



## LAYSL Newsletter May, 1995

### **Report from the President (Bob Walker)**

As this newsletter is being mailed out, the LAYSL Spring 1995 season is drawing to a close, and we are hard at work planning for the '95/'96 season. Please look for registration materials in the mail next month. We will also be offering a variety of other activities throughout the summer months, including soccer camps, workshops, and training sessions for coaches. Work should have begun on construction of a new soccer field on North Mesa. This field should be a big help in relieving the pressure on fields, especially during the fall, when the high-school teams are practicing.

We have instituted a referee mentoring program to encourage youth referees to seek certification, and to work games at the younger age levels. We pay these youth referees a nominal amount.

In addition, we are starting a more vigorous coach training effort, to improve player instruction and foster more enjoyment. Speaking of coaching: coaching from the sidelines during a game is not allowed. We can expect much stronger enforcement of this existing rule in the future.

### **Annual General Meeting of NMYSA**

Mark Saturday and Sunday, June 3--4, 1995 on your calendar. That is when the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association, LAYSL's parent organization, will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel. LAYSL will be sending two voting delegates to this meeting.

Business sessions are on Sunday, but there are several no-charge coaches' workshops on Saturday. Soccer equipment vendors will have booths set up from 8 til 4 on Saturday. There will be lots of free souvenirs, including shirts, soccer balls, water bottles, etc. Coaches should bring teams and parents their children. Peruse the exhibits and watch the coaching demonstrations.

### **Coaches must apply for coaching positions**

All candidates must apply (or reapply) for consideration as coaches in the LAYSL. There is no automatic selection or renewal. If you are interested in serving as a coach, please make your intention known to one of the coordinators; Hill, White Rock or Advanced.

### **Call for Advanced Teams Coaches**

LAYSL is now accepting applications for advanced team coaches for the 1995--1996 soccer season. Teams include (next year's ages): Boys U-9 through U-15 and Girls U-10 through U-14. To apply, send a statement of interest, a philosophy statement, and a resume of coaching experience, NYSCA certification, and licenses (if any). Send to Alan Lay, 436 Bryce Avenue. Any questions, call Alan at 672-1799.

### **Referee Coordinator (Gary Cort)**

We launched a number of new initiatives this season. The youth referee mentoring program is off to a great start. By the end of the season, about eight youth referees will have worked the requisite three games with an experienced referee and will have graduated from the mentoring program. Kim Thomas and I appreciate the support we have received from the senior referees, coaches, and parents in making this program a success. We have identified some areas in which the program can be refined, and expect it to be even better next season.

I have also made it a priority to assign certified referees to this season's U-8 games. This program has been extremely successful, especially in White Rock where we have been able to cover virtually all of the games. It has been my observation as both a referee and a coach that having certified referees on the field has had a very positive impact on the U-8 program. Special thanks to all of the referees who volunteered to work these games and an urgent plea for more referees to work at the U-8 level on the Hill, where many games went uncovered for lack of certified referee volunteers.

The referees newsletter that saw its first issue go to press at the beginning of the season has had a very positive reception. We are planning the next issue now, so please let me know if there are any topics that you would like to see included.

Congratulations to all of the referees who passed the USSF exam to certify this Spring, and special congratulations to all of our newly certified youth referees. The League now has sixteen certified youth referees, many of whom have already completed or will soon graduate from the mentoring program. Welcome aboard! We are also still trying to drum up some interest in a rules

clinic for coaches (and parents) this season. The clinic would probably be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon, and depending upon the level of interest, could even include a field session. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call **Kim Thomas** at **672-3354**.

I need feedback on how the referee program is doing, what's working, what isn't, how to improve. I'd like to hear from referees, coaches, parents, and players. Please call me at **(672-1901)** or drop me a note at 363 Kimberly.

Finally, the perennial plea for volunteers! Parents and youth *please* consider becoming a LAYSL referee. We can provide a lot of support to ensure that you have a positive fun experience, while you help provide a safe, fair soccer experience for our players. Certified referees please consider working the occasional U-8 game or serving as a mentor for one of our enthusiastic youth refs. Call **Gary Cort** at **672-1901** to learn more about these exciting and fulfilling opportunities.

**Hill Coordinator (Bill Flor)**

We need more volunteers for next season, to help with any facet of league operations on the Hill. If you can help, please call me at 662-7885. We could use a few "new faces," so that the same "old standbys" don't burn out. Specific needs are: field scheduling, field lining, tracking our equipment inventory, etc. These are not necessarily fee-rebated jobs, but are still critical to keeping us all going.

Many thanks to those who helped this past year as Age-group coordinators:

U-06:	Mark Schmitt	662-5268
U-08:	Gina Koehler	662-2390
U-10 (coed):	Tom Wehner	662-3434
U-12 (coed):	Susan Sussman	662-6035
U-14 (coed):	Olaf Lubeck	662-3471
U-19 (coed):	John Huang	662-9273
All girls:	Paul Stowe	662-9807

If you would like to continue next season (i.e., still have a child in that age group), or if your child is moving up in age group and you'd like to help at the next level, please let me know. If you will not be returning, please also let me know as soon as possible. I have received several calls from other potential candidates, and would like to have the Coordinators in place before we actually start receiving Fall registration data (usually in early August). Also a hearty "thanks" to John Erickson who, despite his past duties as league president, still volunteered to do our Hill field scheduling!

Each Age-group coordinator has an equipment inventory form for each coach, who should fill it out and return it through your coordinator at the end of the season. If you plan to coach again in the Fall, you may hold on to the

team equipment presently assigned to you. If you will not be coaching again, please note that on the inventory and we'll arrange to collect your equipment for reuse by others. Whether or not you'll be continuing, please note the numbers and condition of your equipment, so that we can budget for appropriate replacements.

Each Age-group coordinator also has a player rating sheet for each coach. Fall is the time for wholesale team realignment, as we receive the lion's share of registrations then. In order for us to do a credible job of balancing teams (where demography allows!), we need to have these ratings returned. This is particularly important if you are not planning to coach again next year, since then no one would be able to address your players' skill levels at team assignment time. Coaches, please fill these out promptly and return them as well through your coordinators.

**White Rock Coordinator (Barbara Cort)**

This past spring had 31 recreational soccer teams in White Rock, including four new teams. Age group coordinators are:

U6 (all coed):	AdriAnne Kothe	672-3147
U8 (all coed):	Barbara Cort	672-1901
U10 (coed):	George MacArthur	672-3543
U12 (coed):	Ann Despain	672-1491
U14 (coed):	Sue Goff	672-0232
U16/19 (coed):	Ann Despain	672-1491
U10 Girls:	Francine Mendoza	672-3254
U12/14 Girls:	Francine Mendoza	672-3254

**A BIG THANKS** to all the age group coordinators for the wonderful job they did organizing the teams this year.

The assignment of certified referees to U8 games this spring has been a huge success. The players have benefited from playing by consistent, standard rules, and many of the referees have taken the opportunity to teach skills during the games. Thanks to all youths, mentors and to Gary Cort, LAYSL Referee Coordinator, for this great support in supplying referees for the U8 games.

**From the Registrar (Debbie Castro):**

We had 983 registered players and 80 teams in LAYSL for the spring 1995 season.

Registration forms for the upcoming Fall '95 / Spring '96 season will be mailed to those players who were registered for either the past Fall '94 or Spring '95 season. Extra forms will be placed in our county libraries.

Fees have increased by \$3. Two dollars of that increase is needed to cover an increase by our parent organization, the NMYSA. One dollar of the state's increase is needed to cover the higher cost of player insurance; and the second dollar covers increased operations costs. This is

the first state registration fee increase in the last four years. The third dollar of the local increase offsets our increased support of the referee and coach-training programs. Registration fees for next season are:

Both Fall 1995 & Spring 1996	\$38.00
Single season only, Fall or Spring	\$25.00
Under-6 age group only, both	\$28.00
U-6 age group only, one season	\$18.00

June 30 is the registration deadline. After that, fees double. Also, additional registrations can be accepted after June 30 only if:

- space is available on an age-group team,
- the doubled fee is paid, &
- the registration form is received and processed before the first scheduled game of the season.

Fall-season practice begins last week of August, 1995.

Remember to place adequate postage on the return envelope, especially if you are mailing more than one registration form in a single envelope.

A big "**Thank you**" to all our volunteers who have put in so much time and effort. Your help is very important to the League.

#### **Report from Advanced Teams Coordinator (Alan Lay)**

Watch the local paper for notices about tryout dates for the advanced teams. Most of these happen very soon after school is out.

#### **Equipment Coordinator & Coach Trainer (Phil Warnock)**

Coaches' clinics will be offered this summer. A NMYSA "D" level clinic is scheduled to be held in Santa Fe August 4--6 and 11--13. This clinic is for those currently holding a "E" license who are ready to upgrade. Please mark your calendars.

Additional "F" and "E" license courses are being considered for entry-level coaches and will likely be held in mid to late August. Watch the Monitor for a notice.

#### **Coaching from the Sidelines -- Not!!**

A little-observed (or known) rule in New Mexico Youth Soccer is that coaching from the sidelines is *prohibited* in all youth age groups (U6 through U19) by the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association (NMYSA). the NMYSA defines coaching as "Giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position" (NMYSA General Procedures and Rules, R.3.11.03). this means that even simple statements such as "change fields", "send it up the line," or "shoot!" are technically prohibited. Furthermore, parents and spectators cannot do for the coaches what the coaches are not allowed to do for themselves. In other words, parents can't coach either!

Is this crazy? How are kids supposed to learn? No, it's not really crazy. The goals of the NMYSA are to eliminate negative comments from the sidelines; to stop parents and coaches from interfering with play (and confusing the players); and to enhance the player's enjoyment of the game. Games are intended for players to work as teams on the field, with only supportive encouragement from spectators (and coaches). Negative comments to any players during games are always inappropriate.

How do we live with this rule? We train and coach during practice. We develop captains as field leaders. We send messages to the field through subs. We cheer and encourage the players. We make notes for the next practice. We let the kids play, and in this way they quickly learn to play smarter. We should think of ourselves (coaches and parents) as directors of a stage performance. We practice and rehearse all week, but on opening night (the game), we sit back, watch the performance, and admire how the players improvise and shine, and at the end, we give them a standing ovation!

#### **LAYSL Sponsors Coach Training**

The LAYSL Board of Directors will enhance its commitment to providing coaches training opportunities. The League endorses two training programs, and encourages all coaches to take advantage of clinics offered by these programs.

The Coaches' Education Program, sponsored by the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association, is designed to improve the general knowledge of the game, establish coaching methods, and assist in the development of youth soccer players. Several course levels are offered, ranging from beginning to advanced. Courses are arranged with the state organization, and usually one or two sessions are available locally each year. More advanced training is frequently offered in Albuquerque or Santa Fe. As coaches progress through these courses, they obtain higher-level state coaching licenses (F, E, D, C, ...).

A second training program is provided by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA), with three levels of certification programs. Focus is on the psychology of coaching youth sports, maximizing athletic performance, first aid and safety, organizing fun practices, and tips for teaching soccer techniques. These courses are arranged by local clinicians, and can be offered almost any time about ten or more people express an interest.

Fees for either set of courses are paid by the LAYSL. Our all-volunteer organization hopes to help instill a love of soccer in our youth players. This choice of coach training programs should make it more convenient for all our coaches to improve techniques and make soccer more enjoyable for everyone.

**Summer Soccer Camps**

Registered LAYSL players are eligible to participate in a special soccer camp offered by Steven Kraemer. Steve, a former LAHS player and a current Lobo player, has offered these useful and enjoyable sessions in the past.

Steve will offer eight sessions, detailed in the following chart. The "hill" location is the Mesa Field near UNM/LA. WR sessions will be at one of the overlook soccer fields. Cost is \$25.00 per session, payable to Steve Kraemer at 12 Timber Ridge, Los Alamos. Steve asks for the following information: player name, grade (in fall), session number, phone number & emergency phone number.

Players will need to bring along a good soccer ball, wear shin guards and have drinking water. If additional information is needed, please call 662-7219.

**Lost and Found**

A nice winter ski parka was left out on the Hill fields early in the spring season. The parka is mostly green with some red color. The name Scott Kelly is written inside. If you collected this coat, please call Constance Chausse at 662-4858.

**Contacts for the LAYSL BOD:**

Registrar: Debra Castro, 662-2181  
 President: Bob Walker, 672-9749  
 Referee Coordinator: Gary Cort, 672-1901  
 Hill Coordinator: Bill Flor, 662-7885  
 WR Coordinator: Barbara Cort, 672-1902  
 Advanced Teams Coord.: Alan Lay, 672-1799  
 Treasurer: George Hagedorn, 672-1505  
 Secretary: Timothy Hower, 662-3502  
 Publicity: Dave Schneider, 662-9702

Session #	Location	Dates	Times	Grade (in fall)
1	Hill	5/29 -- 6/2	9:00 -- 10:30	1 -- 3
2	Hill	5/29 -- 6/2	11:00 -- 12:30	4 -- 7
3	WR	5/29 -- 6/2	1:30 -- 3:00	1 -- 3
4	WR	5/29 -- 6/2	3:30 -- 5:00	4 -- 7
5	Hill	6/5 -- 6/9	9:00 -- 10:30	1 -- 3
6	Hill	6/5 -- 6/9	11:00 -- 12:30	4 -- 7
7	WR	6/5 -- 6/9	1:30 -- 3:00	1 -- 3
8	WR	6/5 -- 6/9	3:30 -- 5:00	4 -- 7

**Los Alamos Youth Soccer League**  
**P. O. Box 649**  
**Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544**

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