



The Keeper

www.portagesoccer.com

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Tryout Registration

If you haven't already registered for tryouts on-line, go to www.portagesoccer.com and select the tryout information link. Then select "on-line registration" and follow the instructions. This will speed up check-in the first night of tryouts. Sting will be having tryouts the same nights so the soccer complex will be a busy place.



By popular demand, excerpts from the February 2006 e-newsletter articles about these former PSC players are republished on page 5.

Notes from the President by Peter Strazdas

This is one of the busiest times of the year for the PSC Board and committees. We are preparing for our annual Portage Soccer Classic Tournament and club tryouts. Both events are somewhat special this year. We celebrate the Tournament's 20th year and we hope to have a grand celebration as well as great tournament play from over 130 teams. You don't see many soccer tournaments that have been around this long. This year, our tryouts will be the start of many positive changes in our club. After receiving input from our coaches and many members, the Board has been hard at work on the following initiatives:

- Additional training, education, and compensation support for our coaches
- Lowering the cost to members of the club
- New club logo
- Change in the uniform package
- Focus on the level and quality of play for Select and Elite teams
- Look at plans to build a storage building at the soccer complex
- Look to lease or purchase land for club team practices
- Be an active supporter and leader with WMYSA's new strategic plan

These are new and bold directions for our club. Paying off our facility mortgage and our league's new strategic plan has provided our club and its leadership the excitement to take the club to new levels. We want to build on the excellence we have experienced for so many years. Lindsay Tarpley, Jacob Peterson, Erik Alexander, and so many other players have commented on their positive experience when they were on a Portage Soccer Club team. Everyone is on board and we hope existing and new members will come to appreciate and enjoy the benefits of being a member and participant in the Portage Soccer Club.

See you at the Tournament and the tryouts.

Coaches Corner by Bruce Bejcek

As Pete mentioned on the front page, your soccer club is busy at work on many improvements. Here's a summary of what we're offering for the fall season:

- **Continuing education for coaches.** This includes reimbursement or at least partial reimbursement for coaching clinics, and a paid NSCAA membership, which includes a bimonthly magazine with excellent coaching articles. TKO will also offer support for WMYSA coaches.
- **Small-sided soccer at U12 and younger.** This accelerates player development by guaranteeing each player will have many more chances to play the ball in every game. And more chances to dribble, pass, shoot, and steal the ball from your opponent makes the game more fun for the kids. Small sided soccer is practiced by the majority of youth all over the world, including the US. There's a wealth of information about the benefits of this at usyouthsoccer.org
- **Two or three levels of Select play at U11 and younger.** The strongest players at each age will be grouped on an "A" team denoted by color, and the remaining travel-caliber players will be grouped on developmental teams. Teams at these ages will be labeled "Green", "Gold", and "White."

A Good Home for Every Travel Player

Because of the discrete nature of soccer teams (i.e., there will either be 2 or 3 U11 teams), we often wind up with half a team of travel-caliber players wanting to play, and every other club faces the same situation. To help these players find a good place to play, all WMYSA clubs have agreed to work together, and WMYSA board member Sarah Hoard has agreed to facilitate this effort, and work hard to find a team as close as possible to home.

In Portage, one of our closest neighbors is Sting, and we'll be working especially closely with them to share players as the numbers dictate.

In general, whichever group has more players will be the home team, but other factors are also important, such as which group has a stronger coach. Be patient and you'll have a good place to play.

- **Two levels of play at U12 and older: PSC Elite and Portage Select.** Our goal is to attract enough players to have two teams at each age. One would aspire to play in the Elite league with the strongest teams from WMYSA, GVSA, and CASL, and the other would play in WMYSA with other teams from Kalamazoo and neighboring communities. Blake Glass has been appointed Director of Elite Coaches.
- **New uniform and crest/logo design.** Next season, all teams will use a new uniform design. There will also be a new PSC club Crest/Emblem.
- **Club Fee only \$245/yr** for both seasons includes uniform. There will likely be an add-on for Elite (no more than \$50). The \$90/year USF add-on is no longer being assessed as the Portage Soccer Complex is completely paid for.
- **Practice/Training Site.** Several options are being investigated to develop a location where PSC teams can practice without worrying about someone else getting there first.

Special note to PSC coaches

We may not brag about it as much as we should, but our club has a legacy of excellence in coaching that you're continuing, and we'd like to express our appreciation to each of you for the time and effort you give on behalf of our youth. You come from a variety of backgrounds ranging from those who've coached Division I college teams to those who've spent more time studying coaching manuals and attending coaching clinics than playing the game, but one thing all of you have in common is the ability to teach the game and relate to your players. It's so important to teach the skills/techniques & tactics at age-appropriate levels, and you do an excellent job of challenging our youth to improve and be the best they can be, while also managing their self-confidence and self-esteem. As Olympic Gold Medalist Lindsay Tarpley recently told us, it's important to have fun at this age, and our Club thanks you for all you do to prepare our youth for a successful future!

Information about Portage Soccer Club & WMYSA

The Portage Soccer Club was formed in 1985 and gained status as an incorporated non-profit organization in February 1991. Starting with only four boys teams playing in the West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA), today PSC is one of the largest clubs in WMYSA fielding both boys and girls teams from U9 all the way to U19. Although the Club has changed in size over the years, our philosophy of emphasizing player development remains the same, and our teams have performed very well on the field in terms of both skill and results. Our teams display good character on and off the field.

As a volunteer-run non-profit organization with an elected Board of Directors, you can be assured that the interests of the youth are always first and foremost. PSC is a transparent organization with open communications and a budget that's published for all to examine. PSC coaches have an outstanding record of teaching the game at an age-appropriate level by being able to relate to the kids the way a parent would, while having the knowledge of the game to raise their level of play to their maximum potential. All coaches are required to obtain an E class license. Many PSC coaches continue with their coaching education to obtain D and higher certification.

WMYSA/TKO is the largest youth soccer organization in Southwest Michigan with well over 2000 youth playing at multiple levels. This makes it easier to find the appropriate level of competition for each child and each team. Portage Soccer Club offers two levels of competition: Portage Select teams play in WMYSA divisions that are more competitive than recreational with other teams based in Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Vicksburg/Schoolcraft, Richland, Battle Creek, South Haven, Sturgis, Marshall, Michiana, SW Michigan, and Plainwell. PSC Elite teams (U12 and older only) play in the even more competitive Elite division with the strongest teams from WMYSA, GVSA (Grand Rapids area), and CASL (Lansing area). Teams earn their way into Elite by strong play in Select.

PSC owns and maintains the Portage Soccer Complex at 4422 Bishop Avenue (east of Sprinkle and south of Bishop/Romence) where home games are played. This 9-field complex opened in 2002 and is now recognized as one of the outstanding soccer complexes in Michigan. The Club hosts the Portage Soccer Classic tournament the weekend of June 9-11, which this summer celebrates its 20th year. Last year, the tournament attracted over 150 teams competing at ages U-9 to U-19.

Brickman Group, Ltd. Donation by David Rice

The Portage Soccer Club is the beneficiary of a generous donation by the Brickman Group, Ltd., a commercial landscape maintenance company. The Brickman Group is donating its lawn mowing crews to cut the grass at the soccer complex. They are taking over this job done by PSC volunteers, John Calnin and Mike Flynn, since the complex opened in 2002.

The Brickman Group will also assume the responsibility for fertilizer and weed treatment applications as well as start up/shut down of the irrigation system.

The Brickman Group also donated the flowers planted around the field identification signs. The flowers will be maintained and replaced all at no expense to the PSC.

Many thanks to Chip Chioda, project director for the Brickman Group for the generous donation of its time and expertise.

Changes at the Soccer Complex by David Rice

The permanent donor plaque for the USF capital campaign was recently installed on the north wall of the garage at the soccer complex. The plaque recognizes those individuals, businesses, foundations and governmental units who contributed amounts above \$250 to the United Soccer Foundation. The Stryker Corporation was also recognized as a new field sponsor (#7) for their significant contribution to the campaign.

As you exit the complex you will probably notice a new information sign in the center island. The sign accommodates changeable text and will be used for PSC and general announcements.

The most recent order of engraved bricks has also been installed in the center circle of the breezeway. An engraved brick (\$50) is a great way to recognize a player, family, business or special saying. Order forms are available on the website, www.portagesoccer.com and all proceeds benefit the soccer complex.



PSC Budget for 2006-2007

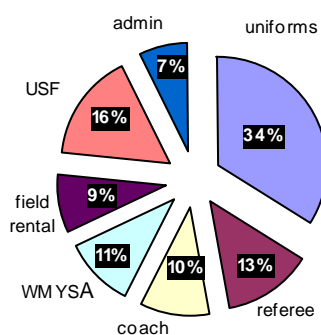
Club fees approved by the PSC Board in May were budgeted to cover estimated expenses outlined below. In line with the Club's policy of full transparency, our budget details are shown for your examination.

The budget is conservatively based on 240 players (180 full-year and 60 high school age), although the Club expects that like the current year, we'll have more players than budgeted. The fee for high school age players is lower because only half as many referees and fields are needed, however, the uniform cost is the same, as are other fixed costs.

Budget/fees for 2006/2007 season (based on 240 players)

	Budget	Full season fee	High school player fees	2nd Half-season fee
Uniforms	\$ 19,920	\$ 83	\$ 83	\$ 83
Referee fees & Manager stipend	\$ 6,840	\$ 32	\$ 18	\$ 16
Coach Development & stipend	\$ 5,700	\$ 25	\$ 20	\$ 12
WMYSA	\$ 6,240	\$ 26	\$ 26	\$ 26
Field rental	\$ 4,440	\$ 21	\$ 11	\$ 11
USF-member club fees	\$ 9,600	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Administration & misc.	\$ 3,960	\$ 18	\$ 12	\$ 12
PSC 2006/2007 Total Fee	\$ 56,700	\$ 245	\$ 210	\$ 200

2006-2007 Budget



Portage Soccer Stars Unite (more details in Feb 2006 issue)



Photo courtesy Keith Kroll

Three of the most famous alumni of the Portage Soccer Club got together over the winter 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, proving that you don't have to begin Premier soccer before U13 to make a name for yourself. Not everyone has the talent or drive to make it to the MLS or Olympics, but PSC is proud to provide a great environment where growth is stimulated and promoted while avoiding the burnout that too often occurs when development is accelerated too much. For important information about youth development in sports, please read the "Parents Guide" at www.sportsmanship.org.

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. He was the first choice of the Colorado Rapids in the MLS draft, and last month, scored his first MLS goal against the defending MLS champions on their home field.

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 training with the US National Women's team in California.

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.

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

New WMYSA web site: wmysa.org

Thank You to PSC Volunteers by David Rice

We all recognize the first signs of spring. The warmer temperatures, trees and flowers in bloom and green grass are all signs we look forward to. It's also time for spring cleaning whether at home or at the Portage Soccer Complex. A small but dedicated group of PSC volunteers met at the complex on the weekends of April 8-9th and April 23rd to ready the complex for the spring season.

Volunteers assisted in putting up goal nets, placing trash barrels throughout the property, raking and removing the old mulch, adding new mulch and cleaning the concession kitchen and restrooms. Thanks to Brian, Tammy and Rich Campbell, Paul, Jeff and Josh Morgan, Vu, Viet, Nam, Binh and An Le, Darin, Cindy and Shaun Slater, Gretchen and Daniel Pouliot, Darrell and Kevin Roose, Jan and Chad Verastek, Sean Bowser, Mike Champion, An Nguyen, Taylor Kimbrel, Bruce Reeder and Brian Goyings.

Special thanks to Verne Genisio for the many hours he spent laying out and striping fields and Gordon

Groves for the time and expertise managing the facility for the PSC.

By the time you read this the 20th Annual Portage Soccer Classic Tournament will be complete. The tournament is the major fundraiser of our club, and its successful operation required many volunteers from all of our PSC teams to staff various positions. Thanks to all of you, including the Tournament Committee for making our guests feel welcome and providing them an enjoyable experience that will make them want to come back next year.

New Park Benches at Complex

Visitors to the Portage Soccer Complex will now be able to watch games while resting on several new park benches. The benches were manufactured by Landscape Forms, a nationally recognized developer of outdoor seating, and donated by Mark Murry (daughter Felicia is a member of our U-10 team). The benches were painted by Brian Campbell (son Rich is a member of our U-15 team).

All in the Family by David Rice

Throughout its history the Portage Soccer Club has had many families with two children, and over a dozen families with three children playing at the same time. For the first time, we now have a family with four children proudly wearing the green and gold jerseys.

Vu Le and Anh Tran are the proud parents of four boys. The oldest son Viet is a member of the U-18 team while Nam plays for the U-15 team. Both boys also referee when time allows. The youngest two boys are twins An and Binh, who play on the U-9 team.

All of the boys are skillful players due in no small part to the coaching of their father Vu. He too wears many hats co-coaching our U-9, U-15, U-16, and U-18 boys teams. Anh does what so many soccer moms do so well; organizing and coordinating the schedule for her sons three teams.

Congratulations and thank you to the Le family for strongly supporting the Portage Soccer Club.



What is the difference between Portage Soccer Club and Kingdom Select soccer?

PSC is a non-profit volunteer organization that's been around for over 15 years while Kingdom Select is a for-profit business run and marketed by professionals. PSC is an open organization with a published budget and an elected board.

PSC Select travel teams play in WMYSA which is the largest youth soccer organization in southwest Michigan, while Kingdom Select publications say they will play in either Michigan Champions League or GVSA with more teams further away.

PSC plays small-sided soccer at U-9 - U12 as recommended by MSYSA and US Youth Soccer. This promotes the development of skills by facilitating more chances to play the ball (dribble, pass, shoot, or stop the other team), and is practiced by over 80 countries including perennial soccer powers England, Germany, & Brazil. Greater involvement with the ball makes it more fun!

PSC Select costs just \$245 total for both fall and spring seasons (includes complete uniform) plus tourney costs., while Kingdom Select costs \$397 including a similar uniform package.

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. For fundraising, this is as easy as it gets!



PSC Board Members and Webmaster (May 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	jjkbrown@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

Portage Soccer Club

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Tryouts for 2006-2007 PSC Teams

Portage Soccer Club tryouts will be held June 19-22 at the Portage Soccer Complex (4422 Bishop Ave). The times are 6:00-8:00 pm each day; consult web site for exact dates for each age. Please plan on being at the fields at 5:30 to check in and finish registering. On-line registration is available at www.portagesoccer.com. Please read instructions and policies on the web site carefully.

Slate of Portage Soccer Club coaches (approved June 4, 2006)

<u>Girls Head Coaches</u>	<u>Boys Head Coaches</u>
U-9 TBD	U-9 Don Osterhout
U-10 Allen Hamilton	U-10 Vu Le / Randy Jarvis
U-11 Liz VanderSloot / Lloyd McGruder	U-11 Doug Zoeller
U-12 Ann Woolley	U-12 Dan Zeitler
U-13 David Rice	U-13 Mark Verburg
U-14 Silvia Salemka	U-14 David Groves
U-15 Blake Glass	U-15 David Rice
U-16 David Rice	U-16 David Rice
U-17 & 18 Bruce Bejcek	U-17 & 18 John McKenzie

Remaining coaches as well as "B" and "C" team coaches are being recruited on an ongoing basis. More info will be available at tryouts.