

LAYSL WEB SITE UPDATE: URL CHANGE

[http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/
laysl@newmexico.com](http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/laysl@newmexico.com)

In order to provide faster connections, the Internet Service Provider that hosts the LAYSL web site has reconfigured their system. Our connection **must** now be made through the "roadrunner" domain name rather than the "newmexico" domain name. The change took effect in early April. If you have had any trouble connecting to our web site since then, please reset your bookmark to the address shown above. Our e-mail address is **unchanged**.

Our web site is beginning to see activity from our league coaches, referees and parents. While it's not "burning up the net" at this point, it's prime purpose is not to be a world-renowned "must see" site, but rather to serve our local needs **first**.

(WEB SITE Continued on page 3)

ADVANCED TEAMS Pam Erickson

The Spring season for advanced teams is just about over. LAYSL fielded four girls teams and seven boys teams this Spring. Thanks to all the coaches who gave generously of their time to coach these teams. Thanks also to their families, the parents of the players and the players themselves for their commitment to advanced soccer.

The coaching lineup has been set for the Fall '97 season already. Following is a list of coaches for each

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ENJOYING SOCCER




Our Referee Coordinator, Kim Thomas, offered some thoughts to your Board of Directors recently about ensuring enjoyment of the youth soccer experience by players, coaches, parents and referees alike. We reproduce them here in hopes that we may each see a bit of ourselves in the following:

Regarding the Referees:

- ① Referees are human; they make mistakes; they have good and bad days; in our league, they are volunteers.
- ② They are neither enemies nor opponents, but are our partners in teaching our children how to play the game and in helping everyone enjoy the game.
- ③ They come with varied experience and understanding of the game of soccer (especially advanced vs. recreational play); sometimes they are less knowledgeable than we are, but frequently they are more so (referees must retrain and recertify annually).
- ④ Some of them are people like us who were coerced into taking the referee course so there would be enough referees.
- ⑤ Many of the calls in games are subjective—open to interpretation. Sideline personnel are **rarely** in a better position to judge an incident than the referee.
- ⑥ Referees have varied levels of sensitivity. Some will be very aware of comments from the bench and spectators; others will be less so.

(ENJOYING SOCCER continued on page 2)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-  **Fall '97-'98 registration** OPENS May 16 and CLOSES June 30, 1997 *(see pg. 4)*.
-  **Advanced Team tryouts** for '97-'98 season will be held May 19-30, 1997 *(see pg. 3)*.
-  **Spring '97 equipment turn-in** will be Sunday May 18 from 5 - 6 PM at the LAYSL locker (#36) behind McDonald's on the Hill.

(ENJOYING SOCCER continued from page 1)

Regarding the Coaches:

- ① Coaches are human; they make mistakes; they have good and bad days; they are volunteers.
- ② Coaches have the responsibility of bringing the team together. It is our goal to support our children by teaching them respect for those involved in their practices and games—which includes parents, coaches, and referees.
- ③ Coaches are allowed to "coach" their players through reinforcement and to varying degrees as allowed by the referee.
- ④ Coaches are invited to participate in the referee evaluation process (e.g. completing game reports); it is by this means that all but the most immediately dangerous problems should be addressed.
- ⑤ Coaches may direct questions to the referee through the team captains or assistant referees, but should not personally address the referee during the game. (Soccer has no coaching "time outs"!)
- ⑥ Coaches are responsible for their sidelines (parents, spectators, dogs, siblings, etc.). This includes education, behavior, and crowd control (keeping people at least 3 feet back from the touch-line). Spectators are not allowed to abuse or berate referees or players (including their own children).

Regarding the Parents/Families/Spectators:

- ① Parents are human; they make mistakes; they have good and bad days; they are voluntary participants.
- ② Parents are members of the team of coaches, referees, and families who help create a positive experience for the players.
- ③ Parents have a responsibility to learn and understand the rules of the game.
- ④ Parents, along with the rest of the team, may not challenge a referee's call. A challenge can be as simple as "Oh, **come ON!**" Players need to immediately get back into the game and prepare for the next play. Complaints from the sideline only distract them from the game.
- ⑤ Parents are encouraged to cheer with words of encouragement ("good pass;" "way to be there;" "be first!"; "nice shot;" "great save!"). Parents should restrict their comments to positive encouragement, and should refrain from giving instructions to players on the field.

Regarding the Players:

- ① Players are human; they make mistakes; they have good and bad days; they are out there to have fun.

② The players learn from the support group surrounding them—coaches, parents, and referees.

③ The opposing players are not out to harm your child. They are simply other kids playing their hearts out. At times they are just modeling the good and bad behavior of their older siblings, parents, and coaches. Make sure that when kids model **our** behavior, it's what we want!

④ The players are out here because competition is fun, the game is fun, and the friendships are fun. They enjoy hearing their sidelines cheer their name and they love the celebration tunnel at the end of the game—whether they win **or** lose!

SMALL-SIDED GAMES

Every year, LAYSL fields a number of questions, and sometimes complaints, regarding the LAYSL policy of playing small-sided games in the younger age groups. Some parents assume that small-sided play does not constitute "real" soccer (meaning, soccer with eleven players per side).

The LAYSL policy is consistent with the strong guidance provided by our parent organization, the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association, and its parent, the US Youth Soccer Association. The USYSA Developmental Player Program Guidelines explicitly state that U6 teams should not exceed 5 players per side, U8 teams should not exceed 7 players, and U10 teams should not exceed 9 players. Traveling U10 teams (competitive teams) must not exceed 8 players per side. LAYSL enthusiastically endorses these recommendations, agreeing with our parent organizations that small-sided games for young players are more fun and develop their skills much faster than larger-sided games. In small-sided play, each player touches the ball more often. As a direct result, players develop earlier ball-handling skills, better defensive skills, and a better field sense.

By adopting these guidelines, LAYSL must be successful in obtaining more coach volunteers, because we form more teams than we otherwise would. It's not much fun for subs to stand on the sidelines watching their teammates play; but it isn't much better to be standing on the field and not playing either. This why we must strive to keep our team rosters as small as possible. The rewards are apparent to those of us who have seen the beneficial impact this policy has had on improved levels of both defensive and offensive skills of players when they begin to play soccer on full-sized fields with 11 players per side.



(WEB SITE continued from page 1)

A number of things have been added to the site since the previous newsletter article. The Spring '97 game schedules and referee assignments have been posted, as well as additions to the Coach's Page, and new summer camp materials. We're working on providing a "digest" of the monthly Board meetings. Please visit our site and provide feedback. If there is anything that would make it more valuable to you, as a player, parent, coach, referee, or other volunteer, please tell us.

WANTED — person to schedule practice and game fields in White Rock. Call Debby Hyman, 672-1149.

(ADVANCED Continued from page 1)

team LAYS� expects to field, along with eligible birth dates and tryout dates (where known):

- Girls U-10 (8/1/87-7/31/88) Dave Sanchez (662-6098)
5/19 Western 5:30-7, 5/20 Overlook 5:30-7
- Girls U-11/12 (8/1/85-7/31/87) Molly Cernicek (662-2118)
5/19 Western 5:30-7, 5/20 Overlook 5:30-7
- Girls U-13/14 (7th & 8th grade) Open - Volunteers?
- Boys U-10 (8/1/87-7/31/88) Phil Pellette (672-0389)
- Boys U-11 (8/1/86-7/31/87) Gary Cort (672-0758)
5/19 Watanabe 4:30, 5/20 Spirio 1 4:30
- Boys U-12 (8/1/85-7/31/86) Brad Smith (672-1793)
- Boys U-13 (8/1/84-7/31/85) Steve Valone (988-5085)
5/19 and 5/20, place/time TBD
- Boys U-14 (8th grade) Open - Volunteers?

LAYS� supports an advanced team program to provide more challenging levels of soccer to higher caliber players who, with their parents, are willing to make a higher level of commitment to soccer. Advanced team players make a 1-year commitment to play in the Duke City Metro League (Albuquerque). The Fall season generally runs from mid-August to mid or late November, and includes two tournaments and two games a day on regular league game days. Spring season begins in late February and runs through late May, and follows the same pattern as the Fall. Most teams play one out-of-state tournament a year, to play different teams than they see during regular league play.

Each advanced team will hold tryouts on 2 or 3 days sometime during the last 2 weeks of school. Dates will be advertised in the *Monitor*. Prospective players should call the coach to register ahead of time to allow preparation of enough handouts and to have enough coaches on hand to ensure a fair tryout. Please direct advanced team and tryout questions to Pam Erickson at 662-2056.

HILL COORDINATOR

Joy Dee White

Such a whirlwind of activity! Spring season has started and I was so glad to be back to practice. I would really like to thank all of you who were such a huge help to me; my break-in period was so much easier because of you. Thanks so much to the age group coordinators: Terry Izraelevitz, U6; Dave Goggin, U8; DeeDee McInroy, U10 coed; Pam Hornsby, U12 coed; Karl Braithwaite, U14 coed; and Dory Ryan, Girls. You did a great job! I would like to thank Debby Hyman for all her help and advice, and for giving me the freedom to ask many questions. Also, many thanks to Debbie Castro for her patience.

I want to encourage parents to begin now considering your role with the kids next year. We will still need coaches, coordinators, assistant referees, and team parents. In addition, we are planning to limit the sizes of teams to allow each child to have more play time and to improve their overall soccer experience. To do that, we will need more coaches. It is truly a rewarding experience. If you have never coached or feel unsure about it, go ahead and give it a try; there is lots of help available through clinics and advice from those who have coached for a while. This is such a great sport, and such a positive experience for the kids, and you will be amazed at how much you will enjoy it too! Let's work together to make this great organization even better.

WANTED!!

Age-Group Coordinators (AGCs) for the '97-'98 Season

Age-group coordinators are needed in all age groups for the upcoming season, in both the White Rock and Hill programs. Coordinators are "compensated" by waiver of the registration fees for one child. Teams are expected to be formed in U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, and U16/19 age groups as well as U10 Girls and U12 Girls. Volunteers must be available to facilitate drafting teams with the coaches and to recruit coaches as necessary in late July to mid-August and again in late February and early March to accommodate additional spring-only players. To become an AGC, please call Debby Hyman (White Rock, 672-1149) or Joy Dee White (Hill, 661-6697). Then check the appropriate box on your child's registration form. The AGCs are also a communication link between the Board of Directors and the coaches during the season.



⚽ REGISTRAR

Debbie Castro

LAYS� had 992 players registered for the Spring '97 season. Registration forms for the Fall '97 - Spring '98 season will be mailed to those players who are active in our database (*i.e.*, registered this past Spring) in May. Extra forms will be available in both branches of the Mesa Public Library.

Registration fees for the '97-'98 season are:

Both Fall '97 and Spring '98	\$ 40.00
Single season (Fall or Spring)	\$ 26.00
U6 age group only (both seasons)	\$ 28.00
U6 age group only (one season)	\$ 18.00

June 30 is the registration deadline. After that, fees are doubled, and late registrations are *only* accepted if space is available in an age group, the late (doubled) fee is paid, and the forms are received and processed by August 16 (no exceptions).

Maximum team sizes are set by age group, to ensure a quality program. "Space available" means that maximum team size in that age group has not been reached. Please place sufficient postage on the return envelope, especially if mailing more than one registration in a single envelope. LAYS� does not accept postage due mail.

⚽ THE PREZ SAYS

John Courtright

Soccer is life, the rest is just details. I like that saying. It reminds me what a Board of Directors is supposed to do—not get so involved with the details that the game comes to a standstill or is no longer fun. I'm pleased to join an organization that is running smoothly and needs little guidance to accomplish its main goal. The purpose of the LAYS� is to provide an opportunity for as many kids who want to play a sport the chance to play the game of soccer. As for the Board's job, I feel it is our responsibility to do what's best for the largest number of kids and still provide a fun learning experience for everyone. As the new President, my goal is to help soccer succeed in Los Alamos.

To help soccer succeed in LA, there are two areas I would like to address. First is the referee situation, across all age groups, rec or competitive. A ref's job is to see that a game is played by the rules, people don't get hurt, and to keep score. As a coach, I've never seen a ref's call win or lose a game. Gary Cort says it very well, "a team loses only because they didn't score enough goals." Sure, not everyone will be happy with every call, but we're not happy with the IRS either. Parents set an example of how to treat

⚽ CALENDAR

16/17 May	Spring recreational games END
16 May	Registration OPENS for '97-'98 season
18 May	Equipment turn-in (5-6 PM locker #36, Hill)
19-30 May	Advanced Team tryouts
2 June	LAYS� Board Meeting at Mesa Public Library
9-13 June	Steve Kraemer Soccer Camp
23-27 June	Geckos Soccer Camp
30 June	Registration CLOSSES for '97-'98 season
14-18 July	German Soccer Camp
21-25 July	Essex Soccer Academy
28 July	Unassigned listings available to Coordinators
28 July	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
4-8 Aug	British Soccer Camp (13 and older)
11 Aug	Team assignments due from coordinators
11-15 Aug	British Soccer Camp (12 and younger)
19-21 Aug	Fall '97 referee clinics
20 Aug	Final rosters due
25 Aug	First recreational team practice allowed
25 Aug	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
5/6 Sep	First weekend of Fall recreational games
22 Sep	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
10/11 Oct	Last weekend of Fall recreational games

⚽ LAYS� BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Courtright	662-9216	President
Bob Walker	672-9749	Secretary
Herb Fry	662-6491	Treasurer
Kim Thomas	672-3354	Referee Coordinator
Joy Dee White	661-6697	Hill Coordinator
Debby Hyman	672-1149	White Rock Coordinator
Lore Pellette	672-0389	Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator
Pam Erickson	662-2056	Advanced Team Coordinator
Bill Flor	662-7885	Publicity Coordinator
Debbie Castro	662-2181	Registrar (non-voting)

refs. We have a lot of young kids willing to take on the responsibility of becoming a ref. We need that kind of participation if we want to continue to have officials for games.

Secondly, not only do we need more refs, but other officials, parent participation, and coaches. LAYS� is a volunteer organization, and we need your help. We would rather have many small teams than fewer large ones, simply because each child will get more playing time. Lore Pellette is scheduling coaching clinics and, if you're interested, I encourage you to take a clinic and become a coach. Without the influx of new coaches, we may need to limit the number of kids who can play, simply because we don't have enough teachers.

⚽ **BRITISH SOCCER CAMPS**
Aug 4-8 and 11-15, 1997

The British Soccer Camp is coming again this summer. Two camps will be held in August at Overlook Park in White Rock. The first camp, Aug 4-8, will be held the week prior to high school soccer tryouts and is for players ages 13 and older. Applications submitted before June 20 will receive a \$5 discount. The second camp, Aug 11-15, is for players ages 12 and younger. Deadline for early sign-up discount is June 27 for the younger camp.

Each participant receives a shirt and soccer ball at the camp. Family discounts are available. Full scholarships are offered to any family housing a British coach. Applications are available at the Walkup Aquatic Center and at the White Rock and Los Alamos branches of Mesa Public Library. For additional information, please contact Ron Madrid, at 672-1751.

⚽ **GECKOS SOCCER CAMP**
June 23-27, 1997

Planned for Los Alamos. For more information, please call Rod Underwood at (505) 294-3362 (daytime).

⚽ **GERMAN SOCCER CAMP**
July 14-18, 1997

Planned for Los Alamos (Overlook Park). For more information, please call Uwe Balzis at (505) 856-0850 or Manni Klar at (505) 858-3390.

⚽ **ESSEX SOCCER ACADEMY**
Santa Fe, July 21-25, 1997

Essex Soccer Academy is a program developed by its head coach, Andy McDermid, Director of Coaching for Youth at Highbury and Grays of the English First Division Arsenal Football Club of London. The Essex program concentrates on ball control, short passes, coordination and balance, off-the-ball movements, and communication. The more skilled the players, the more the Essex coaches can focus on furthering understanding and appreciation of the subtleties, strategies, and complexities of the world's most popular game. Every Essex coach has earned the English national license, and has been further trained by Andy to bring you camps that are cohesive, logical, organized, entertaining, and fun. Camps run for three hours a day, Monday through Friday. Hours and prices vary, so please call the Essex office at (800) 443-7438 for more information about our individual day camps and team camps. We look forward to meeting Los Alamos players and coaches!

⚽ **STEVE KRAEMER SOCCER CAMP**
June 9-13, 1997

Steve is a local player with a great deal of soccer experience, who has held LAYS�-sponsored camps 4 of the past 5 years (except during his time last summer with the Nashville Metros). His camps are designed for younger players, grades 1 through 7, and emphasize control of the ball, use of both feet, proper technique for striking the ball for distance and accuracy, dribbling, heading, and passing. Small-sided drills incorporate and reinforce these skill areas. These are "no frills" camps (no T-shirts, balls or ice cream), but they are designed for fun as well as skill improvement. Each participant is expected to bring a ball, shinguards, and water. Steve's experience:

4 years Varsity at Los Alamos High School
 4 years at Regional Camp, 1 year Regional Team
 Current UNM Men's Varsity
 Playing experience in Wales and Germany
 1 season with Nashville Metros
 Summer '97 plays with Lincoln Brigade (Lincoln, NE)
 Coach of U12 boys team in ABQ during school year
 Member, Lobos Camps (Klaus Weber, UNM coach)
 Member, British and Welsh soccer camps

Session 1	Grades 1-3	9:00 -10:30	Mesa Field (Near UNMLA)
Session 2	Grades 4-7	11:00-12:30	Mesa Field
Session 3	Grades 1-3	1:30 - 3:00	Overlook
Session 4	Grades 4-7	3:30 - 5:00	Overlook

Please return registration form and check to:
 Steve Kraemer or call 662-7219
 12 Timber Ridge for more information.
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

For Steve's camp, players must have been registered with LAYS� during the '96-'97 season (either Fall or Spring).

**STEVE KRAEMER SOCCER CAMP
 REGISTRATION**

Name _____

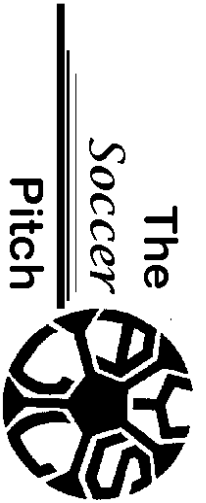
Session _____

Home Phone _____

Emergency Phone _____

Cost: \$30.00 per session

Remember to bring a soccer ball, shinguards, and a water bottle.



May 1997
Newsletter

**Los
Alamos
Youth
Soccer
League**

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
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 '97-'98 Registration

 Enjoying Soccer

 Web Site Update

 Advanced Teams

 Camps



Los Alamos Youth Soccer League
P. O. Box 649
Los Alamos, NM 87544