

# Kenmore Soccer News

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February 2012

## *Kenmore Soccer Launches Futsal Play*

January saw the start of our initial foray into organized Futsal competition, as we began play for the girls on Wednesday evenings, and for the boys on Thursday evenings. Futsal, which was born in Uruguay and grew up in Brazil, has been credited with helping to develop such soccer legends as Pelé, Ronaldo, Romario and Ronaldinho and current stars Marta and Lionel Messi. The speed, closeness of action and small field all combine to force players to literally think on their feet. The game has been shown to produce what author Daniel Coyle calls "deep practice" in his book *The Talent Code*.

For anyone not familiar with the sport, Futsal can seem unusual, at best. The traditional game is 5v5 (four field players and a goalie) and is played on hardwood floor courts. The 48-minute matches (two 24-minute halves) produce constant action as players jockey for position on the reduced-sized field. With no rebound boards as in indoor soccer, players are forced to focus more on possession and control. It is this constant focus on control that increases technical skill in players.

The Kenmore Soccer program is utilizing 4v4 play without goalkeepers, largely due to the small size of the gym space available. Players are rotated after every game, with scores being kept for each individual. The boys' scores are based on 10 points for a win, 5 points for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. Each player also receives 1 point for each goal that their team scores in a match.

The winter is the perfect time for youth soccer players to participate, as the scholastic season has ended and players need to keep in shape and hone their technical skills. As a nation, the United States needs to get better at the technical side of soccer, and Futsal is one way we can do it.

Anyone who plays Futsal is going to improve their soccer skills, and they are going to learn to play at a higher level once they return to outdoor play. Most of the countries that have been successful in world soccer have Futsal programs, in contrast to the United States.

If you have not joined the Futsal program, all of our travel players at U-11 and above are welcome. The schedule is linked to the Teams and Schedules page of the Club website at [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com).

## The Packed In Defense

Everyone has been involved in a match where the opponent defends at all costs by dropping 7 or 8 players behind the ball every time your team has possession. Their objective is to not allow any goals, and hope that your team makes a mistake that allows them to score against you. It can be incredibly frustrating, but is a tactical part of the game.

There are several approaches that a team can take when faced with a packed-in defense:

**Alter your formation to best achieve your objective against the opponent.** If the opponent only has 1 Target Forward, does your team need to leave out 3 or 4 defenders to defend that one? You certainly do not want to give up a goal on a counterattack, which is exactly what the opponent will try to do, so you must be cautious, giving up even one goal can be disastrous when the opponent is defending deep and packed-in. The coach needs to decide how many defenders it will take to safely cover the opposing forward(s), but remembering that his/her team cannot give up a goal. A safe strategy is to leave adequate defenders and push up the midfielders into the attack so the team has more players in scoring range.

**Get lots of attackers into the Penalty Box.** The team needs to get as many attackers as possible into the penalty box and then try to get the ball into the box. It will be very tough to score if the opponent has 2 or 3 more defenders in the penalty box than you have attackers inside the penalty box. Obviously, your attackers must stay outside. The objective ISN'T to try to get as close as possible to the goal, it's to get in scoring position. It is better to stay 5-12 steps from the goal than to be so close you won't ever get a rebound. This way the players have a good view of the goal, are in good position for crossed and chipped balls, and will have a chance to score on rebounds or goalie errors.

**Be sure to put some quick players in scoring position.** The team must field a line-up that has some quick players at forward or offensive midfielder, get them close to the goal, and get the ball into the penalty box. Against a packed-in defense, quickness and touch are more important than power. The team needs players who are quick, have great dribbling skill and touch, can take a quick shot, and can score using any part of the foot.

**Use soft chips with backspin to get the ball into the Penalty Box.** It is difficult to try to pass the ball into players, and hard airballs are easier for the defender's to clear (the pace of the ball allows the defender to clear it easier). The team must simply get as many attackers as possible in front of the goal and send the ball in using soft, high chips with lots of backspin. The advantages of this approach are that it is easier for the attackers to judge the ball and move to it, and it's harder for packed in defenders to clear because it lacks pace. The attackers must try to score on headers, rebounds, and one-touch shots. There will be rebounds, poorly cleared balls, lucky breaks, balls that bounce off a defender, and balls that fall to the ground. The attackers must be alert, aggressive, and one-touch shoot. They must take the shot and not try to pass; there are so many defenders that they won't get a second chance. The most aggressive players should be on the 12 yard line (where the Penalty Spot is). This is far enough out that the goalkeeper won't get the ball, but is close enough to still get a good shot. Obviously, the attackers must stay outside.

**If you get behind, pull everyone up on your attack except for 1 or 2 defenders.** In the last 5 minutes of the game where you are losing by a goal, the leading team typically leaves only 1 forward pushed up, with everyone else packed in the penalty box to defend. The losing team can improve their chances of scoring by just leaving one defender back to mark the opposing forward and pushing everyone else up into the attack.

There's big money in children's sports.

My empty wallet proves it.

from an article by Dan Beyers (Washington Post)

When you talk about entrepreneurs these days, the conversation often revolves around some tech wunderkind who just became a bazillionaire, or at least aspires to be.

But there's perhaps another class of entrepreneur who is just as clever at separating us from our dollars, and that is the premier youth sports bunch.

Way back when I started playing soccer, I joined a team made up of neighborhood kids. Our uniform was a T-shirt. We had orange slices at halftime. "Travel" soccer mostly involved a trip every other week to Baltimore from my home in Columbia.

I spent much of my summers kicking a ball against a middle school wall, and I'm proud to say I eventually got good enough to earn a scholarship to American University.

Fast forward to my son's soccer experience.

Every since he was 5, we've paid fees to his club, which entitled him to a full kit of shirt, shorts and socks. As he got older, and joined a travel team, the fees got larger. The team had to have a paid coach. We had to have special uniforms and sweats and backpacks. Each year, a photographer would stop by to take a picture of him in his uniform; we had to have that.

When we traveled out of state, we were required to stay at tournament-sanctioned hotels, never the cheapest option. There were supplemental fitness classes, summer camps and skill sessions. Everything had a new fee attached to it.

My son was fortunate enough to make a state team, which charged its own fees for training and every other year offered trips - on our dime - to play overseas in places such as the United Kingdom and Italy. Who wouldn't want that opportunity for their child?

As college loomed, my son started receiving e-mails from coaches asking him to attend their summer camps. Ka-ching. We had to go.

And it wasn't just soccer. I can't tell you how much I spent on batting and pitching lessons and fees to a certain hall of famer's baseball complex in Aberdeen.

But I'm lucky. My son, too, is going to get to play soccer at a top college.

The problem is, I feel like I already paid for it.

### Trivia Question

(answer on page 5)

What highly regarded player missed the first half of a championship game because he was locked in the team bathroom?

## Registering for 2012 with Kenmore Soccer



- Welcome back to our returning players, and welcome to the 57 new players who have joined Kenmore Soccer so far this season.
- Registration for new players remains open for the 2012 season, using the "Join Kenmore Soccer" link at [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com). A few openings remain in several age groups, with the possibility of an additional U-10 Girls team being formed.
- The basic travel fee for this season is \$150. Teams that move into the new Nike uniform kit will have an additional charge of \$65. This includes the Under 10 Boys Thunder, Under 10 Girls Talons, Under 11 Girls Ambush, Under 12 Boys Flames, Under 13 Girls Ambush, Under 13 Boys Lightning, Under 16 Boys Panthers, Under 16 Girls Storm, and Under 19 Girls Talons. Payment for new uniforms is due when they are ordered.
- Kenmore Soccer continues with its policy of not conducting formal try-outs, since we believe that does not allow for coaches, players, and parents to best determine if a team is the "right fit". Instead, we will continue to invite interested new players to attend training sessions to see if Kenmore Soccer is a fit for them. We encourage our existing players to invite interested friends to register on-line, and we will invite them to attend upcoming team training sessions. Questions regarding our programs can be directed to Ken Voght, our Operations Manager, at 837-1627.
- If you know someone interested in joining Kenmore Soccer, please encourage them to register as soon as possible, so that we can quickly finalize the teams we will have, and try to place everyone on an appropriate team.

*Trivia Answer - from page 3*

Generally considered the greatest player in the game today, Lionel Messi missed the first 45 minutes of his youth league championship game in Barcelona because he was locked in the team bathroom.



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in Kenmore



serving the area's best pizza,  
and supporting our  
youth soccer teams

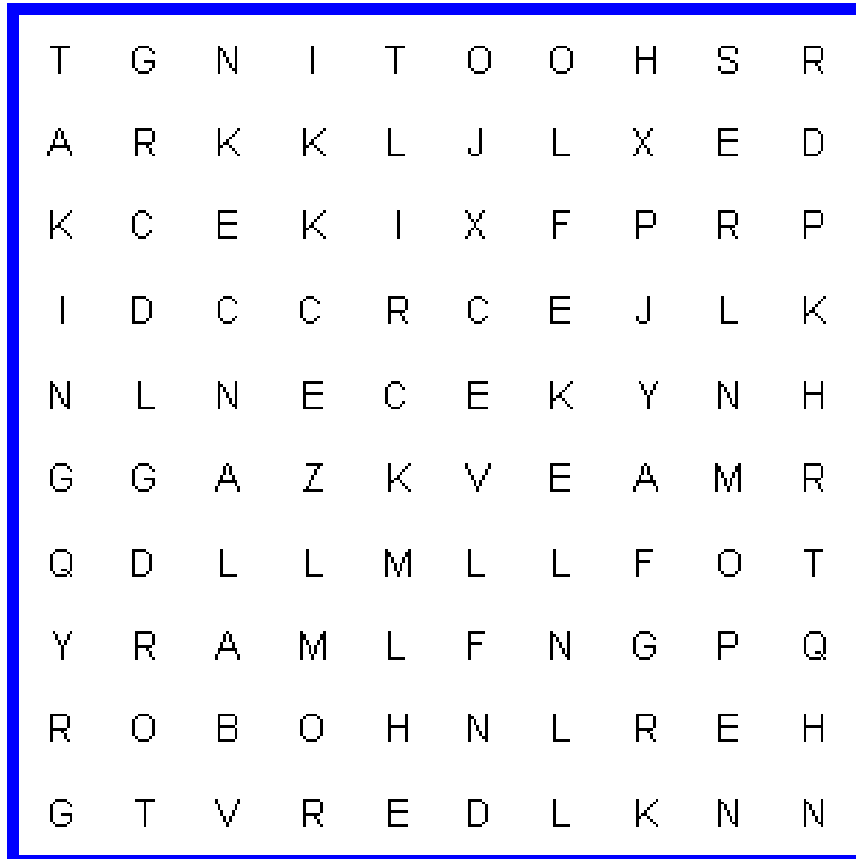
*Submissions Anyone ??????????????*

We want this to be your newsletter. We also want you to be a part of the Club web site. So, we are looking for your ongoing input—articles, pictures, match highlights, team and player recognition, etc. Each team should consider having a designee that can channel information to the Club for inclusion in the newsletter or web site.

Send your submissions to us at [voght@msn.com](mailto:voght@msn.com). Pictures are welcome, but should be in a jpg or gif format.

# Soccer Puzzle

Use the clues below to find the words in the puzzle below. The solution is on page 7.



- \* positioning defenders away from the ball to protect the vital space behind the defense
- \* the area of the field within fifteen yards or so of the touch-lines
  - \* \_\_\_ card; 2 yellow cards in one game
  - \* 5% of all goals are one-on-one against the
- \* drop \_\_\_; a goalie drops the ball from his hands, kicks it before it hits the ground
  - \* an attacking player not being marked
- \* \_\_\_ position; goalkeeper's basic stance when the ball enters shooting range
- \* when a player kicks the ball at the opponent's net in an attempt to score a goal
  - \* players on; applied to dribbling past opponents
- \* half \_\_\_; striking a dropping ball at the moment it hits ground

## Women's Professional Soccer suspends 2012 season

- Women's Professional Soccer won't play the 2012 season amid a legal dispute with an ousted owner. The league's Board of Governors voted Monday to suspend the season with hopes of resuming in 2013, the WPS announced.
- In October, it terminated its South Florida franchise after clashing with owner Dan Borislow all season. A Florida judge ruled earlier this month that the league failed to follow its own dispute procedures when it terminated the franchise, and another court hearing is set for Wednesday.
- WPS CEO Jennifer O'Sullivan said owners chose to cancel the season over possibly working with Borislow in the league again.
- "We have diverted so many resources into litigation," she said. "This is something that needs to be resolved before we can move forward with play."
- Borislow purchased the former Washington Freedom before last season and moved the club to South Florida, renaming it for a telephone call device he invented. The magicJack franchise was repeatedly disciplined during the season for not meeting league standards. In August, after Borislow filed suit against the WPS, the league released a statement accusing him of violations ranging from "unprofessional and disparaging treatment of his players to failure to pay his bills."
- The league has played three seasons. It needed a waiver from the U.S. Soccer Federation to be sanctioned as a first-division league in 2012 with only five teams, below the required eight. In the deal with the governing body in December, WPS agreed to increase the number of teams to a minimum of six for 2013 and at least eight for 2014.

### Word Search Solution

from page 6

T	G	N	I	T	O	O	H	S	R
A	R	K	K	L	J	L	X	E	D
K	C	E	K	I	X	F	P	R	P
	D	C	C	R	C	E	J	L	K
N	L	N	E	C	E	K	Y	N	H
G	G	A	Z	K	V	E	A	M	R
Q	D	L	L	M	L	L	F	Q	T
Y	R	A	M	L	F	N	G	F	Q
R	O	B	O	H	N	L	R	E	H
G	T	V	R	E	D	L	K	N	N

## Kenmore Soccer Club Goals

- To be the best club in our community
- To recruit and retain the finest youth soccer coaches in Western New York
- To continually evaluate and revise our coaching curriculum to insure that all of our players are participating in practice sessions that are challenging, interesting, and fun
- To encourage our players to develop healthy and responsible goals of their own

The Kenmore Soccer Club belongs to all of us, and we encourage you to bring your contributions and expertise to the club. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please speak to your child's coach or contact us directly at your convenience.

## Fund Raising

The Kenmore Soccer Club is able to conduct fund-raising, but each activity needs to be approved by our Board of Directors.

If your team wants to conduct any fund-raising, just e-mail us at [doc@kenmoresoccer.com](mailto:doc@kenmoresoccer.com) with the details of what you propose, and the eventual use of the funds raised. We will get back to you promptly.

## Contacting Us

Web Site — [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com)

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*Our thanks to M.J. Peterson for helping sponsor our teams*

