

Ohio Premier Newsletter



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Please visit our website, as it is continuously being updated!

www.opsoccer.com

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

BY: RUTH RUDIBAUGH

OP TRYOUTS START MAY 19TH AND RUN THROUGH JUNE 6TH

Information and dates are posted on the OP web site at www.opsoccer.com.

Please download the registration form from the website, fill it out and bring it with you to try-outs!

Remember, the girls are NOT to wear anything with OP on it to tryouts!

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DONATION DRIVE

Community Service donation drive starts Monday May 19th and runs through June 6th. We will have collection bins at tryouts.

We will be collecting items such as craft kits, model kits, journals, disposable cameras, lotion and bath sets, fingernail polish, stationery sets, playing cards, books, puzzles, and much more! Please note that we respectfully request that these be new items.

OP EXPO SLATED FOR JUNE 28

Ohio Premier club-wide registration will be held Saturday, June 28th at Coffman HS. All players will need to submit 08-09 season registration materials as well as order any necessary uniform pieces at this time. More information will be posted to the website by the end of May. Volunteers are needed to help the registration process run as smoothly as possible. Please contact Ruth at admin@opsoccer.com if you can help.

HOPE STREET KIDS

This program is to benefit childhood cancer. It will be held on August 16th in the evening. This is a great community service opportunity that will be held at the Columbus Zoo. Details coming soon.

OP NIGHT AT OHIO STATE WOMEN'S SOCCER GAME

OSU will be playing UNC—Charlotte on Friday, September 5th. We hope all families will join in OP Night. More details will follow on the website.

OP INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

This will be our 10th year hosting this wonderful tournament. It will be held September 13th & 14th this year.

We will need many volunteers to make this event successful. Details will be available on the website soon to let you know how to get involved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY: MIKE ZAZON

OP Parents and Players,

This is always a very hectic time for the club. The U12 Green team, coached by Willie Gage, is State Cup Champion. Our U18's are State finalists and the 19's will play in a week's time. We also have league play wrapping up as well as try outs just off on the horizon. You could say this is a stressful time for all of us but try to take some time and put it all into perspective. I have talked with some of the older players and their parents and they all tell me how fast their OP experience seems to have passed on by. Reflecting on these words make me want to try to slow the process down so we can enjoy all of the special moments our girls are providing us in victory and defeat. They all just grow up so fast.

Just as our kids mature and change so to is the soccer community in which we operate. The OP Board and Directors of Coaching are constantly looking for ways to keep our club on the cutting edge of new developments while making sure we stay competitive and keep the game fun for our core group of girls. We will have a team of older college level athletes playing in the new Women's Professional Soccer League come this summer. Also on the horizon is our acceptance into the Red Bull Soccer League for our 15's, 16's, and 17's. This league is designed to match us up against the top 32 clubs in the country. Both the WPSL and Red Bull will be discussed in further detail in the Coaches Corner portion of this newsletter.

Lastly, as we begin to close out our year and open up a new one with tryouts, congratulations to all of our teams, coaches, and parents at every level. As we say in our mission statement, "Ohio Premier is unique in that it is not just a loose collection of individual teams, but a true soccer club in which the teams get to know and support each other, both on and off the field". From O.P. Juniors to Parent Coached Teams to our Professionally Coached Teams, thanks for the memories, good luck at tryouts and have a safe, fun summer!

Mike Zazon
President

DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY: KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Ohio Premier selected to Participate in the Prestigious Red Bull Girls National League!

As we begin our tryout season we have exciting news for our older age groups:

Ohio Premier is proud to announce it has been accepted as one of the few elite clubs in the nation to participate in the prestigious Red Bull Girls National League (RBGNL) for U15, U16 and U17 girls. Fourteen new clubs have been selected to join the inaugural 18 clubs in 2008-2009, fielding a premier league of the top 32 girls soccer programs in the country.

"Being selected to participate in the Red Bull Girls National League is a tremendous honor," said Chris King, Assistant Director of Coaching. "It's another avenue for our club and staff to continue to challenge our players on a truly elite stage. In addition, if you look at the list of clubs involved, it is staggering. There is no better competition in the county." William Gage, Co-Director of Coaching, added, "In regard to our high school aged players, this opportunity, together with the opportunity to train and play with our Women's Premier Soccer League team, will be an incredible launching pad for their development."

The league consists of three weekend-long tournaments: CASL Shootout (Final 4), Las Vegas Showcase, and the PDA College Showcase. Each team will play three 90-minute matches at each event (one match per day) and will play opponents from other regions. Each team will also compete in regular season matches within the region together with a final tournament to determine the RBGNL National Champion. "Having a league of the best clubs in the country in this format actually reduces events for our players and keeps costs down, while still providing the very best competition possible," added Kevin Dougherty, Co-Director of Coaching. RBGNL includes the top clubs in the United States.

Ohio Premier is currently ranked as the #13 girls club in the nation, and has won more Ohio State Cups than any girls or boys club in Ohio South. Tryouts for the Ohio Premier teams competing in the Red Bull Girls National League will be held June 3-6, 2008 at Darree Park in Dublin.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RED BULL LEAGUE

WHAT IS THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE?

The Red Bull Girls National League is made up of the top 32 girls clubs in the country. Each team will play in three top tournaments throughout the year where they will compete against each other. At the end of the season, the teams in the division will be ranked based on points (3 for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss).

HOW IS THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE DIFFERENT FROM THE USSF ACADEMY?

The USSF Academy at this time is only available to U16 and U18 boys. There is no USSF Academy for girls. The Red Bull Girls National League is the equivalent of what would be a girl's USSF Academy. The Red Bull Girls National League is designed to have the best girls' teams playing at the highest level of competition.

WHAT CRITERIA WERE USED FOR SELECTING TEAMS TO PLAY IN THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE?

Teams were selected based upon history of success, developing college players, and current achievements within the participating age groups.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE RED BULL NATIONAL GIRLS LEAGUE?

The players selected to participate in the Red Bull Girls National League have the opportunity to participate in the top college showcases throughout the country. These showcases are heavily attended by elite college coaches from around the country giving these players exposure they could not get anywhere else.

WHERE ARE THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS?

For the 2008-2009 season, the tournaments will be held in Raleigh, NC in December, Las Vegas, NV in March, and Zarepath, NJ in May.

IF MY DAUGHTER PARTICIPATES IN THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE, CAN SHE STILL PLAY ODP?

Unlike the USSF academy, there are no rules prohibiting players from playing ODP or high school soccer. The Red Bull Girls National League ensures a higher level of competition and tournament play while not sacrificing other avenues available to all players.

ARE PLAYERS FROM OTHER TEAMS/CLUBS ACCEPTED TO PLAY ON THE RED BULL GIRLS NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS?

All players are selected at try-outs to be a member of the team that will participate in the Red Bull Girls National League. Once this team is selected, this will be the team that will participate in the regular season and tournaments.

Clubs included in the RBGNL:

PDA (NJ)
FC Virginia (VA)
Eclipse Select (IL)
Virginia Rush (VA)
Real Colorado (CO)
FC Delco (PA)
St. Louis SC (MO)
Freestate (MD)
Albertson Fury (NY)
Ohio Elite S.A. (OH)
Colorado Rush (CO)
OHIO PREMIER
Stars of Mass (MA)
Connecticut FC (CT)
Dallas Texans (NTX)
Neusport (NV)
Sereno (AZ)
Atlanta Fire (GA)
Slammers (CAS)
FC Charlotte (NC)
CASL (NC)
Lonestar (STX)
Mustang (CAN)
Real SoCal (CAS)
San Diego Surf (CAS)
Solar (NTX)
Dallas Sting (NTX)
Texas Challenge (STX)
Crossfire (WA)
Portland (OR)
Carmel United (IN)
FC Milwaukee (WI)

WPSL - Women's Premier Soccer League

In other exciting news we are about to begin our inaugural season with the OP Women's **WPSL** team that will play at Scioto High School. Teams in our Division include Chicago United Breeze, FC 23 out of Chicago, MYSC Lady Blues out of Madison Wisconsin and FC St. Louis. We will play a home and away schedule and the winner of the Division will play in a regional in Florida in mid-August with a chance to play in the final four in Sacramento, California. Our roster includes some of our U18's, U19's, OP alumni and college players from around Ohio.

Our first game is June 1 at 1:00 p.m. followed by June 8 at 3:00 p.m. We are very excited about this team and they will provide great role models for our youth players. We encourage you to come to the games and have your daughters interact with the players. Tickets will be \$5 for Adults and \$3 for youth. If you are interested in helping with game day operations or in other ways please get in touch with us. We have a link on our home page and information about the league can be found at www.wpsl.info. The press release for this program is also found at the end of this newsletter.

U8 Academy

The U8 Academy is designed to provide kids the opportunity for technical training through fun, activity-based games, lead by a top class training staff, in accordance with US Youth Soccer and US Soccer. The U8 Academy is the perfect bridge between recreational soccer and select soccer. Ohio Premier's Academy will be run under the direction of Shane Woodruff, who has his National Youth License from the United States Soccer Federation designed with this age group in mind. The curriculum's goal is to simply instill a passion for playing soccer and to have them excited to attend their next soccer activity.

We offer two Academy options at U8:

U8 Academy - \$575 for fall and spring soccer

Players will attend tryouts and, if desired, be placed into the Academy program. They will play in MOSSL. The U8 Academy will play games on the weekends against other Academies in a format decided upon by the Academy Directors. Some weeks it could be 4v4 and other weeks 6v6. The objective of games is for players to play with expression and creativity, applying all of the technical skills they have learned in training. The Academy will play in a few tournaments throughout the year in a more structured format typical of the older age groups. Training will be twice a week for ten weeks. Teams will not be ability grouped. Team make-up will be changed many times during the year.

OP Juniors - \$80 per season

Players can choose to attend tryouts or register by August 1st. Training will be once a week for ten weeks. Players will play games with their recreational teams. The cost of the program is \$80, and players will train with our OP Juniors Program. OP Juniors curriculum will help enhance a player's technical ability and creativity with the soccer ball.

Additional Winter Training is provided once or twice a week at The Ohio Premier Indoor Facility for an additional \$125 for Academy players and OP Juniors will have the opportunity to join in with the Academy players for the same price.

State Cup did not turn out as we would have hoped. It is a trying time and we can evaluate what we could have done better. It will not be what defines us as a club however. We can not let one weekend put a damper on what truly matters. Our players are developing; we continually produce high level soccer players and soccer enthusiasts, our players grow up to be good citizens who are capable of handling what life throws at them, and more importantly develop friendships and relationships that are forever lasting. Our dreams and expectations have not changed and we will continue to improve upon the product that has been successful and learn from our mistakes!

PROFESSIONALLY ASSISTED PROGRAM AND OP JUNIORS REPORT BY: SHANE WOODRUFF (WOODY)

PROFESSIONALLY ASSISTED PROGRAM

As this season winds down, we wanted to take a few minutes to acknowledge some coaches and teams.

Jeff Winzler, who coaches our u11 Tiempo was honored this past February at our Club Banquet as our Parent Coach of the year. This award was a long time in coming for Jeff. He has been coaching with us for years, and the past few without a daughter playing. He devotes countless hours of time to his teams, and always seems to have his team in the running for a league or tournament title. We can always count on Jeff to go the extra mile when it comes to OP. THANK YOU JEFF!

Allison Foster, who plays on the u12 Tiempo, was honored as the Professionally Assisted Player of the Year. This is Allison's second year with OP, and she is a joy to work with. She demonstrated exactly what OP is all about...Dedication, Determination, and Teamwork. She is always the first one to training and the last one to leave. She was also the first player in our Professionally Assisted to join the Juggling Club. great job Allison....everyone in OP is proud of you. Keep up the great work.

All of our team recently participated in the Sidney Mayfest tournament. This event was a crazy weekend of soccer. We did not have any teams walk away with a trophy, but we can blame mother nature for that. The event was canceled due to heavy rains on Sunday. This put damper on a few teams that were primed to make a run at the title. Going into Sunday 3 of our teams were unbeaten and on course for the finals. They are the u9 Vapor, u10 Tiempo, and u14 Tiempo. You will get them next time girls!

The MOSSL tournaments are upcoming. The u9, u10, and u11s play May 17-18 and the u12, u13, and u14s play May 31-June 1st. Good luck ladies. Show everyone what it means to play for OP.

OP JUNIORS

We will be having a summer session of OP Juniors. It will start June 10th. You can find more information and an application on our web page.

OP SENIORS

We will also be providing a new program this summer. OP Seniors will be offered for all you parents that want to learn how to play soccer like your daughters. It will be a fun summer of learning the tricks of the trade. No experience is need...just a willingness to have fun! Info is now posted on our web page. We hope to see you there!

WPSL PRESS RELEASE

One of the top leagues in the world will come to the Dublin-Columbus area this summer

SACRAMENTO, CA (02/26/08) - The Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL) is proud to announce that Ohio Premier has entered into the Midwest Conference for this upcoming Summer 2008 season. Ohio Premier is based out of Dublin, Ohio and will play their home matches at Dublin Scioto High School (above), which has a spectacular stadium and field turf playing surface.

OP will be run under the direction of Kevin Dougherty, William Gage and Chris King, who are the Directors of Coaching for the Ohio Premier Girls' Soccer Club. King - who in addition to coaching responsibilities - will manage all player acquisition issues for the senior team.

"Ohio Premier has been on our radar for a few years," said WPSL Commissioner Jerry Zanelli. "We are thrilled that they joined our league and will be a welcome addition to the Midwest Conference. It is really exciting for our league to have organizations like OP who can provide a senior team for their youth players to not only watch but also participate with."

"It is an endeavor we have been looking forward to with great anticipation for many years," said Kevin Dougherty, who holds a U.S. Soccer "A" License, KNVB Advanced License and NSCAA National License. "The team will provide a high level of soccer for many of our senior players and an opportunity for our youth players to witness great soccer right in their backyards. Having a WPSL team allows our club to be fully integrated with our OP Juniors, Parent Coached Teams, Premier Teams and now our Senior Team.

"Utilizing the infrastructure in place at OP's Youth Club will help make this franchise successful on the field and with day-to-day operations. Game-day should be a tremendous atmosphere for our players and visiting teams. We hope to provide the soccer community with a fun family atmosphere and make our home field THE place to be in Central Ohio."

"We look forward to our inaugural season and providing exciting soccer to the Central Ohio soccer enthusiasts, while showcasing terrific role models for our young players that inspire even more passion for the game of soccer," said William Gage, who also holds a U.S. Soccer "A" License, KNVB Advanced License and NSCAA National License.

OP will be looking to attract players from Midwestern Colleges as well as drawing from their youth player pool and alumni currently playing or recently finished with their college careers.

"In terms of player development having a senior team will expose our high school age players to yet another level of play," said King, a former professional soccer player who is also a Region II ODP Staff Coach & the Director of OP Collegiate Program. "It also provides an excellent opportunity to our alumni to prepare for their upcoming collegiate seasons, while remaining a part of our OP family."

For more information on Ohio Premier, visit their current website at <http://www.opsoccer.com> or e-mail them at admin@opsoccer.com. The WPSL is now a 45-team national women's soccer league with five conferences and is the highest level of women's soccer in the United States; while also holding the distinction of being one of the top leagues in the world.

The mission is to provide the highest level of women's soccer while simultaneously providing affordable, quality family entertainment and positive role models for our youth. For more information on the WPSL, visit our official website at <http://www.wpsl.info> or email us at media@wpsl.info.



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