

APRIL 2004 KEEPER (draft)

President's message

Pete Strazdas

Welcome to Spring! Not only does this mean warmer weather and yard work, it means it's time to open the Portage Community Soccer Complex and prepare the fields for another great soccer season. It also means that coaches, team managers and parents must do their part to create a positive soccer experience for the athletes in the Club. Everyone plays an important role in the success of a team. Coaches organize team exercises and drills at practice. Parents must get their son or daughter to practice and games on time and encourage rather than coach or criticize players from the sideline. Players should compete to their potential and practice good sportsmanship. We all want our teams to win. However, it's the positive experience, skills learned, and team discipline that makes a successful team.

This time of year also means we are close to the Portage Soccer Classic Tournament. I hope that all of our club teams have registered for the tournament. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer some of your time to help make the tournament a big success. As you know, the tournament is a significant fundraiser for the club. Please sign-up for any one of the different jobs available. Working together, we can have some fun and make our guest teams feel welcome. Your team manger will have more details for you.

See you on the fields.

Meijer Community Rewards Program

Kathy Brown

A special thank you to the families who are participating in the Meijer Community Rewards Program. All proceeds will benefit the Portage Community Soccer Complex.

More participation is still needed in the program. Please visit meijer.com/rewards and complete the on-line form with PSC's code number, **103058**, and your card will be mailed to you within a few weeks. Remember, you may pay for your purchase any way you choose: cash, check or credit card. You do not need to request a Meijer credit card for this to work. Simply request a guest card when you sign up so you can contribute a share of your purchases for PSC without spending any more money!

Thank you for your support!

Portage Soccer Classic

David Rice

The 18th Annual Portage Soccer Classic is fast approaching. The tournament will be held the weekend of June 12-13, 2004 with games played at the Portage Community Soccer Complex, SoccerZone and Ramona Park.

Last year's tournament attracted 106 teams. Through March over 80 teams have registered putting us well ahead of the pace of the past five years. We are particularly pleased that this year we will be hosting many teams from Traverse City, Midland, Jackson and Flint. The competition will be top notch and our Portage teams will have to play their best to defend our home turf.

Our Tournament Board this year said goodbye and thank you to several members who retired from active duty. Beth Kalleward, registrar for the past three years and Maria Malin, treasurer for the same period both retired. Ed and Marge Staron who handled the sportsmanship awards for many years are also retiring. Thank you for your contributions to the success of the tournament.

Joining the Tournament Board as our new treasurer is Beth Elliston. Beth has been active as the former treasurer of A.Y.S.O. Region 74 and as the PSC concession stand treasurer. Welcome aboard Beth!

In past articles I have profiled committee members and what they do. Pat Larkin is in charge of producing the tournament booklet and selling advertising and sponsorships. Each year he turns out a first class program and contributes several thousand dollars in ad sales to our revenues. Thank you Pat for a job well done!

Coaches Corner

Bruce Bejcek

With the spring season set to start, I would like to remind coaches if they have not already done so to assess their teams as to their strengths and weaknesses and develop their spring practice plans accordingly. A review of practice plans developed by major clubs shows that even at the professional level, there is time spent on the basic skills to refine them to the point of where they are as flawless as possible.

A new video has been made available through the Manchester United Soccer Club on the practices that they run with their teams starting at U-9 and moving to the older ages. It is available through their web site as either a videotape or DVD. The DVD is encoded for European DVD players so the VHS video probably makes more sense.

As I have mentioned before, there is also an emphasis at the major clubs on the ability to win the "1 v 1 duel". After watching several young foreign teams and players up close, I am always impressed at the confidence and comfort level they have, particularly when they have the ball at their feet. Typically, the success of their play is the result of the opportunities that they create and not by the accidents that result from their fear of losing the ball. Their confidence is a direct result of a lot of playing when not in practice and also a lot of 1 v 1 and other small-sided game play in practice as well.

As we move into the spring and summer months, many soccer watching opportunities are going to become available on the local and international level. The women's high school soccer season will start soon as will the Kalamazoo Kingdom. I know that in the past, the high school and Kingdom teams have needed ball runners, and players from the club have enjoyed doing so. If you have players that are interested, please contact the high schools or the Kingdom (not me). In the spring, the MLS season opens with 14 year old Freddy Adu making his debut. Finally, in the fall the Olympics will be here with the US women's team (hopefully with Lindsay Tarpley playing). Please encourage your players to attend or view at least a few games so that they can learn by watching. Good luck in the season, develop skills to every player's potential, and see you at the Portage Classic.

PSC Team Pictures

Kathy Brown

The Portage Soccer Club is holding its annual team and individual picture day. This is an opportunity to capture a "Portage Soccer Club moment" and have a keepsake for years to come.

All pictures will be taken on **Monday, April 26** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the West Middle School cafeteria. Order forms and picture appointment times are available at portagesoccer.com.

The photography company will be donating a portion of the proceeds back to our club. These funds will benefit the Portage Community Soccer Complex.

The following items will be offered:

- . Memory Mate \$ 10.00 Each
3.5 x 5 Individual & 5 x 7 Team in Folder
- . Memory Mate \$ 12.00 Each
5 x 7 Individual & 5 x 7 Team in Folder
- . 5 x 7 Individual in Folder \$ 7.00 Each

. 5 x 7 Team in Folder	\$ 7.00	Each
. 3" Sport Button	\$ 4.00	Each
. 4 Wallets	\$ 7.00	Set
. 8 Wallets	\$ 12.00	Set
. 9 Digital Sport Trading Cards w/ Stats	\$ 16.00	Set
. Memory Mate Plaque 3.5 x 7 Individual & 5 x 7 Team	\$ 20.00	Each

Tax is included for each package. Please make checks payable to Brock L. Howland. Payment and order forms are due on picture day.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Brown at 372-2240.

WMYSA Notes

Deb Jackson

As spring season kicks in, it's time to cover a few issues.

- When playing or watching a game, WMYSA requires all of us to show great sportsmanship toward the opposing team, their parents and our own players. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by players, coaches or fans. At any given game a representative from WMYSA may be monitoring behavior during and after the games. So please---put the children first and allow them to enjoy the great sport of soccer. Should you witness unacceptable sportsmanship at any game, please let me know and I will forward it onto the WMYSA board. They are very serious about good sportsmanship!

- Any time you have a 3:00 Saturday game scheduled at the Kalamazoo complex on Drake Road, please respect the rules of that complex. No travel team, player or soccer ball is allowed on the fields or grassy areas near the fields prior to 30 minutes before the start of your game. The Kalamazoo AYSO teams have the fields until 2:30, please respect their games and stay away from the fields. **Coaches please tell your players to report to the Kalamazoo Complex at 2:30 for a 3:00 game.**

- HELP Needed! WMYSA is in need of a new statistician. No experience is necessary, except for the ability to use a computer and an interest in promoting soccer in southwest Michigan. The job involves posting the game schedules on the website, entering results as game reports come in and keeping track of red and yellow cards. Portage Soccer Club is the largest soccer club in

WMYSA and yet we do not have a member on the board. It's time for us to step up and shoulder our responsibilities to WMYSA.

Any questions? Please contact Deb Jackson at 375-2898

PSC Treasurer's Report (March 22, 2004)

Bob Lopez

I would like to update the club as to the status of the different financial accounts that I oversee for the club, including their purpose and current balance. They are as follows:

- General Operations Account
This account keeps the kids playing every week. All PSC fees are deposited into this account and from this account our major expenses include coaches and managers stipends, field rentals, WMYSA fees, USF fees, and referee fees.
I oversee this account directly and the current balance is \$8,389.70
- Portage Community Soccer Complex Account
This account was established to maintain our new fields complex. The income into this account comes from field rental fees. We currently rent these fields to AYSO 74, the Sting soccer club and Portage Soccer Club. To date our major expenses to the complex include fertilizer applications, insect control and repair and maintenance of the sprinkler system.
Over the first two years of operation the club has saved thousands of dollars in lawn mowing costs and maintenance labor due to the efforts of our volunteers. Including the lawn mowing team of **John Calnin, Mike Flynn, Verne Genisio and David Rice**
I oversee this account directly and the current balance is \$4,696.50
- Fundraising Account
This account was established as a base to start our fundraising programs. Funds from this account help offset any unexpected costs that the club may encounter and any surplus of funds go toward the reduction of the mortgage for the construction costs of the Soccer complex.
Kathy Brown manages this account day to day
- Portage Soccer Classic Tournament account
This account is used for the operations on the club's tournament. The tournament is the club's main fundraising activity. This year the tournament was able to donate over \$16,000.00 to the club to help

pay down the mortgage created for the construction of the soccer complex.

This past year we closed out the construction account that was established to pay the costs directly associated with the construction of our new fields.

At our year end (July 31) I reconcile all of these accounts and present them to the club's accountants, **Siegfried/Crandall**, who reviews all these accounts, complete our tax forms and prepare our year end financial statements

If you have any questions concerning the clubs financial status, please contact Bob Lopez.

Portage Community Soccer Complex

David Rice

With spring weather just around the corner and PSC teams beginning to practice again, the scramble for practice locations is on. Most teams find themselves sharing field space with one or two other teams. Certainly, in the Portage area there is a shortage of practice fields.

One of the questions I'm asked is "can my team practice at the soccer complex?" Unfortunately, the answer is no. There are several reasons for this decision. First, the additional wear and tear on the fields aside from normal usage by the PSC and A.Y.S.O. Region 74 would be excessive for the age of the turf. Second, the evenings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are used for maintenance by our volunteers. Third, at the time we received zoning approval from the City of Portage we agreed not to use the facility for practice. This was done to appease some of our neighbors who were opposed to the construction of the soccer complex.

Portage Community Soccer Complex Rules

No alcoholic beverages or smoking
Drive safely - 15 mph max.
No pets allowed.
Pick up litter.
No glass containers.
Supervise your children.
Practice good sportsmanship.

Concession Stand and Field Clean-up Duty

Kathy Brown

The Portage Soccer Club relies on the profits generated from the concession stand to continue to operate and maintain the Portage Community Soccer Complex. The success of the concession stand, as well as the maintenance and appearance of the soccer fields is dependent upon volunteers.

Each team is responsible to staff the concession stand, empty trash cans and pick up litter at the end of the day one or two times per season. Trash bags and gloves are available at the concession stand. Working together we can keep our fields clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

- Minimum age of a volunteer is 18.
- Children are not permitted in the concession stand due to liability reasons.
- Six volunteers, per shift, are required to staff the concession stand.
- Second shift is required to clean concession area, equipment and restrooms.
- Each team is responsible to staff the concession stand, empty trash cans and pick up litter at the end of the day.
- Concession stand duty dates and times are assigned to each team according to the home/away schedule.
- If there is a conflict with the assigned date and time for a volunteer, it is the responsibility of the volunteer to make arrangements for a substitute.
- Concession stand schedule will be posted on our website.
- PSC supervisor will be on duty.
- PSC supervisor will open and close concession stand.
- PSC supervisor will advise procedures and train volunteers on equipment.
- Team managers will be contacted prior to their team's assigned date to confirm volunteers are scheduled for the concession stand and field clean-up.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Brown at 372-2240. Thank you!

PSC Certificate Program

Kathy Brown

The PSC Certificate Program is an on-going fundraiser that DOES NOT REQUIRE THE SELLING OF ANY PRODUCTS! PSC earns a percentage on all certificate purchases. This program provides a simple and convenient way to raise funds for the complex, and it doesn't cost you anything.

MEIJER COMMUNITY AWARDS - PSC Code Number 103058

Sign up on line at Meijer.com/rewards. Use card every time you shop. Have cashier scan card before transaction is complete. Pay with cash, check or charge. There is no cost to you. PSC earns monthly reward.

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 Cards

Redeemable at any Applebee's in the United States.

GODFATHER'S PIZZA - \$10 Certificates

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

BIG APPLE BAGELS

Since the Woodbridge location has closed, PSC is not participating in a certificate program with them. If you have any unused beige/red certificates, please contact a Program Coordinator to trade them in for green certificates which are good at any location.

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
Jennifer Schatz	Woodbridge Hills	321-8345
Sharon Wenglinski	Austin Lake	323-2672

- Certificates are great gifts!
- Purchase **HARDING'S, KOHL'S, APPLEBEE'S** or **GODFATHER'S PIZZA** 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 inventory of all certificates.
- If 200 families participate at an average of \$400 per month at an average of a 5% discount, we can earn \$48,000 per year!

Please take a moment to promote and share this information with your relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Every purchase will help increase our profits! Thank you.

Portage Soccer Club Web Site

Dan and Silvia Salemka

A wealth of information about our club is available at www.portagesoccer.com including this newsletter. If all else fails, remember this site when looking for phone numbers or schedules or other soccer information.

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.

A special thanks to the families who participated in this program. The second group of 50 bricks is being engraved and will be installed for spring viewing.

Please consider making your "lasting impression" today. Visit portagesoccer.com to obtain an order form or call Kathy Brown at 372-2240.

Portage Soccer Club Calendar

Sunday April 18	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday May 2	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday Jun 6	PSC Board Meeting
June 12-13	Portage Soccer Classic Tourney
June 21, 23	Tryouts for U11, U13, U15, U17, U19
June 22, 24	Tryouts for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18

Portage Central High School Women's Soccer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>JV/V Times</u>	<u>Opponent(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed April 14		BC Central	Away
Sat April 17		TC Central	Home
		Grand Haven	Home
		Midland Dow	Home
Mon April 19	5:00 / 6:45	Portage Northern	Home
Wed April 21	5:00 / 6:45	Loy Norrix	Away
Fri April 23	5:00 / 6:45	BC Lakeview	Home
Mon April 26	5:00 / 6:45	Kalamazoo Central	Away
Wed April 28	5:00 / 6:45	Mattawan	Home
Thu April 29	5:00 / 6:45	West Ottawa	Home
Mon May 3	5:00 / 6:45	Cross-Over	
Sat May 8		GRFH Northern	Home
		Okemos	Home
Mon May 10	5:00 / 6:45	Cross-Over	
Fri May 14	5:00 / 6:45	Fruitport	Away
Mon May 17	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	Home
Wed May 19	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	Home
Mon May 24	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	Home
Wed May 26	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	Home
Tue/Sat June 1/5		District Tournament	
Mon/Sat June 7/12		Regional Tournament	
Wed June 16		State Semi-Finals	
Sat June 19		State Finals	

Portage Northern High School Women's Soccer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>JV/V Times</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed April 14	5:00 / 6:45	Mattawan	Away
Sat April 17	TBD	TC Central	Home
		Midland Dow	Home
		Grand Haven	Home
Mon April 19	5:00 / 6:45	Portage Central	Away
Wed April 21	5:00 / 6:45	Kalamazoo Central	Home
Sat April 24	10:00 / 11:45	Forest Hills Northern	Home
Mon April 26	5:00 / 6:45	Battle Creek Central	Home
Wed April 28	5:00 / 6:45	Kalamazoo Loy Norrix	Home
Sat May 1	10:00 / 11:45	Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic	Home
Mon May 3	5:00 / 6:45	Crossover- East @ Central	Home
Wed May 5	5:00 / 6:45	Forest Hills Central	Home
Mon May 10	5:00 / 6:45	Crossover- Central @ West	Away
Wed May 12	5:00 / 6:45	Gull Lake	Away
Fri May 14	5:00 / 6:45	Battle Creek Lakeview	Home
Mon May 17	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	TBD
Wed May 19	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	TBD
Mon May 24	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	TBD
Wed May 26	5:00 / 6:45	Conference Tournament	TBD
Tue/Sat June 1/5	TBD	District Tournament	Home
Mon/Sat June 7/12	TBD	Regional Tournament	TBD
Wed June 16	TBD	State Semi-Finals	TBD
Sat Jun 19	11:00	State Finals at Troy Athens HS	