

Notes from David

Welcome to all of our returning players and parents as we begin a new season. A special welcome to our new players, parents and coaches as you join the Portage Soccer Club. With 25 plus teams and nearly 410 players, PSC is the largest club in the West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA). You will find important information about the club in this edition of The Keeper. A separate sheet with names and addresses of team coaches, managers and Board members will be printed on durable paper and distributed at about the same time as this newsletter. Your thoughts and comments on the operation of the club are important. Don't be bashful about sharing your opinions with any of our Board members.

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 9, 2002 we had a fair turnout with 18 coaches, managers and parents in attendance. The highlight of the AGM is the election of officers to lead our club. At that meeting we said goodbye to several members of the Board of Directors and welcomed new members to your Board.

	<u>Past</u>	<u>New</u>
Secretary	Beth Covey	Cathy Hull
Vice President - Publicity	Margaret von Steinen	Norman Jansen
Parent Representatives	Sarah Bejcek Anton Foreit Judy Hayes Marcia Johansen Ed O'Reilly	Cathy Nixon Jennifer Schatz Jill Swoape

Our parent representatives are the key liaison between parents and the Board of Directors. Each representative is responsible for eight teams. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from your team's parent representative asking your opinions on the operation of your team specifically and the club in general. Please share your thoughts freely. The parent representatives and team assignments can be found on our website, which is very capably maintained by Silvia and Dan Salemka and can be found at portagesoccer.com

The spring 2002 season found several of our PSC teams finishing in first or second place in several of the WMYSA divisions. Congratulations to the following teams.

Girls		Boys	
U-10 Jansen	8-0-0	U-10 Ledden	5-2-1
U-10 VanderSloot	5-1-2	U-10 Bejcek	4-2-2
U-11 Jarrad	7-1-0	U-14 Rice	6-0-2
U-14 Knue	5-2-1	U-19 VanderWoude	5-1-1

The 2001-2002 season was a year of tremendous change in our club. The construction of the Portage Community Soccer Complex was completed culminating with its dedication on May 14, 2002. Hand in hand with our field development project is the capital campaign of the United Soccer Foundation to raise the funds to complete construction of the Portage complex (and pay off its mortgage) and the renovations to the River Oaks and Prairie View complexes. In our club a pledge drive is wrapping up. A telethon is planned for late October for all families if you haven't had an opportunity to respond. Please respond generously. Finally, the 16th Annual Portage Tournament was held in mid June at our complex. It's great to be back in Portage again. Thanks to the many volunteers who stepped up to help make the tournament a success.

I mention these projects to you because we need help. All of us can volunteer in some capacity to support the PSC. Please take a few minutes to think about your commitment to the PSC. It takes all of us to make our goals a reality. Thanks for your support.

Yours in Soccer,

David Rice

PSC Uniforms

Greg Murray

Except for the colors, the uniform will be the same as last year- Diadora shirt, shorts and socks. The jersey will be forest green and the socks, 2 pair per player, will be black with "Diadora" down the side. The shorts and the gold t-shirt will be exactly the same as last year. The color change from white to green means our home jersey will now be gold (lighter color according to WMYSA rules).

News from WMYSA and MSYSA

Deb Jackson

Coaches and Managers- Please note that MSYSA has moved its office. If you have old permission-to-travel forms, please destroy them. The new address plus new forms can be easily obtained by downloading forms from msysa.net

Another change is that travel and guest rosters can now be processed within 7 days of a tournament. You are no longer locked out at a late date, although you'll pay considerably more for being late.

Norm Rushing has announced that this will be his last year as President of WMYSA. WMYSA is looking for people interested in serving on the WMSYA board in the future. WMYSA is hoping to institute a "stepping stone" system for its board members. A person would take on the job of Vice-President for a 2-year term and then move into the President's job for 2 years. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Deb Jackson at 375-2898.

Coaches Corner

Blake Glass

World Cup

The month of June was a wonderful time for soccer fans. Although sleep patterns had to be altered to see live games from Japan and South Korea, the spectacle of the world's best teams and players made it worthwhile. The United States team was a big success in reaching the quarterfinal stage and being knocked out in a game in which they played better than their opponent (Germany). If this has not happened to your team yet, it will. Soccer, more so than any other sport, is a game of upsets. One team can dominate play and yet lose by a goal or two. Many writers noted during the World Cup that the upset factor is what makes the sport so beautiful and so frustrating at the same time. These comments usually surrounded discussions about the officiating. A split second decision by the referee or the assistant referees can make the difference in a goal being scored or disallowed. Video replays only provide hindsight; they are not used to change the call. Players and coaches interviewed after losing a game that involved a controversial decision expressed disappointment and anger with the call. Many times they added that while they felt dejected, it was part of the game and in fact, what made the game so compelling and passionate. Soccer is not like many other sports in which the team with the biggest payroll and greatest number of stars is virtually assured of a championship.

Here are three lessons that PSC players can learn from the 2002 World Cup.

#1- When you are in and around the penalty area, run in on all shots. When you or a teammate shoots the ball you should run toward the goalkeeper until the ball is clearly in the keeper's possession. Do not run to make contact (or even pretend you are going to) with the goalkeeper. Run to be in the area immediately around the keeper in case the ball comes loose and is not handled cleanly. If you learn to do this on every shot then maybe someday you will score the winning goal in the World Cup like Ronaldo.

#2- Learn to control the ball with your feet, chest, head, thighs etc. When your coach encourages you to practice your juggling, do it with determination. Being good at juggling is not as important as being good at dribbling, passing, controlling passes, shooting, tackling and good positioning. However, if you are good at juggling you will be better prepared for the times when the ball must be kept up in the air to avoid a tackle or to get it into a good position to shoot or pass. If Ji Sung Park had not practiced juggling then the USA may not have gotten past the first round. Park, of South Korea, controlled a long pass to the back post area with his chest. As the ball dropped toward the ground he deftly juggled it up with his right foot onto his left, which he used to shoot the ball between the Portuguese keeper's legs. That winning goal allowed his team and the USA to advance to the round of sixteen.

#3- Many goals are scored by using the inside of the foot passing technique. Not all goals have to be struck hard and with the instep or laces. Many goals in the World Cup, including the two by Ronaldo in the final, were scored by using the inside part of the foot to accurately send the ball into the goal. The technique is just like a push pass, but now it is used to put the ball in the open net instead of to a teammate. World Cup players used this technique for accurate placement of their shots. You can do it too if you practice the skills your coach teaches you and realize that placement is often more important than power when shooting.

The Right “Goal”

Steve Johnson

The slogan for the United Soccer Foundation's (USF) campaign is: "Building Leaders, One Goal at a Time". To build stronger, healthier young people through the soccer experience, building a program for future generations, so more children have the opportunity to learn leadership and teamwork skills, gain self-confidence and learn healthy living habits. Wouldn't you agree that this is really what our soccer involvement is all about?

Yes, *some* of our Portage Soccer Club's players will make it into the high school and college ranks and have success there and a *few* will play the game at a national level but *all* of our children will become adults and our job as parents and others working with children is to help them get to adulthood in a way that develops positive, healthy, life-long habits.

The way that the USF will help us in this effort is by funding more and safer soccer fields, adequate parking and better access to the fields in our region including the new Portage Community Soccer Complex, Prairie View and River Oaks Parks, and funding an endowment to reach out to children not currently involved in soccer.

The price tag for all of this is \$3.8 million. Specifically, the cost to build the Portage Community Soccer Complex is \$1,520,000. Most of the USF funding will come from state and local governments, businesses in the area, the United States Soccer Foundation (USSF) and players' fees.

Portage Soccer Club's goal is to raise \$225,000 from our own families' pledges and contributions and *we need 100% involvement to achieve this goal*. I'm pleased to state that we have received 135 pledges totaling \$100,700 so we're well on our way to achieving our goal, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Roughly, 40% of our families have pledged thus far. We need to hear from the remaining 60%. Let's all pledge whatever we can and achieve our Club's \$225,000 goal.

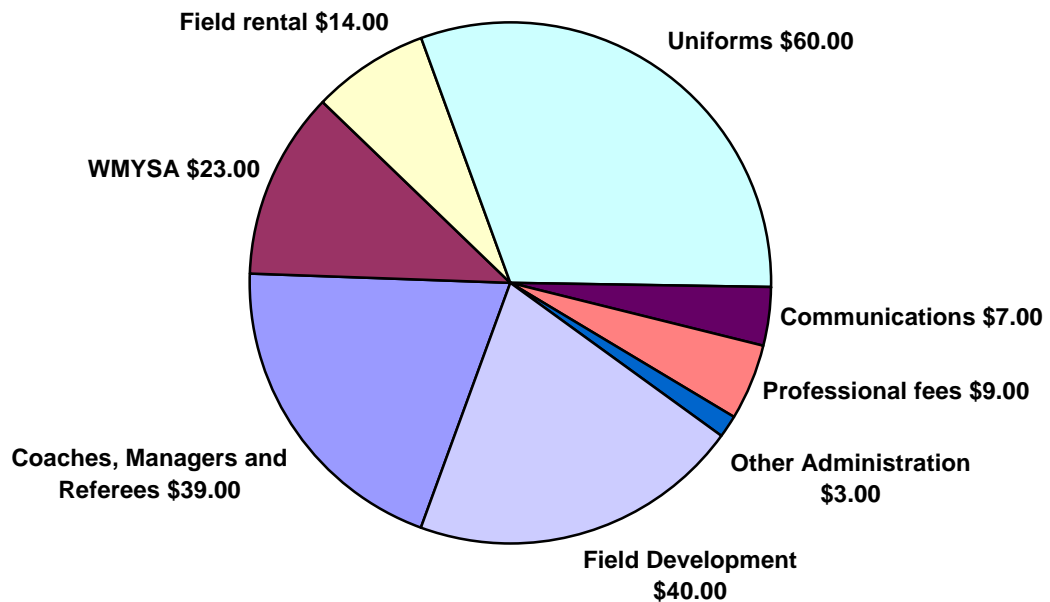
In the next several weeks, your team's manager or fundraising representative will give you a pledge form and return envelope. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE!** If your family can manage the Club's suggested pledge of \$1,000 payable over three years, great! If you can't manage at the \$1,000 level, *please give what you can*. Later this fall, we will telephone those families whose pledges have not been received so we can wrap up this campaign. It would help save time and avoid volunteers making phone calls if you would please send in your pledge soon.

Thank you, in advance, for your pledge and your response to this wonderful cause to "Building Leaders, One Goal at a Time".

PSC Treasurer's Report
 Bob Lopez

2002/2003 Fiscal Year Budget based on 400 players		
Coaches, Managers & Referees	\$ 15,600.00	20%
WMYSA	\$ 9,200.00	12%
Field rental	\$ 5,600.00	7%
Uniforms	\$ 24,000.00	31%
Communications	\$ 2,800.00	4%
Professional fees	\$ 3,600.00	5%
Other Administration	\$ 1,200.00	2%
Subtotal	\$ 62,000.00	79%
Field Development	\$ 16,000.00	21%
Total registration fees collected	\$ 78,000.00	100%

Proposed 2002/2003 Fiscal Year Budget
\$195/player based on 400 players



Portage Soccer Complex Rules

When visiting the complex please follow the posted rules.

- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SMOKING OR DRUG USE
- DRIVE SAFELY - 15 MPH MAX
- NO PETS ALLOWED
- PICK UP LITTER
- NO GLASS CONTAINERS
- SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN
- PRACTICE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

PSC Hires Accounting Firm

This spring the PSC hired the accounting firm of Siegfried, Crandall, Vos & Lewis to prepare our financial statements and tax return. Over the past several years, the financial picture of the club has become increasingly complex. It became obvious to the Board that we needed professional assistance.

Jim Lewis, CPA, a partner in the firm, is a longstanding soccer volunteer. He was one of the original members of the PSC Board of Directors who incorporated the club in 1991 and for years served as the treasurer of the Portage Invitational Soccer Tournament. We are glad to have Jim and his staff on board.

Sprinkle/Romence Roads Improvements Completed

If you haven't driven through the intersection of Sprinkle and Romence Roads since the conclusion of the spring season you are in for a pleasant surprise. The City of Portage recently completed improvements to the intersection that should significantly improve traffic traveling westbound from the soccer complex. There are now three lanes including dedicated right and left turn lanes and a through lane. Paving and lane striping were completed in July.

Many thanks to the City for their efforts to improve traffic flow at the intersection. Together with the longer signals for east and west bound traffic done by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, visiting the complex should be easier in the future.

Tournament Time

David Rice

The highpoint for our PSC teams is always tournament play. It's an opportunity to test our teams against other clubs. PSC teams competed in over 30 tournaments across four states during the spring/summer 2002 season. Many of our teams won first or second place honors.

U-10 Boys	Chicago	1st
U-11 Boys	Portage	2nd
U-12A Boys	Midland	1st
U-11 Girls	Portage	1st
U-12 Girls	Portage	1st
U-13A Boys	Portage	1st
U-13A Girls	Portage USA Cup	1st 2nd
U-14 Boys	Portage Canton	1st 2nd
U-15B Boys	Findlay Canton	1st 2nd
U-16 Boys	Saginaw	1st
U-17 Boys	Canton	2nd
U-19 Men	Portage	1st
U-19 Women	Portage	1st

Congratulations to all of our teams and my apology to any team that I missed. It's a testament to the strength of our club that year after year we continue to dominate tournament play.

PSC Parent-Player Meeting August 12

Norman Jansen

Thanks to everyone who came to the Club Meeting August 12, and we appreciate that you stayed with us even though it was difficult to hear from the back. High school auditorium construction necessitated use of a venue that was challenging at best. We can all look forward to a more satisfactory location for next August's Club Meeting, and in the meanwhile, all the more reason to read this newsletter thoroughly (and check out the web site at www.portagesoccer.com).

Volunteer Profile

David Rice

It takes dedication and committed volunteers to keep our club operating smoothly. In this issue we profile several of these hardworking soccer individuals.

Evelyn Flynn is our hardworking Registrar. She organizes our tryouts and team registrations and keeps the paperwork flowing to WMYSA. From mid June through August, her home becomes “soccer club central”. Together with her husband Mike, she designs the tee shirts for the tournament, orders the necessary quantities and organizes the sales. Mike has been busy this summer working at the complex keeping our new trees watered and the grass mowed.

Blake Glass serves as our Vice President - Coaches. This is one of the more visible positions in the club. His duties include coach selection, training and evaluation. Blake’s extensive soccer background and teaching abilities have been of great benefit to the club.

Gordon Groves is our Fields Manager. You are probably thinking, “What’s a field manager?” That position was created several years ago to spearhead the development of our own soccer complex. The new Portage Soccer Complex is a testament to Gordon’s hard work, construction expertise and enthusiasm. His firm, Cornerstone Construction Management, donated its services as our construction manager for the building project.

Deb Jackson currently serves as our Club Representative to the WMYSA league. As the largest club in the league, it is vital that our voice is heard. Deb makes sure that the PSC’s views are heard. She is a good example of how leaders are developed in our club, having first served as a parent representative and then as registrar before assuming her current position.

Bob Lopez is our Treasurer and carefully manages our income and expenses. The PSC maintains five accounts for soccer operations, the building fund, fields maintenance, fundraising and debt service. It is no small task to keep these accounts up to date. Bob is doing a great job managing a difficult and time consuming position.

Thanks to each of these individuals for their dedication and hard work on our behalf. In future issues you will hear about others.

David Rice

NOTE TO KATHY BEACH: IF THERE’S SPACE SOMEWHERE ON THIS PAGE, PLEASE INSERT FOLLOWING BLOCK-

If you’re interested in
volunteering for the
Portage Soccer Club,
please contact David Rice
at 329-0184

What's kicking at portagesoccer.com

Silvia and Dan Salemka

We have some new items on our web site this year with several updates on other pages.

We pride ourselves on the accuracy of information that is posted. If you find an error on our web site, please contact us immediately at salemka@chartermi.net. Numerous changes are made to the web site weekly and often daily, and mistakes do happen.

NEW

For easier viewing, you can find the latest information on the front page of portagesoccer.com. A black box titled NEW is located on the right side of the page just under the Portage Soccer Club title.

MAIL LIST

You can now add your e-mail address to our mailing list and get the latest news, updates and information concerning the Portage Soccer Club. It's very easy to find and add your address to our list. Just go to the main page of www.portagesoccer.com and find the "Mail Listing" link. If you are subscribing, make sure "Subscribe" is activated, and then just insert your full email address in place of the "your-e-mail". Click on the "DO IT!" button and you're finished. To unsubscribe, simply click on "Unsubscribe" and follow the same instructions.

WMYSA, GVSA & CASL MAPS

WMYSA maps are available for away games at <http://www.portagesoccer.com/maps/wmysamaps.htm>. Several club maps have been added which include information on the distance and travel time for your convenience.

For teams playing in the elite division, GVSA & CASL maps for those away games can be found at <http://www.portagesoccer.com/maps/elitemaps.htm>. Last years elite team fields were added.

Note: These are very new maps and some maps may have errors due to the information that we received for their construction. Please e-mail us immediately if you find an error so that it can be corrected prior to the next weekend of games. If the field that you will be traveling to is not listed, please send us the information of the club and field location. It will be posted at our earliest convenience.

OTHER NEW PAGES

PSC Policy - <http://portagesoccer.com/policy.htm> - Outlines the club mission statement and tryout information.

Try-out Information - <http://www.portagesoccer.com/tryout.htm> - lists try-out dates, coaches and information guidelines.

Portage Soccer Classic Tournament pages - too many pages to list, but they can all be found through the main PSCT web page at <http://portagesoccer.com/tournament/portageclassic.htm>. We now have restaurants and hotels for the teams coming into town and the results of most of the tournament games have been posted including a photo gallery of the champion teams at <http://www.portagesoccer.com/tournament/photos.htm>

PSC Certificate Program

Kathy Brown

A special “thank you” to the families who are participating in the PSC Certificate Program. Your support is appreciated! FY 2002 sales and profits are noted below.

FY 2002 CERTIFICATE SALES August 1, 2001- July 31, 2002

Retailer	Total Sales	Percent of Sales	Actual Profit
Meijer	\$ 89,600	63%	\$ 4,480
Harding’s	25,080	18%	1,254
Kohl’s	18,825	13%	941
Applebee’s	5,730	4%	573
Godfather’s Pizza	2,900	2%	580
TOTAL	\$ 142,135	100%	\$ 7,828

An average of 39 families per month participated in the Certificate Program during FY 2002.

WHAT IS THE PSC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

The PSC Certificate Program is an on-going fundraiser that **DOES NOT REQUIRE THE SELLING OF ANY PRODUCTS!** PSC earns a minimum of 5% on all certificate purchases. This program provides a simple and convenient way to raise funds.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

The goal is to double the level of participation! It is imperative that we grow the PSC certificate program. Profits must increase in order to have sufficient funds to reduce the debt for the new complex.

PSC NEEDS YOU!

You can assist by simply purchasing certificates **BEFORE** you shop or dine. Every certificate purchase will help increase our profits!

WHAT’S NEW?

Big Apple Bagels (Centre Street) has just been added to the group of participating retailers.

WHAT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE?

MEIJER - \$25 Certificates

Redeemable for any merchandise in Meijer stores or gas stations in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois or Kentucky. No cash refunds over \$5.

HARDING'S - \$50 Cards

Redeemable at any Harding's or Harding's Marketplace.

KOHL'S - \$25 Cards

Redeemable at any Kohl's store, may be used over multiple visits and to make payments on your Kohl's charge account.

APPLEBEE'S - \$10 Certificates

Redeemable at any Applebee's in the United States.

GODFATHER'S PIZZA - \$10 Certificates

Redeemable at Centre Street, Cork Street, West Main and Dunes Plaza in Michigan City, IN.

BIG APPLE BAGELS - \$10 Book

Redeemable at Centre Street location. No cash refunds over \$1. Certificates not valid in combination with other coupons.

WHERE TO PURCHASE CERTIFICATES

You may purchase certificates at the Concession Stand during weekend games or from the Program Coordinator nearest you.

Kathy Brown	Colony Woods	372-2240
Beth Elliston	Amberly/Colony Woods	375-1817
Judy Hayes	West Middle School Area	327-9072
Cathy Hull	Moorsbridge Area	329-7135
Jennifer Schatz	Woodbridge Hills	321-8345
Sharon Wenglinski	Austin Lake	323-2672

REMEMBER . . .

- Certificates are great gifts!
- Purchase MEIJER, HARDING'S, KOHL'S, APPLEBEE'S, GODFATHER'S PIZZA or BIG APPLE BAGELS certificates BEFORE you shop or dine.
- It's an even exchange of money -- dollar for dollar. Write a check for \$200 and you receive \$200 worth of certificates.
- There is an inventory of all certificates so you can get them right away.
- If 200 families participate at an average of \$400 per month at a 5% discount, we can earn \$48,000 per year!!!

Please share this information with your relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Working together, we can reach our goal!

Make a Lasting Impression

Kathy Brown

Portage Soccer Club and AYSO Region 74 families are being offered an opportunity to make a “lasting impression” at the Portage Community Soccer Complex with personalized bricks. Just imagine your family name or the name of your favorite soccer player(s) permanently displayed at the new complex!

The engraved bricks will be installed on a first-come first-serve basis. Your message may contain three lines (maximum) with up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The price per brick is \$50. All proceeds will benefit the new Portage Community Soccer Complex.

The “plain” bricks have already been installed by Deryl Meyers. He will then remove and replace these bricks with the “engraved” bricks. Thank you, Deryl, for sharing your time and talent. The center circle looks beautiful!

Make your “lasting impression” today. Visit portagesoccer.com to obtain an order form or call Kathy Brown at 372-2240.

Parent Representatives

For your reference, here’s a list of which Parent Representative serves which teams. This information is also available at portagesoccer.com via the “PSC contacts” link.

Cathy Nixon: U10 boys/Knue, U11 boys/Brown, U12 boys/Martin, U12 girls/Johnston, U14 girls/Kucinski, U14 boys/Simmonds, U15 girls/Thompson (fall), U17 boys (spring).

Jennifer Schatz: U10 girls/Buerkel, U10 boys/Bejcek, U11 girls/Jansen, U13 girls/Salemka, U13 boys/Roeder, U14 girls/Rohs/Kalleward, U15 boys (spring), U16 girls/Salman (fall), U18 boys/Myers (spring).

Jill Swoape: U10 girls/Wester, U10 boys/McGruder, U11 girls/VanderSloot, U12 girls/Grubb, U12 boys/Jackson, U14 boys/Rice, U16 boys (spring), U18 girls/Crumpton (fall)

Procedure for Rescheduling a Game

Coaches and Managers are reminded that if you need to reschedule a game, it should be rescheduled at least two weeks ahead of time. The rescheduling fee is \$10 unless the game is rescheduled within two weeks of the scheduled playing date, when the fee increases to \$50.

Games may only be rescheduled for valid reasons, such as State Cup, conflicting tournament, or conflict with school activities. A missing player or players and/or a missing coach are not valid reasons to reschedule a game. Rescheduling is not an easy thing to do, and should only be done when absolutely necessary. The complete procedure for rescheduling is outlined in the WMYSA coaches’ manual that will be handed out at the Aug 27 coach/manager meeting.

Portage Soccer Club Calendar 2002-2003

Sunday, September 8	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, October 6	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, November 3	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, December 1	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, January 12	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, February 2	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, March 2	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, April 13	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday, May 4	PSC Board Meeting
Thursday, May 8	Club Wide Meeting
Sunday, June 1	PSC Board Meeting
June 14 - 15	Portage Soccer Classic Tournament
June 23-26	Try Outs

2002-2003 Portage Soccer Club Board of Directors

President	David Rice	329-0184	davidrice.ers@voyager.net
Treasurer	Bob Lopez	324-0708	blopez@avbinc.com
VP Coaches	Blake Glass	323-0474	blakeglass@aol.com
VP Fundraising	Kathy Brown	372-2240	jjjkbrown@aol.com
VP Publicity	Norm Jansen	323-9420	nbjansen@att.net
VP Uniforms	Greg Murray	329-4144	sixofusgolfers@juno.com
Registrar	Evelyn Flynn	372-1047	evelfly@aol.com
WMYSA Rep.	Deb Jackson	375-2898	wjackson5@aol.com
Fields Rep	Gordon Groves	327-5163	grovesccm@aol.com
Tournament Dir.	Bob Kucinski	329-3243	bkucinski2000@yahoo.com
Secretary	Cathy Hull	329-7135	chull@portageps.org
Parent Rep	Cathy Nixon	327-7256	nixonfam5@aol.com
Parent Rep	Jennifer Schatz	321-8345	mjshots@aol.com
Parent Rep	Jill Swoape	327-4156	rswoape@aol.com

Men's High School Home Schedules

[these schedules are subject to change]

Portage Northern Huskies (JV/varsity times)

8-24 Huskie Invitational (Holland, Okemos, Mason)
8/27 Holland West Ottawa (5:00/6:45)
8/31 Traverse City West (10:00/12:00)
9/5 Mattawan (5:00/6:45)
9/10 Portage Central (5:00/6:45)
9/26 Crossover game vs equivalent West team (5:00/6:45)
10/5 Rockford (11:00/1:00)

Portage Central Mustangs (JV/varsity times)

8-28 FH Central
9-5 Battle Creek Central (5:00/6:45)
9-10 Portage Northern at Northern
9-12 Loy Norrix
9-17 Kalamazoo Central
9-23 East Grand Rapids
9-26 Cross-over game vs West
9/28 GR Christian (12:00/2:00)
10-2 JV vs Hackett
10-5 Grand Haven (12:00/2:00)

High School Season Wrap-up

Oct 8, 10, 15, 17 Conference Tourney
Week of Oct 21 District Tourney (at Northern)
Week of Oct 28 Regional Tourney (at Sparta)
Wednesday 11-6 State Semi-Finals
Saturday 11-9 State Finals