



The Keeper

www.portagesoccer.com

4-February-2006

Notes from the President by Peter Strazdas

The Portage Soccer Club continues to reach new milestones. We are one of the oldest soccer clubs in the region and are very proud to own and maintain one of the finest soccer facilities in our region. We have PSC alumni who have gone on to win High School District and State Championships, NCAA Championships, and even an Olympic Gold Medal! Our latest milestone was retiring the mortgage for our complex due to the support of the USF (see related article pg 3). Yes, we are debt free and maintain an incredible facility asset as a Michigan non-profit corporation. All members of the Club should thank the past and present Board members for their hard work and vision for youth soccer in our great City of Portage. I would be remiss if I did not mention what is perhaps our club's most important assets....the athletes, parents, volunteers, and coaches. This is the real backbone of our very successful club.

Over the past 20 years, our club has produced opportunities and memories for thousands of Portage youth. Some of these people continue to play an active role in the club and perhaps more significantly, we are seeing our alumni come back to coach and volunteer in the club they once played for.

Our club has a solid foundation to take us to new levels. Your Board continues to look at the upcoming change in our league and how we

must change as an organization. Some of the items we are reviewing include:

- Your Board will soon be announcing a change in fees for the fall session. With the completion of our capital campaign with the United Soccer Foundation this spring, we expect to lower your already low financial commitment to participate in the PSC.
- Suggestions for changes in some club policies and try-outs
- Adapting to WMYSA league changes
- The Board will review how to invest in and maintain quality coaching
- We intend to reform our strategic planning group and review all options for the club's future.
- Focus on value, customer service, and quality player development

Your thoughts and comments on our future are important. Please discuss them with your team. Your Club Parent Representatives are interested in conveying your suggestions to the Board. See you on the fields this Spring.

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and much more...



What do these highly accomplished soccer players have in common? See inside for details.

Coaches Corner by Bruce Bejcek

Great sums of money are spent by professional clubs all over the world to identify and develop youth soccer players. Players may be recruited by professional clubs as young as 10 years old (and in rare cases 9) to go and live at the club's facilities to be trained by their professional staff in the hope that they will one day be able to join the professional ranks. Although the training programs for these clubs obviously vary, they all have some constant themes that are emphasized in training. Particularly for players up through U14-U15 the emphasis in training is on individual skills primarily trapping, passing, dribbling

and heading. At this developmental level relatively little emphasis is placed on the teaching of tactical ability. Instruction in the tactical aspects of the game is achieved more informally through the games used for enhancing player's technical ability.

It is also the philosophy of the Portage Soccer Club to emphasize the technical ability of players below U15. Part of the club's mission is to train children so that they can play and enjoy soccer at the highest level that they can and wish to achieve. To do so requires that they learn as many skills as they can. Coaching a team only on tactics may result in more wins in the short term, particularly at a young age, but can short change the players as they get older. As they get older those teams with players that have the highest skills generally will take the day.

Recognition Alley

Congratulations to all Portage Soccer Club teams who wear their green and gold jerseys with pride each week, and represent our club so well by demonstrating good sportsmanship and playing good soccer. To top it off, special recognition goes to the teams listed below that finished first or second in their leagues this past fall

Boys U9-Le 1st place in U10B

Girls U10-Vandersloot 1st place in U11B

Boys U10-Zoeller 2nd place in U10A

Boys U11-Zeitler 1st place in U11A

Boys U14 3rd out of 10 teams in U14

Girls U14-Glass 1st place in U16

Girls U18-Bejcek 1st place in U19

"The English Football Association's research indicated that it was almost impossible for players to cure technical flaws after the age of 14. This puts the burden of knowing how to teach the techniques of soccer on the youth coach, the most important coach in the country. This is why the NSCAA has such a heavy emphasis on technical training in the National Youth Diploma and the National Diploma".

Jeff Tipping NSCAA Director of Coaching Education (The NSCAA National Youth and National Diplomas are equivalent to the USSF E and D certificates).

Soccer Complex Now Debt Free by David Rice

If you are a fan of talk radio perhaps you have listened to Dave Ramsey, a financial self-help guru. One of the highpoints of his program occurs when a listener calls in and shouts “I’m debt free” to the background sounds of Mel Gibson in the movie “Braveheart”. The Portage Soccer Club can collectively shout “We’re debt free” with the payoff of the complex mortgage in December 2005.

A construction mortgage of \$442,000 was originated in 2000 to help pay for the development of the soccer complex. After the complex was completed, the mortgage principal has been

aggressively repaid through the efforts of the United Soccer Foundation (USF) and the Portage Soccer Classic Tournament. The USF Board decided in December to postpone the construction of a south county soccer complex and in turn pay off the debt on the complex two years earlier than anticipated.

Our thanks to the USF Board of Directors and particularly, Finance Committee members Gary Galia, Jim Novaria and Brad Thompson. These three men have given countless hours to the USF by providing sound financial stewardship to the capital campaign.

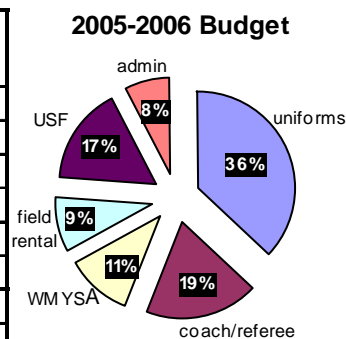
PSC Budget for 2005-2006

The budget approved last year still applies for this spring. Even though we wound up with more players than budgeted, fees and expenses both rose in proportion and the club’s balance sheet is in good shape. In line with the Club’s policy of full transparency, our budget details are shown below.

The budget for 2006-2007 will be set later this spring, and it is expected that with the 3-year commitment fee to USF now completed, and the mortgage for the complex now paid, fees will be lower.

Budget/fees for 2005/2006 season (based on 200 players)

	Budget	Full season fee	High school player fees	2nd Half-season fee
Uniforms	\$ 17,800	\$ 89	\$ 89	\$ 89
Coaches, Managers, Referee fees	\$ 9,000	\$ 45	\$ 28	\$ 18
WMYSA	\$ 5,200	\$ 26	\$ 26	\$ 26
Field rental	\$ 4,400	\$ 22	\$ 11	\$ 11
USF-member club fees	\$ 8,000	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Administration & misc.	\$ 3,600	\$ 18	\$ 11	\$ 11
2005/2006 budget	\$ 48,000	\$ 240	\$ 205	\$ 195
USF-PSC commitment fee		\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 90
PSC 2005/2006 total fee		\$ 330	\$ 295	\$ 285



Portage Soccer Stars Unite



Photo courtesy Keith Kroll

Three of the most famous alumni of the Portage Soccer Club got together recently to work out at the Kingdom Indoor Center, and talk about where they've been and where they're going. All three began playing soccer in AYSO Region 74, and played with PSC through at least their U12 year, demonstrating that you don't have to begin Premier soccer before U13 to make a name for yourself.

Jacob Peterson helped Portage Northern win a State Championship in 2000. At Indiana University he was named Offensive MVP at the College Cup his freshman year, and led the Hoosiers in both points and goals his sophomore year. Jake scored the winning goal for IU in the NCAA title match two years in a row. His junior year he led the Big Ten in

goals and points. Last month he was the first choice of the Colorado Rapids in the MLS draft (see article on page 7 for more)

Lindsay Tarpley led Portage Central to a State Championship in 2000 and was named Michigan's Miss Soccer in 2002 (she's also an outstanding basketball player and earned team MVP all four years at PC). In 2002 she was named US Soccer's "Young Female Player of the Year." At the University of North Carolina, she played a major role in leading UNC to a perfect 27-0-0 record and an NCAA Championship, scoring two goals with two assists in the title game. She scored the winning goal in overtime in the U-19 Women's World Championship Final against Canada in front of 47,000 fans in Edmonton, and then went on to even bigger things in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, where she was a major contributor and gold medalist, along with her teammates! Lindsay is currently traveling with the US National Women's team in China, and the team returns to California next week (see pg 6 for more).

Eric Alexander, in his senior year, led Portage Central to an outstanding 19-2-4 record and the Regional Final. Eric earned the prestigious Mr. Soccer title in Michigan, and was also named the National High School Player of the Year by the NSCAA. Eric will be attending Indiana University this fall (see pg 6 for more).

Portage is very proud of all three, and wishes them the best in all future endeavors on and off the field!



Tournament Update **by David Rice**

The 20th Annual Portage Soccer Classic will be held on the weekend of **June 9-11, 2006**. This year's tournament will be our fifth at the Portage Community Soccer Complex. We received many compliments from the teams who competed in the tournament the last four years on our new home.

Applications are available on the PSC website, portagesoccer.com. The deadline for the early registration discount is March 31, 2006. Team entry fees are \$325 (U-9 through U-12) and \$350 (U-13 through U-19) up to that date and \$350 and \$375 for later registrations.

Our Tournament Board has been working hard to make this year's event bigger and better. But we need your help to make it a success! Over 200 volunteers are needed from our teams to staff various positions. The time commitment is not great and our volunteer coordinators, Dawn Huc-

zek (329-2503) and Stacie Phillips (323-8535) will do their best to coordinate your work shift with your child's game so as to minimize conflicts. Your team manager will be contacting you about volunteering for the tournament. All PSC families are expected to work during the tournament weekend. We're counting on you!

The Tournament Board meets the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. prior to the club meeting at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the Tournament Committee please attend the next meeting.

Did you know that the profit generated by the tournament is earmarked for debt retirement at the complex? In the last four years we contributed \$63,000 which was used to pay down our mortgage. The tournament also contributed \$272,000 raised throughout the years to the cost of developing the complex.

WMYSA Update: The Future of Youth Soccer **by Theresa Shave**

The West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA) has developed a Strategic Planning Team charged with studying youth soccer and making suggestions for improvements in our region.

This process began with a meeting of participants from all the West Michigan Soccer Clubs to get ideas and identify the top issues that need to be addressed. A series of focus group meetings occurred to gather more information and ideas from a wide variety of stakeholders. The Strategic Team was asked to assimilate information from all over the United States including

surrounding area soccer organizations and formulate a plan to meet the key needs identified, notably improved coaching and training.

Recommendations from the Strategic Team have been discussed at the last several WMYSA board meetings, and it is expected that WMYSA will be making some positive changes that will result in an improved soccer experience for area youth. Portage Soccer Club looks forward to learning about these changes as they are rolled out in February, and they will be relayed to our members via our website at www.portagesoccer.com

Eric Alexander Day in Portage by Pete Strazdas



The Mayor and Portage City Council were pleased to proclaim December 23, 2005 as Eric Alexander Day in the City of Portage.

The proclamation was formally presented to the Portage Soccer Club alum while his family and friends watched at the December 20, 2005 City

Council meeting. Mayor Strazdas called on all citizens in the City of Portage to celebrate Eric's accomplishments, which include:

- Portage Central Team Captain for 2 years
Lead Portage Central to the Regional Finals for two years in a row
- Named to the All-State Dream team in 2004 and 2005
- Named Michigan's "Mr. Soccer" by the HS Soccer Coaches Assoc., only the second male player from our area.
- Named the 2005 National High School "Soccer Player of the Year" by the National Soccer Coaches Assoc of America.

Eric played four years in the Portage Soccer Club before moving on to Premier soccer. When asked about his early years, Eric commented "*Portage Soccer Club helped my development as a player in many ways, it showed me all the basics as well as sportsmanship and teamwork.*"

Lindsay Tarpley update

After playing a significant role in helping the U.S. Women's team win a gold medal at the Athens Olympics in 2004, Lindsay Tarpley just completed a brilliant college career at North Carolina. Now she's back with the US Women's National team where she recently contributed to a team victory in the "Four Nations" tournament in China. When asked to reflect on her time in Portage, Lindsay commented "*PSC did a great job of preparing me with the fundamentals and the realization that it is important to have fun at a young age. It was a valuable time in my life.*" Good words for all of us to remember about youth soccer.



2006 PSC Calendar

Sunday Mar 5	PSC Board Meeting
Sunday Apr 9	PSC Board Meeting
Saturday Apr 15	WMYSA Spring season begins
Sunday Apr 16	No games (Easter)
Sunday May 7	PSC Board Meeting
June 3-4	Soccerfest (WMYSA season ends)
Sunday, Jun 4	PSC Board Meeting
June 9-11	Portage Soccer Classic Tourney

Jacob Peterson drafted by Colorado Rapids

Congratulations to PSC alum Jacob Peterson on signing with the Colorado Rapids of the MLS.



Peterson just wrapped up an outstanding career at Indiana University, where he played a major role in two NCAA championships, including scoring the winning goal for IU in the title match two years in a row (2003 & 2004).

When asked to comment on the time he played with the Portage Soccer Club, Jake shared an experience *before* he started playing with PSC that all players everywhere should read and learn from, because it speaks volumes about his character, and why he's the champion he is:

"Playing for Portage Soccer Club was my first step towards taking my soccer game to a more serious level. But this first step was a little rocky! The first time I tried out for Portage Soccer Club, when I was about 10 years old, I did not make the team. I

was a little guy back then, smaller than most of the kids, and it was my first try out of any sort so I didn't really understand that at a tryout your goal is to be better than the others. Heck, I was just playing soccer and having fun. I came up short that time. I soon recovered from the disappointment of not making the team and set my sights on becoming better and the rest is history. You will always have little set backs in life but you can never give up - learn from them and keep reaching toward your goals."



Parent Representatives

Each PSC team is assigned a Parent Representative to be your representative on the Board of Directors. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to take advantage of this. You can find out which of the volunteers below is your team's Parent Rep at www.portagesoccer.com by going to the "contacts" link. Tell us what you think.

Tammy Campbell 327-1534

Chris Forth 324-9016

Bruce Pigsley 353-1169

MEIJER COMMUNITY AWARDS – PSC Code Number 103058

Sign up on line at meijer.com/rewards. Use Meijer Guest Card or Meijer Credit 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.

Central and Northern Spring Soccer Roundup

Both Portage High Schools had exemplary seasons again this past fall.

The Portage Central Mustangs coached by BJ Snow finished with a record of 19-2-4. They followed up a well-played conference tourney championship match with an equally well-earned District title over their crosstown rivals to the north. The Mustangs were impressive throughout the season, with 17 shutouts and only one loss before reaching the Regional Final, where they fell to Division 1 powerhouse Brighton.

The Portage Northern Huskies coached by Chris Riker finished first in the SMAC's dominant Central Division, handing their crosstown rivals their only loss in the regular season. However, the Huskies finished runnerup to the Mustangs in both the conference tournament final and at the District final. Their season ended with a fine record of 22-4-0. In addition PN earned Team Academic All State from MHSSCA.

Congratulations to both teams, and congratulations to the following players who were accorded post-season honors -

All State

Eric Alexander– 1st team and Mr. Soccer

Eric Staver– 2nd team

Justin Bailey– 3rd team

Zach Hurd– honorable mention

Matt Toepper- honorable mention

Ko Yamamoto– honorable mention

All Region– Eric Alexander, Zach Hurd, Matt Toepper, Eric Staver, Ko Yamamoto

All District– Eric Alexander, Justin Bailey, Ryan DasGupta, Blake Glass, Zach Hurd, Stephan Labadie, Jared Lemmermen, Jim L'Esperance, Eric Lowery, John Nguyen, Eric Staver, Matt Toepper, Nick Wester, Ko Yamamoto

All-Division– Eric Alexander, Justin Bailey, Zach Hurd, Jared Lemmermen, Matt Toepper, Eric Staver, Ryan DasGupta, Nick Wester, Ko Yamamoto

For more information, go to each school's web site at www.pchssoccer.org and www.pnhssoccer.org

Make A Lasting Impression by Kathy Brown

Portage Soccer Club families are being offered an opportunity to make a "lasting impression" at the Portage Community Soccer Complex with personalized bricks. Imagine the name of your favorite soccer player(s), your family name or business name permanently displayed at the new complex!

Your message may contain three lines (maximum) with up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The price per brick is \$50.

Proceeds will benefit the Portage Community Soccer Complex.

A special thanks to the families who participated in this program. The next group of engraved bricks will be installed in the concession area this spring.

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 Directory of Coaches and Managers

Division	Position	Name	e-Mail address	Phone
U9 girls	Coach	Bob Buerkel	bobbuerkel@sbcglobal.net	353-9046
	Manager	Molly Buerkel	heymommy007@aol.com	353-9046
U10 girls	Coach	Steve Clark	ud88sjc@chartermi.net	321-0186
	Manager	Robert Cubbage	robert.c.cubbage@pfizer.com	323-9299
	Manager	Jane Clark	ud89jtc@chartermi.net	321-0186
U10 girls	Coach	Liz VanderSloot	vsloot@charter.net	327-2514
	Coach	Lloyd McGruder	mcgruder@chartermi.net	327-0491
	Manager	Liz Borre	mizliz2277@sbcglobal.net	374-6410
U11 girls	Coach	Ann Woolley	woolley@chartermi.net	324-1279
	Manager	Darcie Robertson	darcie729@aol.com	353-6649
U11 girls	Coach	Steve Small	stephen.d.small@pfizer.com	327-1546
	Manager	Linda Reaume	klreaume4@juno.com	324-1793
U12 girls	Coach	Bryan Goyings	bgoyings@gmail.com	385-3228
	Manager	Tom Mellinger	redwing19@gmail.com	978-3346
U13 girls	Coach	Silvia Salemka	salemka@chartermi.net	329-0444
	Manager	Becky Montie	jmontie@chartermi.net	329-3374
U14 girls	Coach	Blake Glass	glasshouse.4@juno.com	323-0474
	Manager	Betty Trebing	trebjam@att.net	329-7049
U18 women	Coach	Bruce Bejcek	bejceksoccer@yahoo.com	324-3723
	Manager	Sara Bejcek	bejceksoccer@yahoo.com	324-3723
U9 boys	Coach	Vu Le	levu00@yahoo.com	352-4756
	Coach	Randy Jarvis	kazoojarvis4@sbcglobal.net	324-3365
	Manager	Linda Howard	lbhow1@charter.net	324-2393
U10 boys	Coach	Doug Zoeller	dmzoeller@hotmail.com	324-7453
	Manager	Christy Pigsley	bkp5403@sbcglobal.net	353-1169
U10 boys	Coach	Mike Garrett	mgarrett@soccerzone.com	372-5889
	Manager	Lisa Erb	goodgirl@chartermi.net	808-2604
U11 boys	Coach	Bruce Bejcek	bruce.bejcek@wmich.edu	324-3723
	Manager	Sara Bejcek	bejceksoccer@yahoo.com	324-3723
U11 boys	Coach	Dan Zeitler	dzeitler@borgess.com	324-5755
	Manager	Lorrie Abdo	lorrieabdo@aol.com	544-2679
U12 boys	Coach	Ron Prange	dtcoach11@aol.com	323-3151
	Manager	Melissa O'Keefe	tokeefe@chartermi.net	321-8812
U14 boys	Coach	Andrew Rice	aerice21@hotmail.com	544-0669
	Coach	Steve Martin	raderby@chartermi.net	381-4938
	Manager	Beth Elliston	mde@voyager.net	375-1817
U15 boys	Coach	David Rice	drice@edwardrose.com	544-0669
	Manager	Cindy Slater	dnclslater@charter.net	323-9382
U16 boys	Coach	David Rice	drice@edwardrose.com	544-0669
	Manager	Paul Morgan	pjmorgan32@aol.com	323-2675
U18 men	Coach	David Rice	drice@edwardrose.com	544-0669
	Asst Coach	John McKenzie	johnmckenzie37@hotmail.com	330-6631

Portage Soccer Club
 P.O. Box 1593
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Meijer Community Rewards Program by Kathy Brown

Portage Soccer Club is enrolled in the Meijer Community Rewards Program. A Meijer Guest Card or Meijer Credit Card is scanned to earn rewards. If you don't need another credit card, just sign up for the guest card.

Please join Meijer Community Rewards today! It's completely free and can be done on-line at meijer.com/rewards. **Portage Soccer Club's code number is 103058.** You will receive your card within a few weeks.

Once you receive your Meijer card, please use it every time you shop at Meijer. Earnings are eligible on more than 150,000 items. Simply have the

cashier scan your card before the transaction is complete. You may pay for your purchase any way you choose: cash, check or charge. PSC will receive a check every month based upon the percentage of your purchases. There is no cost to you. The more you shop, the more you earn for PSC.

A special "thank you" to the families who are currently participating in this program. If you have not signed up for the Meijer Community Rewards Program, please do so today! All proceeds will benefit the Portage Soccer Community Complex. Thanks for your support.

PSC Board Members and Webmaster (Feb 2006)

President – Pete Strazdas	peter.strazdas@wmich.edu	327-4478
Treasurer — (Bob Lopez)	blopez@avbinc.com	(324-0708)
Secretary — Stacie Phillips	sphillips@portageps.org	323-8535
VP-Coaches — Bruce Bejcek	bruce.bejcek@wmich.edu	324-3723
VP-Publicity — Norm Jansen	nbjansen@att.net	323-9420
VP-Uniforms — Sean Bowser	cjbsob@chartermi.net	321-0201
VP-Fundraising — Kathy Brown	jjkbbrown@sbcglobal.net	372-2240
Registrar — Dave Perry	dave.perry@ipaper.com	321-1760
WMYSA Community Rep — Theresa Shave	tshave@laddinc.net	327-8539
Tournament Director — David Rice	drice@edwardrose.com	544-0669
Fields Representative — Gordon Groves	gogroves@charter.net	327-5163
Parent Representative — Tammy Campbell	tcampbell@wsiemail.com	327-1534
Parent Representative — Chris Forth	forthwinns@charter.net	324-9016
Parent Representative — Bruce Pigsley	bkp5403@sbcglobal.net	353-1169
Webmaster — Gretchen Reist	greist@jasnetworks.net	327-9857