

⚽ STATE CUP FOLLOW-UP

John Courtright

What a great first-round tournament LAYSL put on! In 1997, our State organization decided to spread out the NM State Cup tournament and not have Albuquerque host the entire event. LAYSL hosted two preliminary rounds of the 1998 State Cup—U-11 girls (state-wide) and U-13 boys (north section)—at Overlook Park on 25-26 Apr '98. The weather absolutely was the worst. We had every type of weather possible between Saturday and Sunday. I truly mean every type of weather, except a hurricane or tornado—at times I felt we were in Kansas. Despite the weather, we were the only organization in the northern part of the state to finish all our venues, and the spirit of the volunteers made it all possible.

I wish to thank everyone who helped make the tournament a success. You all did a great job and made the League proud. Without the parents and volunteers from the two LA teams and the Board, the League wouldn't have been able to pull off such an undertaking. Everyone took a task and carried through with their job. It sure made my job as tournament director an easy one, and I was nervous. I want to recognize a few individuals who really gave me extra support and guidance for putting on my first tournament. Pam Erickson stepped up and was my assistant director, and was a great wealth of information. Antoinette Sheffield took over the concession stand and, even though we didn't make a great amount off concessions, she was there every morning and was really prepared for an onslaught of people (who never came because of the weather). Steve Valone and Jiri Kubicek organized their teams' parents so well that every job from registration to setup, cleanup, field marshals, etc., had a person there to do

(STATE CUP, continued on page 3)

⚽ FROM THE REGISTRAR

To those of you who haven't met me yet, my name is Martha Katko, and I'm the new LAYSL Registrar. I took over the position on 1 Apr '98. The LAYSL registrar's phone number is 662-2181. You may also e-mail me at katko@roadrunner.com.

⚽ '97-'98 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration for the '98-'99 LAYSL soccer year is now open. Letters with pre-printed registration materials were mailed to all current registrants. New registrants may pick up complete registration packages at either branch of the Mesa Public Library.

The registration fee for the '98-'99 soccer year remains at \$40 per child, which covers both the fall and spring seasons. The fee for a single season is \$26 per child. The fee for the kindergarten league (U-06) is \$28 for the year or \$18 for a single season. For those families with three (3) or more children in the program, the fee is \$40 for each of the first two children and \$16 for each additional child. Fees are waived for certain volunteer positions. The League will attempt to field separate girls-only teams in the U-10, U-12, and U-14 age groups if there are sufficient registrants and volunteers. **See the League web site for more detailed information about registration.**

The registration deadline is 30 June '98. Fees DOUBLE for any registration postmarked after the deadline date. Late registrations are taken on a space-available basis only and must be received and processed prior to 21 Aug '98—no exceptions. Maximum team sizes are established by age group to ensure optimum benefit to the players. Any child born between 1 Aug '79 and 31 July '93 may register to play in LAYSL during the '98-'99 season. **Players selected for a High School team will have their fees refunded.**



⚽ ⚽ ⚽ INSIDE ⚽ ⚽ ⚽

- Page 2: The Prez Says
- Page 2: White Rock News; Equipment Issues
- Page 3: Advanced Teams; Web Site Update
- Page 4: Clinics and Camps
- Page 5: Fall Referee Clinics; Event Calendar
- Page 5: Current Board of Directors
- Page 6: Hill News

⚽ THE PREZ SAYS

John Courtright

Reports of my demise are greatly exaggerated. So are several other rumors that I didn't think existed until one parent asked me what she was going to do with her child, since there wasn't going to be any fall soccer. Newsletter material, here I come.

There are two major proposed changes that I'd like to address: extra teams and/or games and the hiring of a director of coaching. These are discussion items **only** at this time, so don't start rumors about how we've hired an entire staff!! Currently, we have about 1,000 kids playing soccer, from U-06 thru U-19. Of those, the competitive teams account for about 175 kids. The rest, and by far the "bread and butter" of LAYSL, are the 800+ recreational payers. Two important ideas have been suggested to help our rec program grow and improve. Neither will succeed without parental support or the willingness to expand.

First, the idea of forming, for lack of a better word, an "all-star team" at the U-10 and/or U-12 level(s). Bruce Barraclough had approached the Board after the Fall '97 season, inquiring about providing more soccer to kids who want more competition but, for one reason or another, don't care about the competitive program. (See the note in the Jan '98 newsletter.) Bruce wasn't the first to discuss such an idea, as I've had contact with other LA coaches, as well as coaches in Santa Fe and Taos. My primary concern was taking on another program without added board help and needed extra administrative support. The Board gave approval for Bruce to inquire around to see if there are enough kids willing to participate for a couple of teams in addition to their regular rec program games, and if parents are willing to go out of town and help coordinate the program. I spoke to Bruce recently and asked him to share his progress with me. There seems to be plenty of interest for participation. In fact, some coaches took it upon themselves to arrange extra games this spring (nice work!)—proof that this is a viable idea. BUT ... Bruce can't do it alone. Even if it's only one team, scheduling with other teams, parents, fields, and refs is a large task. Ask any competitive coach who sets up scrimmages. The League, as you know, has age-group coordinators, and such a person would be needed for an "extra" program to succeed. Bruce said he can help, but once again, if you're interested in forming such teams, we need someone to take the lead. Contact Bruce or me if interested and available.

The second change just starting to be discussed is something I'm excited about for our entire League. About a year ago, the State organization hired Dave

(THE PREZ SAYS, continued on page 6)

⚽ WHITE ROCK COORDINATOR

April Nakaoka

It wouldn't be spring without a little wind, rain/snow and some organizational problems. Taking over in the middle of a season ("coerced") as well as being the U-8 coordinator and a coach has left me wondering whether I have the time/patience required. Hopefully the remainder of my term will be less complicated.

The season is going well now that the bugs have been worked out. Our volunteers have been extremely important in making this soccer season successful and fun. Thanks so much to the age-group coordinators for their time and effort: Lorraine Vasilik U-6, April Nakaoka U-8, Chris Michelotti U-10, Sandra Rodriguez U-10 Girls, Jim Crews U-12, Jenny Sprinkle U-12 Girls, and Tim Harrington U-14. And to the coaches, your generosity is invaluable. You are the children's mentors and friends. The time you spend at meetings, clinics, practices, and dozens of other chores is appreciated by all. Keep up the good work, and encourage players to attend summer soccer camps—thanks again!



⚽ EQUIPMENT ISSUES

Lore Pellette

After conducting thorough inventories of our equipment assets over the past year, we have purchased some new soccer balls: fifty each of #3, #4, and #5, at a total cost of almost \$5,000. With this kind of investment, you can see why it's important to account for the supplies we provide our teams.

Another item we must consider soon is replacement of damaged/destroyed/missing goal nets. Each set of nets is \$100, and their lifetime is considerably shortened by children playing/climbing on the nets when they are left up in order to have them available for practices. Do we need to establish a policy of taking them down except for games in order to extend their lifetime? We also need ball bags (\$7-14 each) and many cones (\$0.60-1 each). There have also been some requests for goalie shirts (anyone with good prices out there?).

Coaches who are not returning for the Fall '98 season **please turn in all your League equipment promptly** to either your Age-Group Coordinator or to me (672-0389). Thanks! Let's work to keep our costs reasonable!

(EQUIPMENT, continued on page 3)

WEB SITE UPDATE

There is much more information on our web site about these events and about other activities mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, including more detailed content, points-of-contact for more information, maps, forms, etc. Please visit us at:

<http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/>

If you have any items of general League interest that you would like to have posted on our site, please fill in the on-line form or send e-mail to us at:

laysl@newmexico.com

We're working to expand the usefulness of our web site. We created pages to support our 1998 NM State Cup Preliminary Rounds, and saw 300 hits in the 10 days before the tournament. We're posting more forms and announcements in pdf format for clinics and camps, hopefully making it easier for you to have "immediate" access to them. We're trying to work with NMYSA to encourage posting of more state-wide information on their own site (rather than us re-creating State information on our site). We're adding more links to other soccer sites worldwide. Your feedback is welcomed to tell us other ways our site could serve your soccer needs.

(STATE CUP, Continued from page 1)

the work. Bob Walker took charge of seeing that the fields were marked and ready, and each morning checked them again. Bill Flor, the Board's PR person, put together a great program, but a medal of valor goes to him and his crew from Hazardous Materials Response for loaning us the tents and setup personnel for the ref and admin tents. We had compliment after compliment about the operation, and we workers were relieved to have those tents when the storms came on Sunday. Finally, I hope everyone will commend Kim Thomas on her superb job of organizing and running a top-notch referee crew. The District Commissioner complimented me on the quality of refs and how much better they were compared to the Santa Fe refs. A true compliment to Kim for all the hard work she does to give our refs quality training. All the refs deserve a round of applause because they were out in some of the worst conditions helping the tournament proceed on time and safely. Kim gave me great advice, and without her and Bob Walker to confirm my decisions, we may not have completed our venues.

Next year, LA will probably host another round of State Cup. If your team is specifically interested in hosting the event, please let me know. I'm sure LA will be responsible for another age group, so if your team is interested, let us know.



(EQUIPMENT, Continued from page 2)

The League could use some additional volunteers to help organize the equipment lockers (build bins, etc.)—please call me. We also need a field lining clinic (and volunteers to assist in that essential job!). While the written directions are posted on our web site, there are some "tricks of the trade" that really make the job easier—and some new folks need to learn them while Bob Walker is willing to impart them!



ADVANCED TEAMS NEWS

Debbie Smith

The '97-'98 advanced team program was an active and innovative one. Regular meetings of all advanced coaches, "team" coaching of skills sessions, winter skills maintenance programs, discussions of age-appropriate skills development and progression, and even an e-mail list of all advanced coaches for improved communication were highlights.

Our U-11 Kixx and U-13 Lasers hosted preliminary rounds of the 1998 NM State Cup tournament (discussed on page 1). We expect to be asked to host similar rounds in the future, and have collected much information and many "lessons learned" from this experience that should prove valuable.

By the time you read this, the advanced teams program for the '98-'99 season should be pretty well defined. We solicited coach candidates in April, which resulted in the following list of '98-'99 coaches. **Lasers:** U-10 Victor Medina, U-11 Phil Pelette, U-12 Rod Lin, U-13 Brad Smith, and U-14 Adolfo Hoisie. **Kixx:** U-10 Roy Michelotti, U-11 Dave Sanchez, U-12 Mike Kluk, U-13 Molly Cernicek, and U-14 Paul Jackson. In addition, there will be pool players, coed and boys/girls, who will dual-roster with rec. Additional tryouts and coaches will be announced this summer. Check the web site for further information.

We restructured the tryout process. All players were **required** to try out for their age-appropriate team and **allowed** to try out for the age-group one year above, if they desired. All teams held tryouts during a two-week period before the end of school. Coaches were strongly encouraged to participate in the tryouts for the teams one year above and below their own, to produce a more uniform assessment of player skills in adjacent age groups. Final player selections for '98-'99 will be announced shortly.



CLINICS and CAMPS

If you want to be more involved in LAYSL but need a bit more training before "jumping in" to coach, to be a referee or assistant referee, or to play another role, here are some opportunities. Don't forget the State is moving toward licensing all youth coaches at the appropriate level over the next few years. If you are a player looking for field time during the summer "off-season," here are some opportunities for you as well. **See more details on our web site.**

"E"-License Coaching Clinic: David Linenberger, the NMYSA State Director of Coaching and Youth Development, will be offering an "E"-license coaching clinic in Albuquerque 10-12 July '98 (18 hours total). For further information, please call David at (505) 830-2246, or Rob Newell at the DCSL office (505) 275-9658, or Lore Pellette at 672-0389.

"D"-License Coaching Clinic: David Linenberger, the NMYSA State Director of Coaching and Youth Development, will be offering a "D"-license coaching clinic in Albuquerque 24-26 July and 1-2 Aug '98. A current "E"-license is required to attend. For further information, please call David, Rob Newell, or Lore Pellette (as above).

PROPOSED "E"-License Coaching Clinic: LAYSL proposes to offer an "E"-license coaching clinic in Los Alamos 28-30 Aug '98. In order to make this a reality, we need 12 *commitments* from interested coaches. For further information, please contact Lore Pellette at 672-0389.

Soccer Tactics Seminar: A 3-day soccer tactics seminar for coaches is being held at the NM School for the Deaf in Santa Fe on 5-7 Jun '98. The featured presenter is Graham Ramsay, Director of Education and Training, Maryland State Youth Soccer Association, one of the leading coaches in North America and a former European and US pro player. The workshop is recommended for coaches holding a State coaching license who are actively coaching competitive youth, high school, or college-level teams, and who preferably have a minimum of 4 years of coaching experience. For further information and registration forms, call Kris Hansen, the camp coordinator, at (505) 982-8294 or (505) 827-2840. The enrollment form is also available on our web site.

Los Alamos 5v5 Summer Soccer League: LANB is sponsoring a 5v5 Summer Soccer League from 15 Jun to 31 Jul '98, at Watanabe field on Barranca Mesa. The league will feature men's and coed teams in both recreational and competitive brackets and a kids' league. There will be a tournament at the end of the summer. To be eligible for the tournament, your team must show up for at least 75% of its games. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3

teams in each bracket. 5v5 matches will be played at 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 PM Mon thru Thurs, except that, at 7:30 on Tues and Thurs, there will be a full-field scrimmage. Anyone who is signed up for any of the teams in the summer soccer league may play in the scrimmage. If there are more than 22 players for the scrimmages, substitutions will be rotated uniformly by field supervisors. Registration forms are available at LANB, at the LAHS athletic department, and on the LAYSL web site. Applications must be returned to the Customer Service Representative at LANB by June 5th. All proceeds from the 5v5 Summer Soccer League will go to the LAHS boys' and girls' soccer programs. For further information, call Molly Cernicek at (505) 667-4782 or (505) 661-1636.

Topper Soccer School: Boys from the LAHS soccer program will provide training to young players on basic soccer fundamentals, including passing, dribbling, and shooting. Sessions will focus primarily on individual skills, although the team component will also be considered. The Topper Soccer School is sponsored by the LANB. Sessions will be held during the weeks of 8-12 June, 22-26 June, and 13-17 July '98 at UNM-LA (Hill) and Spirio Fields (White Rock) as follows: 12-1 PM for 6-10 year olds (White Rock); 2-3 PM for 3-5 year olds (Hill), and 3-4 PM for 6-10 year olds (Hill). Registration forms are available at LANB and on the LAYSL web site. Registration for each session will be held through the week prior to the beginning of the session. Completed registration forms may be dropped off to the Customer Service Representative at LANB. T-shirts will be given to all participants. All proceeds from the Topper Soccer School will go to the LAHS boys' soccer program. For further information, call Molly Cernicek at (505) 667-4782 or (505) 661-1636.

British Soccer Camp: The British Soccer Camp is coming again this summer. Two camps will be held at Overlook Park in White Rock. The first camp, 3-7 Aug, is for players ages 13 and older. The second camp, 10-14 Aug, is for players ages 12 and younger. Each participant receives a shirt and soccer ball at the camp. For additional information or applications, contact Liz Fawcett, at 672-1767.

3v3: This summer's 3v3 tournament will be held in Albuquerque on 18-19 Jul '98. For more information, contact John Courtright at 662-9216.

ABQ Geckos Pro Soccer Camp: This year's Geckos camp will be held at Overlook Park 8-12 Jun '98. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced camps are offered. Deposits are due 1 week before the camp. See our web site for full details. For information, call the Geckos at (505) 29-GECKO.



⚽ FALL '98 REFEREE CLINIC

Kim Thomas

LAYS� will hold a Fall '98 referee clinic for League coaches, parents, and referees. The specifics have not been announced, but the format will be similar to other recent preseason clinics. Remember that refresher training is required for certified referees at least annually and that LAYS� requires each team to provide **trained** assistant referees. ALL REFEREES WISHING TO REFEREE DURING 1999 SHOULD ATTEND THESE CLINICS AND TAKE THE RECERTIFICATION EXAM.

The classroom portion of the clinic will be held on three successive evenings (tentatively 11-13 Aug '98 from 7:00 - 9:30 PM). The first evening will be devoted to basic rules and the special needs of beginning coaches and younger teams with small-sided games, especially U-08. The second evening will be devoted to training assistant referees, including the offside rule. The third evening will address advanced rules and concepts, and is targeted for referees of games above U-08 and for those who will be taking the certification exam. A weekend field session, particularly for new referees and assistant referees, will follow, to provide an opportunity for "hands-on" practice of classroom concepts. **Watch our web site for additional information.**

Students are also invited to attend these training sessions. However, any student not already certified who wishes to become a referee should first contact the Referee Coordinator. New student referees must be in 6th grade or higher or at least 11 years old.

All referees wishing to take the certification exam should attend all four sessions. Those needing a recertification refresher should attend both the second and third sessions, as a minimum. The exam will be administered shortly after these clinics. There is a \$5 USSF fee for first-time certification. For more information, please contact the Referee Coordinator.



⚽ WANTED: REFEREE COORDINATOR

LAYS� is looking for a new Referee Coordinator to assume scheduling responsibilities for the Fall season. The current coordinator will work with the new volunteer to transition these responsibilities. Interested persons should contact Kim Thomas, 672-3354, for more information.

⚽ '98 CALENDAR of EVENTS (visit our web site for more details!)

18-27 May	Advanced Team tryouts
28 May	Regular Board meeting at LANL Hazmat Ready Rm
5-7 Jun	Zia Cup (ABQ)
5-7 Jun	Soccer Tactics Seminar (Santa Fe)
8-12 Jun	Topper Soccer School
8-12 Jun	ABQ Geckos Pro Soccer Camp
15 Jun - 31 Jul	LA 5v5 Summer Soccer League
22-26 Jun	Topper Soccer School
30 Jun	'98-'99 registration CLOSES
10-12 Jul	"E"-License coach clinic (ABQ)
13-17 Jul	Topper Soccer School
18-19 Jul	3v3 Tournament (ABQ)
26-26 Jul	"D"-License coach clinic (ABQ), Part I
27 Jul	Regular Board meeting at LANL Hazmat Ready Rm
1 Aug	Unassigned listings available to Coordinators
1-2 Aug	"D"-License coach clinic (ABQ), Part II
3-7 Aug	British Soccer (U-13 and up and competitive)
5 Aug	League coaches meeting
10-14 Aug	British Soccer (U-12 and under and competitive)
11-13 Aug	Fall '98 referee clinics (tentative)
? Aug	Fall '98 referee clinic (field portion TBD)
15 Aug	Team assignments due from Coordinators
21 Aug	Late registration FINAL CUTOFF
24 Aug	Regular Board meeting (see web site for place)
26 Aug	FINAL rosters due
28-30 Aug	PROPOSED "E"-License coach clinic (Los Alamos)
31 Aug	Fall '98 recreational team practices may begin
11-12 Sep	FIRST weekend of Fall '98 recreational matches
28 Sep	Regular Board meeting (see web site for place)
16-17 Oct	FINAL weekend of Fall '98 recreational matches
26 Oct	Regular Board meeting (see web site for place)
?? Nov	Annual LAYS� General Meeting

⚽ LAYS� BOARD OF DIRECTORS (May 1998)

John Courtright	662-9216	President
Bob Walker	672-9749	Secretary
Herb Fry	662-6491	Treasurer
Kim Thomas	672-3354	Referee Coordinator
Dave Goggin	662-3537	Hill Coordinator
April Nakaoka	672-3323	White Rock Coordinator
Lore Pellette	672-0389	Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator
Debbie Smith	672-1793	Advanced Team Coordinator
Bill Flor	662-7885	Publicity Coordinator
Martha Katko	662-2181	Registrar

HILL COORDINATOR

Dave Goggin

Although the Spring Season is only half over (as I write this) talk at the LAYSL Board meetings has been about what happened this year and what can be done to improve next year. My area of interest is the Los Alamos recreational leagues. I'm looking for your input on what works and what needs fixing in the rec leagues. I'll tell you what I think needs to happen.

I'm a believer in small, equal teams. I believe a small team leads to more attention for each player and more touches on the ball. Soccer is a game of 'feel' as much as anything—more touches will improve that feel.

I believe in a draft process that makes the teams as even as possible. Coordinators, coaches, parents and players need to realize that even teams are necessary to keep everyone working up to their ability and to provide the most enjoyment for all concerned. Lopsided games are detrimental for everyone. Coaches need to manipulate players to keep this from happening in the rec leagues. Evenly balanced teams will keep this sort of manipulation to a minimum.

To these ends we need more coaches, more training and more practice time. Coaches need to be trained not only in soccer skills but in 'kid' skills.

Since we aren't going to get many more practice fields we need to make better use of the ones we have. We don't utilize our practice fields very well. They're filled to overflowing from 5:30 - 6:30 each night, almost empty before and after. In order to have more teams we may need to change that.

Coaching, especially at the U-06 and U-08 levels is not difficult. Jumping in at the U-10 level and above is more difficult but do-able. We need trained coaches at every level. One idea to encourage coaches to apply would be to allow into the draft pool a certain number of players for each coach that signed up. Other volunteers for assistant coaches, refs or assistant refs would be allowed into the pool, possibly displacing earlier applicants. This is a volunteer organization, the quality of the league is a reflection of the quality of the volunteers. This year we could have used more volunteers.

Since LAYSL is a Laboratory-sanctioned activity, feel free to e-mail me at goggin_david@lanl.gov with your ideas. I'll look at all input and raise your concerns at the draft meeting before the fall season. I'm planning on having an all-age-group meeting so all opinions can be heard. I'd also like to conduct the draft a bit more formally to ensure teams that are as evenly balanced as possible. It would help the draft process if all coaches and coordinators made an

effort to return the player evaluations to me. I'll be sure next year's age-group coordinators get them.

Parents should keep in mind that requests for practice times and certain coaches will be honored after the initial draft and only when it doesn't disturb the league balance. A common complaint I hear is that the draft process allowed one coach to get all the strong players.

Let me know what you think needs to be done. I'm particularly interested in ideas for: attracting and training more coaches, better utilization of the existing practice fields, and how best to conduct the draft process.

See you in the summer!



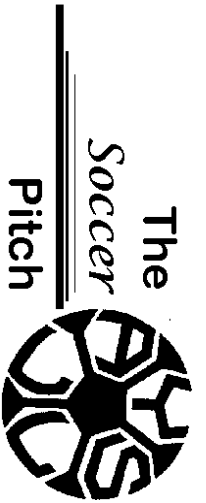
(THE PREZ SAYS, Continued from page 2)

Linenberger as the state director of coaching. Dave's job is to organize a uniform training program for youth soccer in NM—no small task for such a large state. He conducts clinics and training sessions for anyone who wants to coach. The state organization has adopted his initiative to have every coach licensed by 2004, for two reasons: first, liability / risk management; second, the goal of any program is to teach the fundamentals of soccer to youth so that any child may have the opportunity to play in an Olympic Development Program. Jiri Kubicek and I've had this discussion several times: all the tactics in the world won't make up for lack of skills. Dave's approach is to develop a program like elementary education. In kindergarten, you learn this; in first grade, that; and so forth.

To take Dave's plan and expand it to our community, the advanced teams coaches suggest we need a director of coaching for Los Alamos. Such a person would be responsible for developing a training program for all age groups, and would work closely with the rec teams in developing our youth soccer players. The director of coaching would assist the competitive program, but the position would be primarily devoted to developing soccer players and assisting coaches in the rec program. Some of the "givens" I already know are that such a position would be a stepping stone for a coach, registration fees would increase, and commitment from everyone would be needed for such an endeavor to succeed.



Newsletter printed by Aspen Copies, 1789 Central Ave. Plaza, Ste. 8, Los Alamos. (505) 661-3008.



May 1998
Newsletter

**Los
Alamos
Youth
Soccer
League**

⚽ State Cup Follow-up

⚽ Clinics and Camps

⚽ '98-'99 Registration

⚽ League Calendar

⚽ Referee Clinics

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Los Alamos, NM
Permit No. 154



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