



STRIKER PRESS



FROM THE PREZ

"Hi, my name is Bill Oosterink and I have an addiction. I'm addicted to youth soccer. It's not something that I have not tried to overcome, but for some reason I just keep coming back."

This sounds a bit dramatic, true, but it is the honest truth. I have been involved in youth soccer with SMYS for nearly 15 years now. I started out just like many of you did, getting that call to coach a sport I really knew little about. From there I moved into managing division (still one of the hardest jobs I've had in SMYS) to my first stint as the SMYS President. After 5 years in that role I moved into a support role for several seasons, continuing to coach and even filling in as the secretary for a season or two. My most recent endeavor was that of SMYS treasurer – a job that really let me dig into what makes SMYS work. I was asked by several of my fellow volunteers to come back as president, and I agreed as long as they would support some of my initiatives and for the most part – they agreed. More on that a little later.

With all that said, let me introduce myself formally. I am a father of four and husband first, I have watched two of my kids grow up through SMYS along with many of



Makenzie Priest keeps her focus on the ball in an early season game. Priest plays for the traveling team (pictured at right) who received new uniforms this season.

SMU Rockets Proudly Display New Uniforms



Olympic Champs Visit Street Soccer Players

SMYS welcomed two Olympic gold medalists to its final Street Soccer session at Chancellors Run Park. Ms. Abby Wambach and Ms. Brianna Scurry, both Olympic and World Cup champs, are part of the **Washington Freedom** Women's Professional Soccer league. These two world-renowned players made a brief stop in Southern Maryland this summer to visit our local young athletes.

Scurry and Wambach are both dedicated champions who seek to motivate and in-



spire others. "I am always trying to deliver inspiration," Scurry said. "You never know when someone is going to see you do something special that will touch them for the rest of their lives." Their well-received message to our youth was that

it's not just about playing a game – it's much more than that.

Street Soccer consisted of weekly free sessions during the summer, available to all grade levels.

- Lisa LaPaglia

the children of my friends. I am a volunteer – I have a full time job at Pax River and that is what allows me to continue my *addiction*. I can only

thank those around me for their continued support and unselfishness. I currently coach a St. Mary's United travelling girls soccer team. And

yes, I do have a child on the team.

I have always tried to look on the other side of this organization.

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Annual Kohl's Cup Tournament Set For November

SMYS is once again hosting the Kohl's American Cup on November 21, 2009.

This tournament is sponsored by Kohl's, US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA).

Last year on a particularly cold Saturday in November, the Chancellor's Run Regional Park soccer fields were transformed into 17 small sided fields for this 4v4 soccer tourna-

ment. It was our biggest year yet with over 100 teams participating.

The 77 teams from SMYS were joined by teams from the Northern, Calvert, Waldorf, and LaPlata Soccer organizations.

There were also teams from as far away as the Eastern Shore and Frederick, Maryland.

This year's Kohl's American Cup hopes to expand to include

more local and state-wide participation. Each team may roster four to six players in the U8 to U19 age groups. All teams are guaranteed at least four games.

The cost is only \$125 per team and each player will receive a T-shirt and several giveaways from Kohl's.

Teams can register in the Recreation, Rec Plus or Travel Divisions. Coed and girls teams are welcomed.



Registration will open soon and is scheduled to close on October 31st.

For more info and registration go to the SMYS web site at www.playsmys.com or contact SMYS Tournament Director, Larry Branthoover via email: lbranthoover@dtiweb.net.

We hope to see you there!

- Larry Branthoover



Local area soccer players take a break at the 2008 Kohl's Cup Tournament, held last November at Chancellors Run Regional Park.



Kickin' it ... SMU Rockets Pre-Season Game



Rec Plus Announces Girls-Only Teams, Expansion to Include Waldorf

Rec Plus welcomes **Waldorf Soccer Club** to the Rec Plus league, joining St. Mary's Youth Soccer, Calvert Soccer Association, and St. Mary's Northern Soccer League.



Waldorf Soccer Club is fielding a U8 coed team, the **Waldorf Fury**, coached by Michael Gaines, and

assistant coach Rick Lesko. Their home field is the Bryantown Sports Complex in southern Charles County.

This year Rec Plus added a girl's division, with twelve teams playing in three age groups, U8, U10, and U12.

Rec Plus now has four member leagues with thirty-seven teams playing in the U8, U10, U12, and U14 age groups.

- Kit Sullivan



Referee Scheduling Now Online



Starting this fall, we will utilize Demosphere's referee scheduling application. Demosphere is the company that SMYS uses for website and online registration.

Referees need to login weekly at: www.playsmys.org/referees. Then they should enter their

email address and pin, and accept or decline their games. This is a new application we are trying out, so please be patient while we evaluate.

Referees are reminded to blow a loud whistle and call fouls. The biggest complaint we get from coaches, espe-

cially the younger age groups, is rough play not being called. Don't be afraid to blow the whistle.

Information about becoming a referee, recerts, laws and handbooks can be found online at: www.marylandsoccer.com/referees.

-Pam Anderson



New Training Technique

We want to welcome all coaches to the fall season. SMYS has made available different training sessions for coaches and players.

We started a new training approach for the rec coaches in hopes of elevating the level of play one more notch. The at-

tendance of rec coaches to our training sessions has been tremendous. This is essential for a well balanced league.

The coaches are attending age appropriate training with a team from that division. Our goal is for our local coaches to

exchange ideas on training/practice sessions that will benefit all of the teams and coaches in that age bracket.

We started last year with the introduction to Goalkeeping with Andy Greton.

This allows young players to receive goalkeeping instruc-

tions from a certified trainer at no cost to the players. This was expanded to Travel, Rec Plus and recreational players this season.

The continuation of coaches sessions run by coaches with specific topics schedule is out.

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www.playsmys.org

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St. Mary's Youth Soccer

AFFILIATED WITH ST. MARYS COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT AND THE MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



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This allows our coaches to demonstrate their skills with a team that is age appropriate to all other coaches. This is a session where we want all coaches to participate by bringing forward and exchanging their opinions, ideas, and different approaches to the topic session. We learn so much from each other in this type of structured session.



The Training Schedule can be found online at:

http://www.stmaryssoccer.org/Coach/index_E.html

Kiddie Kick is our program geared to four year-olds introducing them to soccer. This program is split in a practice session followed by a game. The practice session is done in grids where the young ones get introduced to ball movement drills in five minute increments. Due to the short attention span of the little rascals, we try to introduce fun things in each grid.

We finalize the session with a 15-minute 5 vs. 5 game with small goals. This is as much fun for the kids as it is for the adults.

Rec Plus coaches greatly support the kids, and are a huge asset to the travel program. This program has seen the introduction of girls' teams in young age brackets with a great bright future. The coed teams have become very competitive in our tri-county division.

Travel teams are doing well in the young divisions. New coaches are joining the rec side who teach our players skills needed to compete at a higher level. As a result, our travel teams have become more competitive with the big names at NCSL, WAGS and BBSL.

SMYS is expanding coach training from U5 to U10 to develop their skills and become better coaches.

Last thing on the agenda is the Player Development Nights (PDN). We split the age brackets for better control of player development. The PDN schedule is available online at:

http://www.stmaryssoccer.org/Coach/index_E.html

SMYS is working with the state (MSYSA and NSCAA) to bring coach certification classes to our area. We will post them on the web site as soon they become available in St. Mary's County.

- Art Vale

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The day-to-day operations seem to run pretty smoothly, but my goal has always been to try and make it easier not only for the members of the league, but also the volunteers. With this season, we have reached nearly 1,600 players (1300 recreational/300 travel) and that takes a dedicated group of individuals - a group that works very hard and long hours to make sure there is a quality youth sports program for the children. I have never been a, "you have to play soccer over other sports" person. I encourage kids, even my own, to play other

sports in addition to, or in place of soccer. I think it comes down to making sure they have a place to do it and to ensure it's fun.

To make SMYS a better organization, one of the initiatives that I have launched is an all-out recruitment effort for volunteers. Our ranks were getting a little slim, so I immediately started looking for folks to help out.

I'm proud to say that since our election in June we added the following volunteers:

- Secretary - Stephanie Myles
- Treasurer - Karen Breslauer
- VP St. Mary's United - Patrick O'Rear
- Administrator - Scott Anderson

- Marketing Director - Lisa LaPaglia
- Equipment Manager - Craig Oliver
- Special Event Coordinator - Kim Cawood

I believe volunteers are the backbone of SMYS. I'm petitioning the membership to allow me to expand the Executive Board to nine members (up from the current 5) so that we have more volunteers in the know. We need to have a group of folks who know how SMYS works, so when the top jobs open we have the knowledge and experience to fill these positions. I am NOT a big fan of the same folks doing all the work. I do expect everyone chip in and help - even if it is something as small as helping when you can.



With that said, welcome to the Fall 2009 seasons. I sincerely hope you have a great experience and I challenge you to step up and help whenever you're asked - not just in SMYS - in anything that your children participate. SMYS needs your help - so step up.

Yours in soccer!

- Bill Oosterink
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