

## Regional Commissioner's Column

Parents, Players and Others:

I wanted to take a minute and thank each of you for participating in our fall 2004 season! This was a record year with over 1270 total players registered, and 121 teams. We had a huge expansion in Under 6 and Under 14, particular girls. We had a lot of happy kids who got out each week and played soccer, had fun and made new friends. We also continued the VIP program for players with moderate to server disabilities that prevent them from taking part in our regular program. All-in-all this was one of the finest seasons of soccer in Saratoga.

We also had a great year in terms of logistics too. Thanks to everyone's effort, we had one of the lowest trash years in recent memories! This year we had no kids bitten by dogs!! And we had no cars towed (and only a few locked in). For such a large league, each of you has done a truly remarkable job in minimizing the potential impact of our league. Thank you!

I also want to thank each parent for pitching in and helping out as a volunteer. As you know, Not a single person in the league gets paid; we all volunteer our time and energy to make the league run for the good of our kids. With over 800 families contributing, it is no wonder Saratoga Soccer was voted the most outstanding region in all of AYSO! I know that 16 hours of time was sometimes hard to work into our lives, but on behalf of the all kids that had a great season, Thanks for helping out! Also, I want to extend a special thanks to all of the Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Referees. Without your efforts, we could not have played. Finally, I want to thank the Saratoga Soccer Board for their tireless work and leadership that brought this season together. THANKS EVERYONE!!!

Looking forward to the 2005 Spring season, we are planning to have a great time. Teams have been formed; games for the older kids have started and for the younger kids, will start shortly. We have an official Youth referee program that allows kids 12 and older to learn the skills needed to be great referees. We have about 35 teams in U5 though U14 divisions. Spring is a shorter, simpler season than fall.

Right now, we are working on planning the 2005 Fall season. We hope to see each of you at registrations starting in April. Also, there are a lot of families new to Saratoga that might not know about our league and all the fun the kids have. Spread the word, tell your friends.

Howard Miller, *Regional Commissioner*

## Saratoga Soccer, The 2004 AYSO Region of the Year

Saratoga Soccer is one of over 1000 regions in ASYO nationally. In 2004, the AYSO National Board of Directors recognized us as the Region of the Year. The award is based on our implementation of AYSO's philosophies and policies. This was recognition of the hard work and dedication of our board, coaches, referees and all the other volunteers that make our league happen for the kids. Thanks to everyone for making Saratoga a great place for kids to plays soccer!

## **Coaches Corner**

**By Ken Izzo**

Time sure flies when you're havin' fun! Now that you've had a couple months to look back at the fall season I'm sure you all get that real feeling of satisfaction for a job well done and remember only the fun you had working with the kids! All of our parent volunteers play a part in the success of our region but one thing's for sure, if we don't have coaches, we won't have a league. Many thanks to all our fall coaches as well as our spring volunteers.

Our spring season planning is well underway. We've had more coach volunteers than teams in some divisions and are in need of coaches in other divisions but we'll get it sorted out with the goal of getting our kids out on the field opening day playing soccer.

There will be many opportunities to improve your coaching skills this spring and summer. Keep an eye on the training link under coach resource for the latest coach training schedule.

Please keep your email addresses up to date by visiting the link on our website. If you're a spring coach, be sure to add yourself to that distribution list too so we can get you all the latest information.

As always, let me know if you have questions or comments by emailing me at [coach@saratogasoccer.org](mailto:coach@saratogasoccer.org).

### **Give up?**

***A true story***

***By Manish Raghavan, U12 Player***

You are losing 2-4 in the fourth quarter of a soccer game. What would you do? Would you give up all hope? Most people would, but for Steve Schwartzkopf and Yome Haba, giving up is not an option. Losing a game is a reason to play harder, and they would encourage their team to do just that.

In 2003, I was in the U10 Boys division on their team, the Stingrays. We were playing a game against the Raptors, another AYSO team. In the fourth quarter we were losing 2-4 but we still kept playing to win. Our shortest player Nick Round took up the ball and whacked it into the goal. After the Raptors' kickoff, I took the ball away from them, dribbled it to the edge of the penalty box, and kicked it in the general direction of the goal. Luckily for me the goalkeeper slipped while trying to block my shot and I scored! We were now tied 4-4. At that point, the game was so tense that both teams kept messing up. Finally we got a good pass in to George, our second smallest player. He dribbled the ball up and carefully aimed his shot. It soared right above the goalkeeper's hand, just below the crossbar and smacked into the net. We had taken the lead 5-4! Just after the kickoff was taken the referee blew the final whistle. Our team had won the game! We had learned that it pays not to give up hope.

# FALL 2004 WRAP-UP

## U10 Tournament

We ended the season for the U10 division on a great note with our U10 Tournament. Each team got to play two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday so it was a weekend full of soccer. We even had some nice weather this year.

The top four teams from each flight were:

### **U10 Boys Ladder A**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Panthers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Earthquakes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Raptors
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Scorpions

### **U10 Boys Ladder B**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Titans
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mustangs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sharks
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Thunder

### **U10 Girls Ladder A**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Cyberrays
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rockets
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Panthers
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Strikers

### **U10 Girls Ladder B**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Cannonballs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tigers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stars
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Geckos

Four of our teams went on to the Turkey Tournament in San Bruno over Thanksgiving weekend. These teams played some tough teams but they definitely had fun. Look for more information about this tournament next season.

Great job to all the teams and we look forward to seeing you all again next Fall season!



## Sportsmanship Awards

As you all should know, Good Sportsmanship is one of the five philosophies of AYSO. It was also our focus for the 2004 Fall Season. This year, in honor of Andrew Bedard who would have been playing in the U10 division, the Board worked with his parents, Charlie Bedard and Karolina Ott, to find a way to honor his spirit and attitude as well as his constant display of good sportsmanship whenever he played.

During the U10 Tournament, the referees and the award committee observed the teams including the coaches, players and their parents, to find four teams that displayed the same spirit of good sportsmanship that Andrew displayed. To quote Andrew, "If you have the right attitude, you are a winner." One team from each ladder of the tournament received the Andrew Bedard Memorial Sportsmanship Award. The following teams were this year's recipients:

- U10 Boys Ladder A: Blue Devils
- U10 Boys Ladder B: Thunder
- U10 Girls Ladder A: Strikers
- U10 Girls Ladder B: Silver Stars

On behalf of Andrew's parents and the board, we would like to thank all of the referees who came out for both days and worked so hard to make the tournament work. Most of the refs worked many games in a row on both days and had the added responsibility of judging the coaches and teams on their attitude, sportsmanship and fun during each game. Thanks so much for making this work.

Also, many thanks to the coaches and players for working hard at remaining positive and encouraging each other during the games. The teams played hard and the coaches were vocal on the sidelines, but, for the most part, it was enthusiastic coaching that was heard. We would like to think that the thought of the Sportsmanship trophies at the end of the tournament helped encourage everyone to remember the reasons why we play in AYSO!

## **Youth Referee Program**

By Garrett Short

This spring Saratoga AYSO is starting a Player Referee Organization (PRO) program where youths can be involved in another aspect of soccer. This program has been successfully implemented in other AYSO regions and we think it can be successful in Saratoga as well. We are starting the program for the upcoming spring season and will hopefully expand it this fall. The program is open to soccer players 12 years and older. The youth referees do not need to be a registered soccer player this spring to participate.

The program consists of a one-day training class. The class will be similar to the regional referee class given at the beginning of each season but geared towards youths already familiar with the game of soccer. The class will cover the Laws of the Game, referee mechanics, foul recognition, and referee teamwork. The training will continue on the field throughout the season. Youth refs will be assigned to teams to referee games appropriate for their age, experience, and skill level. There will be an adult referee at all the games as a mentor and to assist in any special situations. Each referee is encouraged to keep a logbook of his or her games to track their progress. As they gain experience and proficiency, they are eligible to move up to more challenging games.

### **Some of the benefits of being a youth referee include:**

*Build self-confidence and better able to meet new challenges*

*Foster leadership and critical thinking skills*

*Increased knowledge of the Laws of the Game will help become better players by understanding the finer points of the game.*

*Make new friends with young people who share the same interests*

*For some, a way to fulfill community service requirements*

Our region also benefits by having an increased pool of qualified referees for the many games we host. AYSO is for kids to have fun and for learning. This program is also designed with these objectives as its top goals.

To signup, all you need to do is go to our web site and register your and/or your child's email address at <http://www.saratogasoccer.org/main/email.html>. (Check the "Youth" box under Referees.) All communication about this program and scheduling will be sent to this youth referee email list. Also each youth referee needs to register at [www.eAYSO.org](http://www.eAYSO.org) as a youth volunteer.

We will have the spring training class on Sunday, March 13, from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Argonaut school library. Send email to [youthrefadmin@saratogasoccer.org](mailto:youthrefadmin@saratogasoccer.org) if have any questions or need further information.

## **What happened to Congress Springs Park?**

If you have been past Congress Springs Park in the last few months, you may have noticed heavy equipment, lots of sand and a torn up field. This is all part of a long-term plan to improve the quality of the park. Saratoga Soccer contributed all of our Snack Shack proceeds for the last two seasons to the city in addition to pre-paying the 2005 field fees. In total, we have contributed over \$50K to the field improvement project. Little league and Pony leagues have also contributed. Once this is complete, we should have a flatter, safer and more durable playing field. If you are in baseball, the city promises that as soon as the weather warms up, the grass will wake from dormancy and quickly recover. Next fall, we should have an even better park to play soccer.

## **A Warm Welcome to all New and Returning Referees for Spring 2005 Soccer Season**

AYSO Spring 2005 Soccer Season is fast approaching. All referee volunteers are required to attend, at least, one of the following training programs:

**Returning Referee Clinic** (Mar 5, 11am – 3pm)

**U5/U6 Referee Training** (Mar 10, 6 -10pm)

**Basic (New) Referee Training Part 1** (Mar 10, 7-10 pm)

**Basic (New) Referee Training Part 2** (Mar 12, 9am - 3 pm)

All the training sessions will be held at the **Argonaut Elementary School Library**.

Please ensure that you maintain your current email id at the Referee mailing list, which is self-maintained and accessible at [www.saratogasoccer.org](http://www.saratogasoccer.org). Look out for communications and updates on the training programs and other critical information.

Please join me in welcoming the following outstanding referee volunteers to their new positions aimed at improving the referee organization:

**Scott Emery**, Regional Director of Referee Instruction

**Charlie Bedard**, Regional Director of Referee Assessment

I invite Referees to write to me about ways to improve AYSO in our region especially around refereeing. While referees do a wonderful job of covering games, we should continuously strive to improve.

Remember to enjoy refereeing while ensuring Safety, Fairness & Fun!!!!

Vikram Kohli, Regional Referee Administrator

## **U12/U14 Area Tournament**

At the end of our fall season, the top teams in our U12 and U14 divisions get the chance to play in the Area 2-J Tournament. This tournament brings the top teams from each region in the area to play in a round robin style tournament. The tournament is the weekend before Thanksgiving and is a great experience for all teams participating.

This year, we had the opportunity to send a total of 16 teams to the Area tournament. Each team had a great time and played hard. There were some tough teams but our teams did really well. The results of the tournament are listed here:

### **U12B Division**

1<sup>st</sup> – Watsonville Los Leones

2<sup>nd</sup> – Saratoga Renegades

3<sup>rd</sup> – Saratoga Stealth

4<sup>th</sup> – Saratoga Blue Angels

### **U12G Division**

1<sup>st</sup> – Saratoga Hummingbirds

2<sup>nd</sup> – Saratoga Strikers

3<sup>rd</sup> – Cupertino Killer Grass

4<sup>th</sup> – Saratoga Orange Crush

### **U14B Division**

1<sup>st</sup> – Saratoga Crush

2<sup>nd</sup> – Saratoga Revolution

3<sup>rd</sup> – Cupertino Orange Oompah  
Lompahs

4<sup>th</sup> – Prunedale Red Hot Chili Peppers

### **U14G Division**

1<sup>st</sup> – WSJ Force

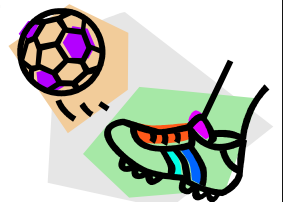
2<sup>nd</sup> – Saratoga Strikers

3<sup>rd</sup> – Watsonville Wildcats

4<sup>th</sup> – Prunedale Sizzlin Cinnamons

As a result of the Area Tournament, the Area was able to send two teams from each division to the Section Tournament in Foster City. This resulted in 6 out of 8 teams from Saratoga Soccer participating in the Section Tournament. This is a great opportunity to see teams from all over the Bay Area and its surrounding areas.

Congratulations go out to all of our U12 and U14 teams. We had some really strong teams this year and some great coaching. All of our teams should be very proud of themselves for a great season. Hope to see you all again next Fall!



# PLAYSOCCER

## 2005 ADVANCED

### JOB REQUEST OPPORTUNITY

Dear AYSO Family,

Thank you for participating in our pre-selection program for jobs. We have a wonderful soccer program, and you have generously stepped up to help keep it going.

**We are offering early registration to all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Referees, Division Mgr and Board Members.**

**PLEASE COME AND REGISTER on one of the dates**

**April 9, from 10am-2pm**

**April 30, from 2pm-5:30pm.**

There will be more information at registration and a chance to talk to the Regional Coach Administrator and Referee Administrator.

Remember, this process is for **returning** families only. If you know of others who will be joining us in the coming season, let them know that some jobs have been held for them, and will be available at registration in May and June.

**Place: Argonaut School**

**Check our website**

**[www.saratogasoccer.org](http://www.saratogasoccer.org)**

Thank you,

Dianne Depositari

AYSO Registrar

249-8389

This is your opportunity to request a job before registration! Jobs which are not filled through this process will be available at walk-in Registration on May 14 and June 4. If you know of new families who plan to join AYSO this season, let them know that we have reserved some jobs just for them. This pre-assignment of jobs is for returning families only. **The date for this registration will be May 14 only.** Pre-selected jobs will only be available May 14<sup>th</sup>, all job forms not picked up on May 14<sup>th</sup> will be returned to open positions for others to choose from.

**All jobs are a minimum of 14-16 hours commitment. Jobs (BBQ Worker & Snack Shack Worker) require a shift and the shift must be selected at registration in person.**

Print Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Review the list of jobs you are willing to help with. Select up to 4 jobs and list them by number in order of preference. Number your choices 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Mail to: **AYSO Registrar**  
**1150 Ranchero Way #23**  
**San Jose, CA 95117**

**Referee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coaching/Ass't Coaching Jobs** (If this information is missing you will not secure the job)

Please include child's name and the division you are going to ass't coach or coach for.

Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Div: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Representative** (If this information is missing you will not secure the job)

Please include child's name and the division you are going to Team Rep for.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Div: \_\_\_\_\_

**Support Workers**

	Team Assignment Wkr		Nets Worker		Fields Painting Worker
	Sweatshirt Distrib. Wkr		Safety Clean-up Worker		Awards Distrib. Worker
	Coach Clinic Worker		Day Camp Worker		Registration Worker*
	Picture Day Worker		Player Eval. Clinic Wkr		Awards Prep Worker
	Snack Shack Worker		Opening Tournament Wkr		Fields Layout Worker
	BBQ Worker		MLS Housing		First Aid Safety Worker

\*Remember that registration workers must commit to all rRegistration dates.

**The dates are: 4/9, 4/30, 5/14, 6/4.**

You must be able to report to registration 1 and 1/2 hours before the doors open for training and set-up.

Registration is a full day of work.

**ALL REQUESTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 19th!**

*Hurry and open this! Don't wait! Now is your chance to sign-up for the very best volunteer jobs ever!*



**Saratoga AYSO**  
P.O. Box 2933  
Saratoga, CA 95070

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