

Kenmore Soccer News

Volume 5, Number 10

Kenmore/Tonawanda, New York

November 2011

Indoor Training Schedules Posted for November—December

As many of you are aware, the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District is in the midst of massive construction projects that are impacting virtually every building. Some of the construction has affected school gymnasiums, while other projects are being done in the evenings which has resulted in closure of the building to all evening activities.

These projects have severely impacted usage of school facilities by outside groups such as the Kenmore Soccer Club. However, through exhaustive efforts by school staff, assistance by some coaches and parents, and some creative scheduling, we have been able to secure sufficient space for all of our team training and Academy sessions, and will have additional space for our upcoming Futsal games which will begin in January.

Although the team and Academy training schedules were delayed as we worked through the space issues, they are now posted on the Teams and Schedules page of the Club web site at www.kenmoresoccer.com. Our appreciation to everyone for their patience, as well as to school staff, and our coaches and parents, for their assistance in working to ensure our space needs are met.

Academy Sessions Begin in December

The Kenmore Soccer Academy will resume in early December. Led by Nick DeMarsh, the Head Women's Soccer Coach at Buffalo State College and the Director of Coaching for the Kenmore Soccer Club, the Academy will be split into three separate sessions based on player age.

Players at U-10 and below will attend on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00pm at Franklin Elementary School starting December 5th.

Players at U-12 through U-14 will attend on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm at Lindbergh Elementary School starting December 7th.

Players at U-15 and above will attend on Wednesday nights from 8:00-9:30pm at Lindbergh Elementary School starting December 7th.

We are excited to get underway. Remember to register, and that the only cost is \$20 for a Brazilian Bola training ball, which will be available at the initial sessions.

Every Parent Thinks Their Child Is The Best Player

by Tristan Aird of the Las Vegas Review-Journal

It's easy to hear at almost any high school sporting event: a frustrated, or even angry, parent complaining about their child's lack of playing time.

"The biggest thing we run into is every parent thinks their player is the best player," says Doug Borgel, director of boys soccer for Las Vegas Premier, and Bishop Gorman High School's boys and girls coach.

"It gets difficult because they all want them to go to Division I schools, and there are so many great Division II and NAIA schools that are great academically. They can get lost at big schools, but if they're willing to go to another school, they can be great."

Parents have long viewed athletic scholarships as both validation and the reward for the trail of tournaments and showcases, and countless hours and dollars poured into raising an athlete.

And coaches in local club and high school circles say the stakes are even higher since the economy soured.

Las Vegas High baseball coach Sam Thomas pauses when asked if he has heard of parents at his or other programs pestering coaches about playing time.

"It's every program," Thomas says. "Parents want to see their kids play. That's what makes it tough for us; at the high school level, we want to put the best kids on the field. But we get accused of, 'You're ruining my kid's chances for a scholarship.'"

Many parents are happy to see their child achieve a mix of academic and athletic success as they mature into adults, but over-the-top parents are easy to find in the pressurized world of online recruiting rankings and the chase of Division I scholarship dreams.

Following a basketball game in the Reebok Summer Championships at Green Valley High School in July 2009, a father was physically restrained as he shouted obscenities at a California club coach over his son's lack of playing time.

It's the type of scene some coaches hope to avoid by establishing firm rules with parents.

"As soon as I took over the high school job, I made it clear that I didn't want any involvement from parents," recalls Jeremy Gill, Centennial High School's girls soccer coach. "They weren't allowed to talk to me about playing time or where their kid's playing."

Gill has seen college recruiting through the prism of high school and club coaching. He became Centennial's coach last year and remains involved with Las Vegas Premier.

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"In club soccer, parents do have a lot to say because they're paying you," he says. "There is more of an open door on the club side. When you go to a showcase, we're there to show our players, whereas in high school, it's all about winning. So it's a little bit different."

Rancho High School baseball coach Tom Pletsch says a similar line exists between club and high school on the diamond.

But problems with parents can arise when star players on club or travel teams aren't as successful during the high school season.

"One of the travesties that's happened to high school baseball is the parents who have been involved with club ball; every one of them thinks their kid is going to be a Division I kid and get drafted," Pletsch says.

Pletsch knows college recruiting from two sides, as a high school coach and as a father.

Four Rancho seniors received Division I scholarships last season, including his shortstop son Brandon, who signed with UNLV before the Philadelphia Phillies selected him in the 34th round of the major league draft.

He will fulfill his commitment to UNLV.

Tom Pletsch also cautions parents about spending big money to parade their kid around the nation in showcase events.

"You have to look at cost and return. For a guy like Bryce Harper, they don't even really need to go to the showcases, because everyone knows who they are, anyway," Pletsch said.

"There are only two or three kids they might be looking at, and the other 297 kids, they might just make money off of."

Thomas says some parents react poorly to their child's lack of playing time because a club coach has a different assessment of the child's abilities than the high school coach.

"I don't want to say this is the main cause, but things are getting so specialized now, and kids are seeking out individualized lessons," he says. "That's fine, but I would say more than half the time, they're going to have a different opinion than we have of the kid."

David Rawnsley is national director of scouting for Iowa-based Perfect Game, which promotes itself as the world's largest baseball scouting service. He says one positive of showcase events is that they can reset expectations for parents.

"You're given a grade that defines you as a player, and sometimes it helps the parent realize, 'My son isn't going to go to UCLA and pitch.' And there's nothing wrong with that. Going to a junior college and getting a degree and playing baseball is a wonderful thing. It can open opportunities to the next two years of college."

Registering for 2011-2012 with Kenmore Soccer



- Welcome back to our returning players, and welcome to the 49 new players who have joined Kenmore Soccer so far this season.
- Registration for new players remains open for the 2011-2012 season, using the "Join Kenmore Soccer" link at www.kenmoresoccer.com. A few openings remain in several age groups, with the possibility of a few additional 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. At present we expect that the Under 10 Boys Thunder, Under 10 Girls Talons, Under 11 Girls Ambush, Under 12 Boys Flames, Under 13 Boys Lightning, Under 13 Girls Ambush, and Under 16 Boys Panthers will move into the new kit. Payment for new uniforms is not due until they are ordered, which will be in late November.
- Kenmore Soccer will continue with its policy of not conducting formal tryouts, 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.

When It Comes to Your Kid's Head, Use Yours

by Bill Wells of the Springfield Republican

Parents, it's easy to get caught up in our kids' sports. Faithfully following our children at all hours of the day from one playing site to another and cheering in good times and bad from the start of the game to the end . . . it's a way of life for many of us.

But there's a time when getting caught up in youth sports has to be throttled back and the big picture has to - absolutely has to - take over.

Unfortunately, injuries are a part of youth sports. A broken arm here, a broken leg there - yup, it happens. And those injuries are usually pretty clear cut.

Head injuries, though, are a different story. There's still a big gray area there, and that's not a good thing when dealing with athletes of any age, especially kids.

Concussions have become a big topic at the professional and high school levels. High school athletes in Massachusetts now have to take a concussion test prior to each season, and there are restrictions on when athletes can return to the playing field after suffering a head injury.

Professional athletes are fortunate to have trainers at every practice and game, and most high schools have a trainer somewhere on the grounds after school. But at the youth level, trainers are few and far between.

This, parents, is where you need to step in and take complete charge. When it comes to head injuries, or potential head injuries, parents outrank the coaches.

Ah, yes, but remember, it's very easy to get wrapped up in our kids' sports. Away from the field, it's easy to think rationally and with a clear mind. But during a game, in the heat of the moment, some people change. Though your kid just took a good shot to the head, maybe it's a big game and you feel it's important for him or her to get back onto the field. The team needs help.

And to that, parents, I can tell you from experience that when it comes to head injuries, it's just not worth putting your kid back in the game.

I played a lot of sports growing up. I've definitely suffered one concussion, probably two, and maybe three. Head injuries were looked upon differently in the 1970s and '80s. "He got his bell rung" was a common phrase, which was often followed by "suck it up and get back in there."

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The latter phrase is still fine to use when a kid is tired, but not when it comes to head injuries.

My first concussion came during football in eighth grade. I was playing defensive end and got knocked on my rear end. There was a sweep headed in my direction. I popped right up and dove headfirst to make the tackle. I don't know if the running back or a blocker got me, but I got kicked in the head.

I was out on my feet. I walked over to the sideline, although I had no control over what I was doing. I looked at my coaches and they told me to sit down. A dad of one of the players jumped over the fence and gave me some smelling salts. My senses came back, and within a few plays of being injured, I went back onto the field for the remainder of the game. That all sounds so stupid now.

I believe I suffered my second concussion my sophomore year of hockey. I was skating with my head down and got absolutely steamrolled by a guy much bigger and better than me. I remember getting up and tasting blood in my mouth even though I didn't have any blood to spit out. My body didn't feel right either.

And I may have suffered my third concussion the next year during hockey, when I skated in front of the net during a pregame shooting drill and I took a slap shot squarely to the head.

In all three cases, I was never seen by a trainer and I never went to a hospital. I was right back in the game.

As an adult, I have a terrible short-term memory, I have a tendency to flip-flop words and I can't remember the names of people I've met dozens of times. Maybe I would have these characteristics as an adult regardless, but I can't help but think that these flaws are connected to my multiple head injuries as a youth.

Is that big picture starting to become clear now? Do you want your kid to have a terrible short-term memory as an adult and the inability to remember someone's name?

Parents, when it comes to head injuries, or even potential head injuries, do your kid a long-term favor and take your kid out of the game and make a trip to the doctor's office. I know it may seem like a nuisance, or that your kid needs to play because it's a big game and the team needs help. But please see the big picture. In the long run, it's the move right . . . I mean, right move.

Protecting Your High School Eligibility

Every year we encounter situations where teams or players are sanctioned for a violation of rules which impacts their scholastic eligibility. Often these sanctions are due to an obscure rule or simple oversight.

Here are some true stories which provide examples of things to avoid. Names have been deleted, but all of these situations occurred in our area:

- A high school boys team won their sectional title and was awaiting a trip to the State semi-finals. Their coach had coordinated an "exceptional senior game" and invited 4 of his players to participate in the exhibition match, where they would be seen by college coaches who had been invited.

What Happened?

By playing in the match, the boys were ruled ineligible for further high school play, and their team proceeded to the State semi-finals without these 4 starters. Once a player participates in any type of all-star or senior game, they are deemed to have voluntarily ended their scholastic career, and are no longer eligible to play for a high school team.

- During their senior season, two high school players visited a college. During the visit, they participated in a training session with the college soccer team.

What Happened?

The college permitted such an activity, but the New York State does not permit it. When the issue surfaced, the high schools were forced to forfeit every game where the two girls had played subsequent to the visit, and both players were ruled ineligible for further participation on their high school teams.

- A team played 17 matches during the regular high school season.

What Happened?

New York State limits the number of matches during the regular season to no more than 16. It is a rule designed to protect players from too much play, and also to ensure a level playing field once playoffs begin. The rule states that any team exceeding the limit is automatically suspended from further play that season as soon as the 17th game is played. Although the team had won their league title, they were precluded from participating in sectional play and state playoffs.

Protect your eligibility. Know the rules, and if in doubt, check with your coach. What may seem harmless could result in severe consequences to you and/or your high school team.

Trivia Question

(answer on page 8)

Which team has won the MLS Cup the most times?

Trivia Answer - from page 7

DC United has captured the MLS Cup four times; followed by the Houston Dynamo, Los Angeles Galaxy, and San Jose Earthquakes who have won it twice each.



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in Kenmore



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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. Pictures are welcome, but should be in a jpg or gif format.

Soccer Puzzle

Soccer Word Search

BALL
CALL
COACH
DEFENSE
FIELD
FOUL
GAME
GOALIE
NET
PASS
PLAY
POINT
REFEREE
SCORE
SHOT
SOCCER
TRAIN
TURF
UNIFORM

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



Soccer Word Search

BALL
COACH
FIELD
FOUL
GOAL
PASS
PLAY
SCORE
SHOT
SOCCER

K	Z	F	I	E	L	D	C
P	L	A	Y	L	U	H	O
A	F	N	C	B	S	M	A
D	T	F	P	A	S	S	C
B	G	O	A	L	H	C	H
M	S	U	N	L	O	O	R
W	E	L	M	T	T	R	Z
Y	O	S	O	C	C	E	R



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 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

E-Mail — doc@kenmoresoccer.com

Telephone — 716-837-1627

Mail — 57 Greenleaf Avenue, Tonawanda, New York 14150

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

