school soccer. As a coach and referee she taught herself the game and inspired her players to play their best.

Funeral services were held on January 2 at the First Assembly of God Church in Collinsville. The family is requesting donations be made to the Cheryl Chappell-McColley Memorial Fund at the American Bank, P.O. Box 66 Collinsville, OK 74021.

KIDS' PAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

KNOCK KNOCK JOKES

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Donald!
Donald who?
Donald come baby,
cradle
and all...!

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Donalette!
Donalette who?
Donalette the bed
bugs bite!

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Doris!
Doris who?
Doris slammed on
my finger. Ouch!

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR COACH

- If Wal-Mart is always lowering its prices why is nothing free?
- Who tows the tow trucks when they break down?
- Where in the nursery rhyme does it say humpty dumpty is an egg?
- Why do you park in a driveway, and drive on a parkway?

RIDDLES

- Q: What clothing does a house wear?
A: Address
- Q: What shoes should you wear when your basement is flooded?
A: Pumps
- Q: Can giraffes have babies?
A: No, just giraffes.
- Q: How do rabbits travel?
A: By Hareplane.



QUIZ

Try your luck at answering the Christmas questions. Answers are given below. Ask your parents or family members for help.

1. He had a corncob pipe and a button nose.
2. The three words that best describe him are "Stink. Stank. Stunk."
3. He had a shiny nose that glowed.
4. He is said to leave frosty crystal patterns on windows on cold mornings.
5. One of his favorite phrases is "Bah, humbug!"
6. He said, "God bless us, every one!"
7. She asked, "Santy Claus, why are you taking our Christmas tree? Why?"
8. She is a fairy in "The Kingdom of the Sweets."
9. James Stewart portrayed this character in "It's a Wonderful Life."

SUDOKU

We've done the Word Search puzzle, so now let's try your hand at Sudoku. If you don't know the rules, go online at oksoccer.com. 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: February 15, 2008.

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

4				9		2		5
2			1		4			
7		9			5	3	4	
8		3				4		2
	9		4		8		6	
1		4				8		9
	8	5	9			7		1
			3		7			8
3		2		5				4



Winners of November puzzle
Congratulations to the following 30 OSA members for their successful solution to the Word Search puzzle. Your prizes are in the mail and should arrive soon. Be sure to play the new puzzle for January!
Daytona Adams, Muskogee; McKenzie Anderson, Idabel; Skylar Baeriswyl, El Reno; Seth Baines, Claremore; Connor Bandy, Poteau; Christopher Coronado, OKC; Hannah Ewton, Claremore; Taylor Gross, Edmond; Taylor Hallford, Sand Springs; Taylor Hoss, Norman; Zach Jaccarino, Collinsville; Michelle Jimenez, Tulsa; Brandon Keen, Westville; Amy Lalicker, Enid; Madison Loehmann, Broken Arrow; Jackie McCoy, Westville; Nic McIntire, Moore; Levi McMasters, Sapulpa; Sheridan Nolen, Broken Arrow; Chandler Payne, Claremore; Chase Reed, Inola; Seth Riggins, Muskogee; Madison Stombaugh, Broken Arrow; Zach Summerlin, Terlton; Casey Tripp, Blanchard; Spencer Tuig, Broken Arrow; Michael Umelo, Tulsa; Keane VanTrease, Tulsa; William Wilson, Muskogee; and Kristin Woldtvedt, Broken Arrow.

ANSWERS: 1. Frosty the Snowman. 2. The Grinch. 3. Rudolph (reindeer). 4. Jack Frost. 5. Ebenezer Scrooge. 6. Tiny Tim. 7. Cindy-Lou Who. 8. The Sugar Plum Fairy. 9. George Bailey.

sator

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