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Notes from the President- by Pete Strazdas

Our upcoming season brings new teams and members. Please welcome them to our club and help make their soccer experience a good one.

The past few months have been very busy for the Board and me. We finalized the lease agreement with AYSO Region 74. A joint facility committee and use of the complex is the basis for a long term relationship with the Portage recreation teams. Our club will work closer with AYSO as we partner with the area soccer groups.

Finally, I need to remind our members that the concession stand and the Portage Soccer Classic Tournament are the Club's primary fund raising activities. The Board strives to have the best outdoor soccer field and coaches in our region. The volunteer coaches and parent volunteers are the main ingredients for the Club's success and are the reason our fees are lower than many other soccer clubs in our region. Please step-up and do your share of the work that must get done. Many hands make light work. The Board is looking for a replacement for our Treasurer and Registrar. The outgoing officers are more than willing to spend some time training. Please call me or any Board member if you would be willing to help in this capacity.

See you on the fields!

Coaches Corner- by Bruce Bejcek

A Coaches Manual for the club has been developed and is available on line. This manual was created over the past year and contains information on practice material for different age groups. Although this manual is primarily aimed at coaches it also contains information on what is expected of players and parents, and should be of interest to everyone. It is available through the Portage Soccer Club's web site at www.portagesoccer.com (the coaching manual is halfway down the left column of selections).

As spring approaches it is important for parents and players to fill out a coach evaluation form. These forms are available on line (www.portagesoccer.com); go to the "Managers page" and scroll down to the "forms" area on that page, where you will find the "coach evaluation form" based on your experience this past fall. All ratings and names are confidential, although some points may be summarized in a very general way when I discuss issues with coaches. I also use feedback including the coach evaluation forms to help in deciding coaching assignments for the following year. Since coaching is such an important element of the youth soccer experience, and something I take very seriously, I urge you to take the time to fill one out and return it.

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is having its annual meeting and vendor show right here in Kalamazoo at the Radisson, March 11-13. More information can be obtained at www.msysa.net/agm.html.

Anyone who is interested in coaching for the 2005 - 2006 season please contact Bruce Bejcek at bruce.bejcek@wmich.edu and indicate what age group and gender you are most interested in.

Tournament Update- by David Rice

The 19th Annual Portage Soccer Classic will be held on the weekend of June 10-12, 2005. This year's tournament will be our fourth at the Portage Community Soccer Complex. We received many compliments from the teams who competed in the tournament the last three years on our new home.

Applications have been mailed to all of our teams and are also available on our website, www.portagesoccer.com. The deadline for the early registration discount is March 31, 2005. Team entry fees are \$350 up to that date and \$375 for later registrations. Each PSC team only needs to send its application at this time.

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 Huczek (329-2503) and Daphne Walker (321-9309) 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. We're counting on you!

The Tournament Board has several openings which need to be filled.

Secretary - record and distribute the minutes of our monthly meetings

Communications - publicize the tournament through various media

Program - organize and develop the tournament booklet including sales of advertising

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 any of these positions 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 three years we contributed \$43,000 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.

Parent Representative Assignments

The list of Parent Representative assignments has been updated to account for the new teams added this spring. We encourage you to discuss concerns or comments you would like the Board to be aware of with your team's Parent Representative. In addition, many issues can be addressed by checking the "PSC Policy" page at the club's web site (www.portagesoccer.com), or by talking with your team manager and/or your team's coach. Please use any or all of these options as needed.

Portage Soccer Club Parent Representative Assignments- Spring 2005					
Dave Perry 321-1760 dave.perry@ipaper.com		Theresa Shave 327-8539 tshave@laddinc.net		Stacie Phillips 323-8535 sphillips@portageps.org	
<u>Team</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Coach</u>
U9 girls	Vandersloot	U11 girls	Stanley	U10 girls	Woolley
U11 girls	Buerkel	U12 girls	Salemka	U13A girls	Glass
U13B girls	Zoeller	U14 girls	Grubb	U10 boys	Bejcek
U10 boys	Zeitler	U9 boys	Garrett	U12 boys	Martin
U11 boys	McGruder	U11 boys	Mathews	U17 boys	Rice
U13 boys	Myers	U14B boys	Rice	U19 men	Stephenson
U14A boys	Rice	U15-16 boys	MacKenzie		

Brief Fundraising Note- by Kathy Brown

Complete information on ways you can help raise money to pay for the wonderful fields we play on is posted on the club web site at www.portagesoccer.com, and is available in the last printed newsletter. However, one method in particular is so easy to do it bears repeating. PSC members who shop at Meijer can earn a valuable bonus for PSC simply by logging their purchases by use of a "Meijer Community Rewards" card. Go to www.meijer.com/rewards and sign up for a Meijer Community Rewards card. You do not need to sign up for the credit card, just sign up for the "Meijer Card" which is NOT a credit card, and be sure to use the Portage Soccer Club ID number, 103058 when you register. You can designate your rewards to go to more than one organization if you so desire. Then every time you make a purchase at Meijer, swipe your Card and our Club will earn a percentage of your purchase. There's not an easier way to support youth soccer. Please do your part to help.

Dates to plan for this summer

Portage Soccer Club tryouts for fall 2005 and spring 2006 teams will be June 20-23 this summer. Tryouts for even-year teams (U-10, U-12, U-14 etc) will be on even-numbered dates, Monday and Wednesday June 20 and 22, while odd-year teams (U-11, U-13, U-15 etc) will be Tuesday and Thursday June 21 and 23. One exception is that U9 players will try out the same day as U10 players.

By MSYSA rules, tryouts may not begin before June 15. The practice in WMYSA, which was endorsed again at a recent board meeting, is for premier-level teams to have tryouts the first week possible (June 15, 16, and 17), and club teams (Portage, Red Arrow, River Oaks, Sting etc.) to have tryouts the next week. That way players who so desire can try out for TKO or Kingdom Reserves, and be notified by Sunday night June 19 of their status so they know whether to try out for their club team. Please mark these dates on you calendar.

Calendar

Sat Apr 16- spring season begins

Sun Apr 17- PSC tournament meeting followed by PSC board meeting

Sun May 8- PSC tournament meeting followed by PSC board meeting

Sun June 5- PSC tournament meeting followed by PSC board meeting

Weekend of June 10-12- Portage Soccer Classic tournament

Mon & Wed June 20 & 22- tryouts for U-10 (U-9), U-12, U-14, and U-16 teams

Tues & Thurs June 21 & 23- tryouts for U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, and U-19 teams

Sun July 10- PSC board meeting

Wed July 20- Club-wide meeting for all players/parents