

HILLWOOD FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER

From the desk of the Hillwood Club President....

Just around the corner, SYSA's Spring REC soccer league will soon be here.

I just wanted to remind families that, SYSA has complete control of this league and it is offered to all players of all ages in all REC Clubs. Teams are formed at the Association level by individual coaches who are allowed to ask players from all REC teams to join them to form new teams of players who show interest and are available to play.

A Spring soccer team does not in any way reflect your Fall season team's roster; those rosters are assigned by our Club registrar's at each age level. Once the Spring season is over, that roster is no longer in affect. Check out www.sysa.org for more information on Spring SYSA soccer.

NEW Coaches/Managers: Information for incoming U6-12 Teams

In the best interest of our youth players, the Club now recommends that new volunteers take the time to partake in one of the following training options.

1. An approved youth soccer training course, check with the Club first, or online with WSYSYA
(<http://www.wsysa.com/TechnicalZoneMenu/CoachingEducation/OnlineCourses/tabid/1695/language/en-US/Default.aspx>)

Online or in person classes with NSCAA

(<http://www.nscaa.com/education/courses>)

The Club will cover your costs once you prove you have passed the program.

2. U6, attend one of our pre-season "new" coach's clinics. We'll have more information on this closer to the beginning of the season, stay tuned!

The benefits for continuing coaching education are twofold, our collective Club coach's education levels increase, soccer knowledge can be shared amongst peers, and our kids benefit in the long run with well rounded practices!

Thanks and please remember, Hillwood soccer is just for kicks!

D.J. Yasui, President, Hillwood Soccer Club

Contact e-mail: hillwoodsoccer@yahoo.com

Player's Pitch

Spring Soccer

Registration for spring soccer is now open through SYSA! Here's an opportunity to stay in shape while continuing to improve your ball skills. Games are held Sundays from April 1st-June 17th. Players can register as a team through their fall coaches. Team registration ends Feb 22nd.

If your team is not playing this season, you can join a friend, classmate, old team mate or contact a former coach. Players without a team can also register loose canon on SYSA's website (after teams have registered). If choosing to register individually, keep in mind that practices may not be in your neighborhood and players can only be placed if there are available spots. Fall rosters will **not** be affected by spring placements. If you did not play in the fall, register with SYSA as a new player.

For more information or to register go to:

<http://www.sysa.org/SpringSoccer>

Select Soccer

For those players interested in taking their play to the next level, consider try outs with Seattle United. This organization offers a more challenging soccer experience through placement on both select and premier teams. Although requiring more of a commitment in time as well as finances, this may be just the challenge your child needs. Their website offers a thorough comparison of the various levels of play: rec, select or premier, for your consideration.

Tryout dates are as follows:

B/G U10-U12 - May 4th-10th *

B/G U13-U15 - May 11th-17th *

BU 16-18 - March 2-4th

GU 16-18 - May 18th-24th *

**Three of the days between these dates*

Location and times will be posted on the website. Bring a fully inflated ball and be sure to register in advance to secure the \$10 tryout fee. Nine and ten year olds will find it easiest to join since their teams are just being formed. Be encouraged, the majority of players trying out are able to find placement!

For further information or to register visit:

www.Seattleunited.com/page/show/151181-tryouts

Spring Soccer Camp

UK International

Hillwood Spring Soccer Club, Day Camp, Shoreline

Dates: April 23rd - 27th

Place: Shoreline A Field (next to pool)

Please register at the link below:

<http://www.uksocca.com/Online/A302.php?SID=WA>

For more information contact:

Annalise Nye

nyeraak@comcast.net Or

Stewart Boniface

(888) UK SOCCA

stewart.boniface@uksocca.com

www.uksocca.com

Summer Soccer Camp

UK Elite

Keep the ball rolling this summer by attending camp. Once again, Hillwood and Shorelake Soccer Clubs are teaming up with UK Elite Soccer to provide our players and coaches with fun, education and cutting-edge development opportunities to ensure that our kids are 'ready to play' come fall season.

These programs are designed around the UK Elite methodology, a program focused around individual player development for 5-14 year olds. This is an excellent program for improving technical skills and tactical knowledge. Dynamic coaching methods ensure **every** player improves.

http://www.ukelite.com/summer_programs.jsp

Or register via email to:

ewanr@ukelite.com

For additional Information call [\(206\) 455-1855](tel:(206)455-1855)

UK International

In addition to their spring camp, UK International also offers summer opportunities. They will be running two camp sessions at Hillwood Park Field this year. The first is July 16th-20th, the second August 13th-17th.

<http://www.uksocca.com/Online/A302.php?SID=WA>

Further Player Development

Seattle United SAQ Program

Who wouldn't benefit from being quicker on the field? According to Seattle United, "Speed is the newest and most desired skill in the game of soccer. The good news about this change in developmental focus is the fact that 'Speed is Skill' that can be learned through technique training, repetition, fun and a systematic training program."

This is a ten week program for U10-U13 or U14-U18 players. Sessions will run Feb 28th through May 1st on Tuesday nights from 5:30-6:45 at Shoreline A/B Fields. The cost is \$125. If interested, register through the link below.

<http://korrio.com/groups/seattle-united/programs/signup/>

Seattle United PDA

Seattle United is offering a player development opportunity for U8-U12 kids this spring. There will be six, hour and a half sessions, held Friday evenings from March 16th to April 20th. Players will meet at the Shoreline A/B fields from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The curriculum for the academy is designed by Seattle United coaching staff and will focus on dribbling, ball mastery, precise passing and receiving, shooting and small sided games with the goal of bringing players to the next level. There are only 120 spots available for those interested, so register soon at the link below!

https://www.secure-sam.com/seattleunited.bonzidev.com/frameset.php?sLocation=/seattleunited.bonzidev.com/sam/registration/reg_list.php

email questions to:

<mailto:technicaldirector@seattleunited.com>

Oh How Those Diamonds Shine!

How do you bring a young girl, unsure of whether she wants to play soccer at all, to the place where she joyfully confesses soccer her favorite sport? Mix together a group of GU10 girls, a soccer rec club and one dedicated coach affectionately dubbed Popper.

Bill Page, aka Popper, has been referred to as a dedicated, loving father to his team. This dedication was evidenced in his commitment to ferry from Hansville, Washington three times a week in order to coach practices and games for the Diamonds. During these sessions Bill made every girl feel welcomed and respected regardless of her ability. Because of the atmosphere he created, and an unwillingness to "take any guff", the girls were able to grow in skill, confidence and love for the game.

The Diamonds have played together for 6 years, but this fall they came into their own, finishing the season undefeated. They went on to compete in the City Tournament, walking away with first place for the Gold division. Wearing their yellow jerseys and bubbling with enthusiasm, the team clamored on stage at the Wednesday night Awards' Ceremony to be recognized for this year's accomplishments.

Bill, like so many of our dedicated coaches, is realizing the goals of the Hillwood Soccer Club - instilling a life-long love for the game in a fun and inclusive environment, and it's apparent - the Diamonds are shining!

Reminders:

2012 Fall Soccer Registration

May 9 ~ Manager Meeting 7:30pm Shoreline Center

May 10 ~ Registration opens for two weeks for returning players

May 23 ~ Team registration forms due and registration opens for the public

June 20 ~ Coaches Meeting Shoreline Center

Register at http://hillwood.bonzidev.com/sam/registration/reg_list.php

Donate Gently Used Equipment

Donate your used soccer equipment to the club. Cleats, shin-guards, balls, jerseys, and any other soccer related items, even coaching books, videos, DVD's or teaching aids can find a second life. These clean and gently used items will be passed on to Hillwood families in need of assistance. You may give them to your team manager, coach or bring them to one of our next Coach's/Manager's meetings. Thanks in advance!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Treasurer

An opportunity is available for anyone wanting to learn or brush up on their Quicken skills. Hillwood is in need of a treasurer and our current officer is

available to train you! This is a fairly straightforward accounting position which can mostly be done from home. If you are interested or have any questions, please call or email:

Pete - prekeges@att.net, [206-542-3353](tel:206-542-3353)

Sue - hillwoodsoccerclub@hillwoodsoccer.com

Secretary

If you enjoy writing and would like to be more involved in the soccer club, this is a position for you. Hillwood is looking for someone to attend our board meetings (approximately nine per year) and write up the minutes. Please contact Jeff Gobel <mailto:jess.gobel@terex.com> if you would like to help out.

Coaches Corner

For those of you registering a team for spring soccer, be sure to do so before February 22nd!

Referees Referendum

Do you love soccer? Are you looking for a job with good pay and flexible hours? Consider becoming a referee. You'll find clinic dates and answers to all your questions on the website below.

<http://www.wasrc.org/index>

Shout Outs

Congratulations to the 2011 Award recipients:

Girls Coach of the year: John Lapham GU15 Firecrackers

Boys Coach of the year: Dave Bockelie and Ted Rattray BU17 Eagles

Volunteer of the year: Toni McSorely (Publicity and Chevy Raffle Coordinator)

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given in recognition of outstanding commitment to the Hillwood Soccer Club over the years:

Congratulations Doug Brindle GU18 Cougars and Phil Herold BU18 United!

As always it was a difficult decision, the Board received many nominations. Hillwood is fortunate to have so many deserving coaches and volunteers representing the club. We would also like to recognize the following nominees:

Micah Blair

Doug Smith

Kolya Rice

Bill Wilkins

Mike Bell

Kerry Petit

Bess Tanaka

Carrie Campbell

Awards Ceremony

The cafeteria filled with happy chatter and enthusiasm as parents, coaches and team players waited for the awards ceremony to begin. Some teams came as a group, decked out in the trademark yellow jerseys, while others sported skinny jeans, hoodies and Uggs. In one case, a lone father and son presented themselves on behalf of their team, receiving patches for placing first in their division. Looking around the gym, it was apparent that one theme was common to all - diversity. Here is a place where the skinny jean crowd meets with the long boots and shorts to get it done. Or should we say got it done?

This year's awards ceremony was an eclectic picture of what Hillwood soccer is all about. Here, kids from different backgrounds and social groups come together, work for a common goal and emerge winners - winners not necessarily because of their City Tournament placement (although we sure appreciate that) but winners because of the deeper gains they've made.

Throughout the season these players have learned to work together, and perhaps work harder at something than they realized they could. Here are kids walking through victory as well as defeat, holding up their heads, encouraging one another and...having fun to boot! They have passed through various events this fall, personal as well as athletic, and found support as well as a second family.

Some of these winners were honored at the Awards Ceremony last Monday night. Parents came to show their support. Kids came for one last hurrah. Either way, everyone worked hard this season, so let's hear it for our Hillwood players with special kudos to the following teams:

End of Season Standings

GU11 **Diamonds** - 1st Place Gold Division

GU11 **Strikers** - Runner up Gold Division

BU12 **Gladiators** - 1st Place Bronze Division

GU12 **Steel Panthers** - Runner up Bronze Division

GU13 **Cougars** - 1st Place Silver Division

BU15 **Tigers** - Runner up Gold Division

GU15 **Firecrackers** - Runner up Gold Division

GU17 **Thunder** - Runner up Gold Division

City Tournament Finals

GU11 **Diamonds** - 1st Place - Coach Bill Page

GU11 **Strikers** - 2nd Place - Coach Kolya Rice

BU12 **Tigers** - 2nd Place - Coach Franco Sanagustin

BU14 **Lightening Bolts** - 1st Place - Coach Tom Berquist

BU15 **Knights** - 2nd Place - Coach Bob Cruce

GU17 **Golden Cheetahs** - 2nd Place - Coach Maurice Burum

Your Turn

A Fall to Remember by Paul Payton

There are many transitions in soccer – going from practices to organized games; 3-a-side with no keepers to full-sided games; and playing with your neighborhood pals to playing against other kids across Shoreline and Seattle.

The U12 experience is another milestone. It provides a testament to a team by playing on a full-size field. Suddenly, you can compare yourselves to professional teams, as you play on fields that are about 100 yards long and over 50 yards wide.

How do you handle it? You take it all in stride!

Last fall, I coached a *combative* group in their own way – this group of girls took on the challenge with the right characteristics belying their young age.

For most of our games, we played with no subs or maybe just one sub, while some of our opponents made ‘line changes’ reminiscent of ice hockey. In fact we played one entire game with only 10 players and our admirable opponents also played the 2nd half with 10 players.

Throughout these challenges, the girls never complained. They fought their hardest and always gave it their best – passing the ball more and working on the fundamentals of the game; they were taught to make the best of it and help each other out – playing as a team.

Despite starting the season with five straight losses, the girls came to practices every week prepared to learn and do their best. They believed in what their coaches were teaching them, or at least it seemed like it.

At our 6th game, the players and one of the coaches' spray painted their hair before the game. Something was in the air and it just wasn't the fumes of the paint. Seizing the mojo, the girls gave it their all and hung onto a well-deserved 1-0 victory! Was it the spray paint? Or was it the hard work and belief they could win? I'd like to think the latter, but sometimes with kids, you allow them to think what works best for them. Some of the girls kept with the hair treatment until they realized it didn't quite have the same impact for the next few games.

We completed our fall season with two more victories out of the whole ten games, but the girls won much more than victories. They gained what it means to compete and play your best. Sometimes that doesn't get you the victory, but you walk off the field proud that you played with the right spirit and gave your best effort.

As a coach of 10+ years and experiencing many highs in youth soccer, I will look back fondly on our season together. The game is a great teacher - for adults as well - with the kids teaching us many things.

It's not all about wins and losses. Honestly. We can all learn from our kids and enjoy the game a whole lot more by following their lead. We'll enjoy spring soccer and we cannot wait until August, when it all starts again!

If you have a story, team building experience, cheer or poem you'd like to share for consideration in the newsletter, please send it to stoeb2newsletter@gmail.com

More Information:

Hillwood website - www.hillwoodsoccer.com

Maps to fields - www.sysa.org

Coach and player clinics - www.sysa.org

Tournaments - <http://www.wsysa.com/>

Referee clinics - <http://www.wasrc.org/>

Hillwood Soccer Club

Investing in our kids, creating memories and cultivating a love for the

"beautiful game"!