

# Kicks!

The Newsletter of The Big Walnut Soccer Association

[www.bigwalnutsoccer.com](http://www.bigwalnutsoccer.com)

**Big  
Walnut  
Soccer  
Association**



Spring 2010

## Dates to Remember

### March 21

Coaches Meeting 5 pm  
Coaches will contact players within a week. Practices may begin as soon as the 22nd.

### April 7 & 21

Coaches Training Clinics 6-8 pm

### April 10

Games begin

### April 24

Picture Day  
(*Rain Date 5/1*)

### May 15

Hand out awards & photos  
Collect coaches' player evaluations at the fields

### May 20

Souders Musical - No games or practices permitted

### May 22

Last Games

### May 25 & 27

U9 & U10 Boys and Girls Select Program Tryouts

### June 1 & 3

U11 & U12 Boys and Girls Select Program Tryouts

Believe it or not, days *will* become longer, the sun *will* rise higher in the sky and the daffodils *will* soon begin to bloom. Spring *will* arrive. I hope you have not only survived, but thrived, through our record setting freeze-out.

The Fall season brought us some very exciting developments - most notably our fledgling BWSA Heroes Select Program, parking for 45+ additional spaces and a regular program of field maintenance that has dramatically improved the quality of our fields in just the first year.

We are looking at plans to enhance drainage in problem areas and will be aerating and over-seeding all practice areas in April. If you have earth moving equipment and would like to help with the field improvements, please contact Craig Rutkowski at 965-9784.

## A Typical Season

This bit is mostly aimed at the folks who are newly joining BWSA this Spring, but everyone should read just to reinforce their understanding of what BWSA is about.

The BWSA is a recreational program. Our goal is for kids and parents to experience soccer in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Children playing in the program should all receive equivalent playing time throughout the season and the emphasis should be on improving fundamental skills. Practice schedules are left to the discretion of the coaches, but the official recommendation is two practices a week until games begin and then one practice and one game a week.

Depending upon the number of teams in a particular division, there will be occasional weeknight games in addition to Saturday games. Coaches in older divisions may also choose additional practices.

Expectations placed upon parents include making sure your child attends practices and games *on time*, making the coach aware of any medical conditions that warrant concern, being available during practices and games in the event that your child may need more attention than the coach should be expected to provide. This last statement is directed to parents of new or younger players. You know your child better than anyone and you should know if this is a valid concern.

Children should arrive to all practices

and games with a water bottle, shin guards and an appropriate sized ball.

Pre-K & K-1 Divisions - size 3

2/3 & 4/5 Divisions - size 4

Middle School - size 5

## BWSA Heroes Select Program

The addition of a Select Program to our league is an exciting development. It has created a place for those kids who want to *"take it to the next level"*. Its creation was a grass roots effort of the parents and children in those particular age groups who wanted to make a larger commitment to their personal game. New teams will be formed as the interest level in particular age groups is gauged and folks interested in coaching at this level step forward. The side benefit is that these children do not need to look outside our league to take this step. As this program develops we will experience challenges and will need to adapt in order to face them. See the schedule to the left for tryout dates for next year's teams. Contact Brian Weikert for additional information regarding the Heroes program

## Summer Camp

August 9-12 will be the dates for our Summer Camp this year. Information will be distributed towards the end of the season with additional details.

## Job Opportunity

If you are in 6th grade, or younger than 100, you can become a referee. Learning to referee gives you additional perspectives on the game and is a great way to earn money while getting in shape. We are in perpetual need to replenish our stable of players and parents who are willing to make this commitment. Once a child learns these skills they can take it with them for many years beyond their BWSA experience and it can become a great way for kids to earn money through college.

The following is an excerpt from:

[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/news/story.asp?story\\_id=3974](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/news/story.asp?story_id=3974)

For more click the link.

### **How do we measure player development?**

Too often in America, a professional sport model is used in measuring youth sports success. Youth soccer is not immune to this misapplied standard. For soccer the situation is made worse by a desire of many adults to use measuring tools from other sports. In fact, it is maddening to many adults that soccer is not as black and white as with some sports in judging successful play. Many team sports played in our nation are statistically driven and coach centered.

Soccer is neither of those!

Indeed just like the Laws of the Game our sport has many shades of grey within it. As a player centered sport, some coaches become disillusioned as they learn that they are the 'guide on the side' and not the 'sage on the stage'. Too many soccer coaches bring a military focused attitude to the youth sport environment. This coach-centered perspective has been handed down to us from other sports and coaching styles of past generations.

In many sports the coach makes crucial decisions during the competition. In soccer, players make the primary decisions during the match; the coach's decisions are of secondary importance. Ego-centric personalities will find coaching soccer troublesome. The other significant group of adults at a youth soccer match is parents. They too often have their view of the match colored by the professional model and by a view of "coaching" that is portrayed in the media. Although it is changing, the majority of parents watching their kids play soccer have never played the game. In fact the statistics show that most of today's parents never played any team sport. So their only exposure on how to measure sporting success is gleaned from the sports media. The sports media predominately report on adult teams at the college and professional levels. These adult measurements of team performance should not and cannot be applied to youth sports.

The analogy can be made to a youngster's academic development in preparation for work in the adult business world. While the child is in primary and secondary school, the corporate world measurements of success are not applied. Those business assessments are not yet appropriate because the school-aged stu-

dent does not yet have the tools to compete in the adult business environment. The knowledge and skills to be a competitor in business are still being taught and learned. This holds true in soccer as well!

Soccer is an adult game designed by adults for adults to play. Adults enjoy the game so much that they have shared it with their children. Yet adults make errors when we bring our adult performance and outcome based thinking into the developing player's world.

**Visit the link for an expanded discussion.**

### **BWSA Board Members**

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<b>Ricardo Vazquez</b>	<b>(614) 327-8526</b>

**We would like to once again take the opportunity to thank this year's sponsors for their support of our league.**

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