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### Gold Medal Soccer Olympian Returns to Portage- by Pete Strazdas

I had the pleasure of coordinating the Community Celebration for our Portage Soccer Club Alumni, Lindsay Tarpley, when she returned to her home town after winning the Gold Medal in the 2004 Women's Soccer Olympics. The Portage Soccer Club and teams from AYSO and WMYSA soccer clubs participated in all of the planned venues. Over a thousand soccer players marched down Westnedge Ave on Friday night.

The Portage Soccer Club was well represented in the parade. Thanks to all coaches, team managers and parents for transporting the players, making parade floats, and participating in one of the largest parades in Portage's history. The Saturday morning community recognition ceremony at McCamley Field was a very special event for Lindsay and her family. She received proclamations and letters from the Federal, State, and local units of government. Her AYSO, PSC, and high school soccer coaches spoke about their time with Lindsay.

We gave her a new Lightning jersey with her original PSC number 15. Furthermore, the PSC and USF presented her with a replica of the new plaque that was unveiled later that day at the Portage Community Soccer Complex. You will also see the new signs at the entry to the Complex that indicates *The Home of 2004 Gold Medal Olympian Lindsay Tarpley*. Finally, Lindsay spent her entire Saturday afternoon taking picture with over a thousand soccer players from West Michigan.

With a broken leg, Lindsay cheerfully managed a grueling schedule of activities. Lindsay and her family were overwhelmed with the turn-out at each of the planned events. The community and soccer players gave her a welcome home celebration that was worthy of a Gold Medal Olympian from our home town. Perhaps we can do this again in four years with Lindsay or another Portage Soccer Club alumni.

### New PSC Board Members Elected

At the September 16 Annual General Membership meeting, the following new Board Members were elected. In addition, Gretchen Reist was appointed webmaster, and more recently Dave Perry has been appointed to the third Parent Rep position. Please welcome these volunteers who serve for the sake of youth and soccer.

- Jenny Peel- Secretary
- Mark Schatz- WMYSA Community Representative
- Stacie Phillips- Parent Representative
- Theresa Shave- Parent Representative

The PSC Board still has open positions for Treasurer, Registrar, and VP-Uniforms. If you're interested in helping out, contact any board member (see the [contacts page on the web site](#)).

**New Parent Representative Assignments- by Dave Perry**

Each PSC team has been assigned a Parent Representative to help facilitate good communication with the Board. Concerns or comments parents would like the Board to be aware of can be discussed 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](http://www.portagesoccer.com)), or by talking with your team manager and/or your team's coach. Please use these options as appropriate.

Portage Soccer Club Parent Representative Assignments 2004-2005					
Dave Perry 321-1760 <a href="mailto:dave.perry@ipaper.com">dave.perry@ipaper.com</a>		Theresa Shave 327-8539 <a href="mailto:tladdinc@aol.com">tladdinc@aol.com</a>		Stacie Phillips 323-8535 <a href="mailto:sphillips@portageps.org">sphillips@portageps.org</a>	
<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	U16 girls	Williams (F)
U10 boys	Zeitler	U9 boys	Garrett	U10 boys	Bejcek
U11 boys	McGruder	U11 boys	Mathews	U12 boys	Martin
U13 boys	Myers	U14B boys	Rice	U17 boys	Rice (S)
U14A boys	Rice	U15-16 boys	MacKenzie (S)	U19 men	Stephenson (S)
(F)= Fall Season Only			(S)=Spring Season Only		

**Small-sided Soccer Philosophy- by Norm Jansen**

Those of us used to playing and watching soccer on 75 x 115 yard fields with 11 players a side have looked at the recent change to small-sided games for U11 and U12 with some skepticism. However, it's important to note that this change was thoughtfully considered for a number of years before it was implemented at the national level. The chief advantage of 8v8 and 6v6 games is more on-the-ball action for each player by greater involvement in shooting, dribbling, passing, scoring goals, and blocking shots. Now that it's in place in most states, even soccer purists have come to appreciate the benefits, although it can be hard to break with tradition. A good summary of many of the factors justifying the small-sided philosophy is given at the following web location- [http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/docs/ssg%20powerpoint%20\(goodman\).ppt](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/docs/ssg%20powerpoint%20(goodman).ppt) If your web browser doesn't have the PowerPoint plug-in needed to view this file, please email Norm Jansen at [nbjansen@att.net](mailto:nbjansen@att.net) and I'll be glad to email it to you in another format.

A collection of comments from a variety of soccer experts around the country is provided at- <http://msysa.net/CoachingArticles/SSGQ&A2002.doc>

Closer to home, a comment from the Director of Coaching of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is available at- <http://www.msysa.net/coachingdirector.html> MSYSA is the governing body of the West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA) that Portage Soccer Club is part of.

If your son or daughter is U12 or younger, please take a few minutes to browse this information.

### **U10 Special Rules- by Mark Schatz**

Please keep in mind that as part of the developmental philosophy of the new "6 v 6" format for U10 games, "offside" will not be called. Also, there is open substitution in all U10 games. In other words, during any dead ball situation, either team may substitute an unlimited number of players. While coaches that "cherry pick" may have a short-term advantage this year since they can do so without offside being called, when those same players move on to U11, they'll have a bigger adjustment to make, since offside will be called.

The PSC Complex will be lining fields(s) for U10 games that reflect a smaller dimension for the 6 v 6 games. This is to conform with recommendations from MSYSA and WMYSA.

### **Spare Soccer Jerseys for Youth in El Salvador**

Unused soccer jerseys from PSC and other area soccer teams are finding good use in Latin America. Beginning in 2002, Margie Stinson has been organizing the collection of spare soccer uniforms which are brought to appreciative youth in El Salvador each year when a group from St. Catherine's church visits the farming community of El Sitio. Bring your extra shirts (and shorts and socks) to the Portage Soccer Complex and look for the plastic tub by the concession stand. Those who have returned from these trips tell us how proud and happy the kids are to wear them!

### **Portage Lightning takes Indianapolis by storm**

Five PSC teams traveled to Zionsville on the north side of Indianapolis October 9-10 to participate in "Socctoberfest", and all five captured first or second place honors. Congratulations to the following teams, as well as others who have worn the PSC logo proudly at various tournaments around the region.

- U-10 Boys Zeitler 2nd place
- U-11 Boys Mathews 1st place
- U-13 Girls Glass 2nd place
- U-14 Boys (B) Rice 2nd place
- U-14 Boys (A) Rice 1st place

If your team finished first or second in a tournament, please send an email to the following three PSC board members so we can note your accomplishment- [peter.strazdas@wmich.edu](mailto:peter.strazdas@wmich.edu), [bruce.bejcek@wmich.edu](mailto:bruce.bejcek@wmich.edu), and [nbjansen@att.net](mailto:nbjansen@att.net).