



COACHES CORNER

February 2008

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the desk John Curtis, MYSA State Director of Coaching.

MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION HOME PAGE

www.mnyouthsoccer.org

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Open Position: MYSA Director of Technical Education

This position oversees all coaching and player technical education throughout the state. Responsible for providing the highest level of quality instruction, curriculum and material for MYSA members and for the overall technical direction of MYSA clubs. Works closely with the State Director of Coaching and the Development Administrator to provide coaching and player development programs throughout the state. Reports to the Executive Director.

www.mnyouthsoccer.org/positions/dir_teched.cfm

Coaching Education: MYSA State Coaching Schools

Click on the link below for an updated list of courses being offered in advance of the summer league season.

www.mnyouthsoccer.org/coaches/clinics.cfm

2008 US Youth Soccer ODP National Championships

The Minnesota '91 Girls US Youth Soccer ODP team won the tournament last July at ODP Regional Camp will be representing Region II at the ODP National Championships. All 18 girls that were on the MN ODP team that won the event in July will be making the trip to Frisco, TX, March 6-9, 2008. This is the first time a team from Minnesota will be representing Region II. Congratulations and good luck!

US Youth Soccer National Coaching Awards

Elizabeth Nordell of Duluth was named the US Youth Soccer National adidas Recreational Coach of the Year at US Youth Soccer's annual Awards Gala in Pittsburgh on February 8. Recipients are selected on the basis on sportsmanship, player development, personal coaching development and community involvement (citizenship).

Gene Evers of Cambridge is the recipient of the US Youth Soccer/Liberty Mutual Responsible Coach Award for Minnesota which recognizes youth soccer coaches demonstrating responsibility, integrity and excellence both on and off the field. Read more about Elizabeth and Gene in the March issue of *Soccer Times*.

Coaching Article: Sports and Character Development

For more than a century, the contention that sport builds character has been popular among educators. The more cautious perspective of researchers is that sport might build character, but only under the right conditions. In this paper, the authors report on three aspects of character that may be influenced by sport participation: perspective-taking and empathy; moral reasoning; and motivational orientation. In each area, research-based recommendations are offered for coaches and others in sport leadership positions.

www.fitness.gov/digests/march2006pcpfsdigest.pdf

Coaching Article: Unhealthy Competition—Young kids are training like professionals, and have the injuries to prove it. *By Regan McMahon*

In March 2005, The San Francisco Chronicle Magazine published my article exploring how the over-the-top youth sports culture was affecting kids and families. Titled “How Much Is Too Much?” it generated tremendous reader response, and two months later I signed a deal with Gotham Books to investigate the issue on a national scale. The results of that research, conducted in the academic year 2005-2006, appear in my book, “Revolution in the Bleachers: How Parents Can Take Back Family Life in a World Gone Crazy Over Youth Sports.”

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/15/CMG7OOP5OB1.DTL

Coaching Article: Stop the Tournaments—Too many games, little preparation and no training opportunities.

By Jay Martin, Ph.D.

Tournaments, tournaments, tournaments. They are overwhelming youth soccer in this country. Everyone wants to play in tournaments. Every soccer publication in this country lists pages of tournaments for our children to attend! Every year the biggest decision a club team makes is “which tournaments do we attend?” Most clubs have a person or three who do nothing but prepare for tournaments. Stop the tournaments, I want to get off. Tournaments are hurting America's soccer playing youth.

http://bluesombrero.typepad.com/the_administrator/2008/02/stop-the-tourna.html