

# THE GOAL POST

SEPTEMBER 11,  
2006



## Challenging the Azurri

The WWP Breakaways U-17 Girls team traveled to Italy this past July for a unique experience and trip of a lifetime. For some, this was their first time away from the U.S. and for the vast majority it was their first visit to mainland Europe.

The group consisted of eleven very excited players and eighteen proud parents. This number is indelibly imprinted in my memory as I still have nightmares counting everyone while getting on and off buses!! As you can see, coaching is a multifaceted job! Remarkably we came back with the same number as we went with ; I could elaborate on this statement with a number of funny stories but 'what happens the mile stays on the mile'!

During our adventure, we visited a number of diverse and exciting cities. Jet lag was eased with a few relaxing days in the beautiful Lake Como region. The stunning scenery of this old Roman setting, coupled with the medieval streets and churches took us all back in time to a very different era. Not surprisingly, many famous people reside there. There was much excitement amongst our 'mom' community when they discovered that George Clooney owned a house nearby. Some even abandoned a shopping trip in a futile attempt to track him down! On our last night in Como they discovered his hiding place but, alas, it was too late. If only!

We subsequently traveled to Milan, renowned for its shopping and sophisticated fashion sense. (continued on page 2)

## Can't Get Enough Soccer?

The WWPSA was pleased to present our 4th consecutive year of offering summer pickup games to children in grades K-8. Games were held at Sarnoff fields on Washington Road every Thursday from June 22nd through August 24th. All WWPSA Kindergarteners through 8th graders played free-of-charge.

## Have Questions? Try our FAQ Page

We created our new [Frequently Asked Questions \("FAQ"\) page](#) not only upon advice from professional website consultants but also in response to questions you sent asking for help. You can find answers to common questions such as "Where do I mail my check?" or "What is the non-volunteer fee?" or "How can I contact various members of WWPSA leadership?" We've compiled a list of answers to these questions and more so please check it out; we think you'll find it helpful!

("Challenging the Azurri", continued from page 1)

Of course, the players (educated in our wonderful school system and multicultural community) were more interested in the history of the city and its wonderful cathedral, Duomo. The parents were very proud, but alas the fashion show in West Windsor will have to wait another year!

The city that most impressed me was Florence. Again the narrow medieval, cobbled streets and beautiful old buildings conjured up a truly unique feeling. The history of the renaissance and the associated personalities of Da Vinci, Michaelangelo and Botticelli were all vividly brought to life through a series of guided tours. By that point, however, I think the players were itching to display their art on the field rather than passively observing the work of others! Enough walk and talk! It was time for action!

During our trip we played three games, winning two and losing one. Our first game was played on a magnificent grass surface with stadium seating and a picturesque mountainous backdrop. As is customary in Europe, the players arrived by bus and were escorted to their changing rooms, complete with showers, restrooms and other necessities; this was very different from our expectations in New Jersey! We changed and stepped onto the field where the opponents (who immediately impressed me as very, very skillful) were warming up in sports bras! Again, different! And there were twenty one of them! These Italians had bigger muscles than I did! And some looked twice as old! I, as a European (sort of) suspected something was awry but chose not to let my players in on it.

The game began in a way that was quite unique for NJ players. Our opponents, Fiamma Monza, were not interested in stealing the ball from our defenders. They let us have it and dropped off (low-pressure defending) into the midfield area, where they quickly pressed us when approached. This style of play certainly took some getting used to. Though strong, they did not foul, though there was an occasional tug on the shirt. They were, however, very quick, technically superb and mixed the short- and long-ball game to perfection! After 45 minutes we were relatively pleased to finish the half only one goal down. Unfortunately, one of our players was forced to retire from the game shortly into the second half after aggravating an existing injury, reducing us to only 10 players. The 2nd half was subsequently challenging, to put it mildly, and despite a courageous performance we conceded 5 more goals. The girls were devastated.

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## Become More Involved; Become a Coach

Looking for a way to spend fun, valuable time with your kids? How about becoming a WWPSA Coach? We need over **300** head and assistant coaches each year, so please step up and serve as a role model for our kids.

Little to no soccer experience? That's ok! We have training clinics designed specifically to help you build and develop your coaching skills to feel more comfortable planning practices and instilling skills in your players. We offer these clinics at several times throughout the year, so stay tuned for more details.

[www.wwpsa.org](http://www.wwpsa.org)

### Useful Resources

**Weather / Game Info:**  
<http://www.wwpsa.org/home/127907.html>

**Field Maps:**  
[www.wwpsa.org/facilities/index\\_e.htm](http://www.wwpsa.org/facilities/index_e.htm)

("Challenging the Azurri", continued from page 2)

I knew we had played a great team but what could I say to my players? All they knew was that, in their first game of a long-anticipated trip, they had been soundly defeated 6-0. The opposition's smiling coach came to my aid by proudly presenting me with a handshake and a colorful book replete with newspaper cuttings and player profiles of their team:

#### **FIAMMA MONZA: 2006 SERIA 'A' WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS OF ITALY**

This team ranged in age from 17 to 36 years of age, was unbeaten in the Italian women's 1st division and had 6 full international players. We had expected to play a team closer in age to ourselves, yet once our team knew this, my team talk was considerably easier! 'This was an experience of a lifetime!! Learn from it and never forget it!!' I told them. While our girls were clearly stung by the defeat, they took considerable solace when they realized the quality of the team they had just played and how closely they had played with them.

The other games were similar in nature, but we used our experience and won 4-1 and 1-0. It was fair to say that the Italian players let you play when you had the ball and then tried to play artistically when they had possession. They never kicked and chased; that would be almost irreverent. I found the games very enjoyable to watch and never frustrating. It was also fun watching the girls socializing with the Italians after the game. I'm not sure anyone understood a word that they were saying but the universal language of smiles and laughter won the day!

After a visit to the leaning tower of Pisa our last stop was Montecatini, a vibrant town in the Tuscany region of Italy. I think it was there that the girls had the most fun. I'm sure they would love to tell you all about it sometime! At that point, however, I was sound asleep in my hotel dreaming of championship glory!

The trip was a resounding success with many wonderful moments, happy memories and experiences that will last a lifetime. The only remaining question for the Breakaways is...where to next??

Pat McCarry  
 Director of Professional Development, U.K. Elite Soccer  
 Coach of West Windsor Breakaways

## Fall Preparations Continue: What's Going On?

Our Recreational Soccer leadership worked furiously with League Managers to gather registrations, identify coaches and form teams in advance of the season..

Our Travel Soccer program leadership formed game and practice schedules with teams, ensured all Travel players are registered and submitted team rosters to the NJYSA.

Our Adult Soccer program leadership communicated registration requirements to its members and formed teams for the Fall Recreational program.

Our Facilities leadership has been busy supervising the repair of WWCP Field # 1, working with all Program Directors to coordinate field needs for the fall and managing upcoming projects under the authority of the Facilities Plan.

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## Cure for the Summertime Blues: WWPSA Summer Soccer Camps

WWPSA was pleased to offer two new summer soccer camps: Recreational Soccer - Sun, Fun & Soccer and Travel Soccer Player Development.

Sun, Fun & Soccer took place between July 17-21 and August 14-18, 2006 and was open to all WWPSA registered players between 3 and 14 years old. Both sessions were huge hits; we're going to review our experiences so that we can improve and expand the programs next year.

The WWPSA Travel Soccer program also hosted a summer player development program for our players to help prepare them for the Fall 2006 season. This program took place at Zaitz Field from August 7-11. The training brought together our top trainers for technical, tactical and positional age-appropriate training and was open to all WWPSA travel team players.

## What's Going On? (Continued from page 4)

The Fundraising Committee supervised the signing of a contract with Graham Pelton, a professional fundraising organization who will be charged with helping WWPSA create a road map to launching and executing a Fundraising Campaign to raise funds required to execute proposed facilities improvements detailed in the Facilities Plan.

The Director of Merchandise is working with a new vendor to update our available merchandise with our newly released logo. We've ordered some new items that we hope you'll use with pride!

Our Director of Equipment has furiously prepared equipment and uniform bags for each Recreational Soccer team this fall, and has relied heavily on volunteers to help. We hope you like the new uniforms with the WWPSA logo!

Our Webmasters are becoming more and more comfortable with our new systems and are currently working hard to set up the Travel teams with their own profile pages; hot stuff!

# WWPSA is Growing and Needs Your Help!

By offering year-round programs and activities that meet the diverse needs of our families, WWPSA is growing quickly and needs to fill several volunteer positions so that we can continue our mission of providing safe, fun soccer activities for our area residents. Won't you please help? The time commitment is less than you think, but the results can make all the difference in the world! Please e-mail [volunteer@wwpsa.org](mailto:volunteer@wwpsa.org) with the position that interests you.

### Sunburst Tournament Director

Our largest annual event, the Sunburst Tournament attracts over 200 teams from the northeast U.S. to compete in a high-quality tournament. The Tournament Director must manage a team of volunteers, negotiate with vendors and event venue, merchandise, scheduling, and more. It's a challenging job, to be sure, but tremendously rewarding in the gratitude of the participants.



### Insurance Coordinator

The Insurance Coordinator will proactively work with the various program directors to ensure that our current insurance coverage meets our needs and will help develop consistent guidance for our association to follow regarding permitted programs and activities. Insurance industry experience preferred.



### Community Relations ("CR") Coordinator

The CR Coordinator will work with each program director to publicize upcoming or completed events and activities, including making contacts within local newspapers to increase press coverage of WWPSA events.



## Useful Links

[WWPSA Home Page](#)  
[Recreational home](#)  
[Travel home](#)  
[Adult home](#)  
[Sunburst Tournament](#)  
[Training home](#)  
[Referees home](#)  
[Directions and Facilities](#)  
[The Goal Post](#)  
[Club Policies](#)

## Contact Information

To answer your question as quickly as possible, please use the appropriate method to contact us:

### E-mail

Rec: [rec@wwpsa.org](mailto:rec@wwpsa.org)  
 Travel: [travel@wwpsa.org](mailto:travel@wwpsa.org)  
 Adult:  
[adultsoccer@wwpsa.org](mailto:adultsoccer@wwpsa.org)  
 Sunburst:  
[sunburst@wwpsa.org](mailto:sunburst@wwpsa.org)  
 Training:  
[training@wwpsa.org](mailto:training@wwpsa.org)  
 Registration:  
[registrar@wwpsa.org](mailto:registrar@wwpsa.org)  
 Photos:  
[photos@wwpsa.org](mailto:photos@wwpsa.org)  
 Merchandise:  
[merchandise@wwpsa.org](mailto:merchandise@wwpsa.org)  
 Equipment:  
[equipment@wwpsa.org](mailto:equipment@wwpsa.org)  
 Facilities:  
[facilities@wwpsa.org](mailto:facilities@wwpsa.org)  
 Fundraising:  
[fundraising@wwpsa.org](mailto:fundraising@wwpsa.org)  
 General:  
[soccer@wwpsa.org](mailto:soccer@wwpsa.org)

Phone: (888) 267-8988  
 Mail: P.O. Box 757  
 Princeton Junction,  
 NJ 08550

## WWPSA is Growing (continued from pg. 2)

### Sponsorship Coordinator

The Sponsorship Coordinator is responsible for acquiring and communicating with WWPSA sponsors and will work closely with our Fundraising Committee Chairperson as we move forward with our Fundraising Campaign later this year. This person also communicates with the Directors of Recreational and Travel soccer to determine the needs of each program and also works with the Director of Equipment to have the uniforms printed with sponsors' names or logos. This position is sorely needed, particularly during this time of year, so please let us know if you're interested.



### Fundraising Volunteers

WWPSA is about to embark on an unprecedented fundraising campaign and needs to gather volunteers to help make calls, draft marketing materials, gather information, conduct research, etc.



### Coaching Clinics Coordinator

The role of Director of Development is being split into three separate roles to better serve the needs of our coaches and players. This position will work with the Directors of Recreational and Travel Soccer to determine the needs of their coaches and ensure that we provide our coaches of all skill and experience levels with the guidance they require to effectively teach the game of soccer to our kids.

## Website Tips

Did you know that you can update your household information yourself? Did you know that you can make secure payments online, even if you chose to originally pay by check? Our new registration system offers you two self-service tools that you can use to save time and energy.

Login to <https://ssl.demosphere.com/wwpsa> and choose either the third or fourth options to either update your household information or make a payment towards an outstanding balance, respectively. This will save you the trouble of e-mailing us and will allow us to keep focused on the stuff that's really important!

## WWPSA Board

Chairman – Justin Stein  
 Secretary – Randie Brazel  
 Finance – Pat Trombetta  
 Facilities – Earl Deamond  
 Rec – Bill Kramer  
 Travel – Howard Shemitz  
 Adult – David Boate  
 Equipment – Larry White  
 Merchandise – Steve Per  
 Development – Robin Dean  
 Fundraising – Marc Herold  
 Admin – Andre Maglione  
 Webmaster – Brent Nielsen  
 At-large – Ken Matthews

## Coordinators

Sunburst – Open  
 Pictures – Cindy Alvarez  
 Volunteers – Steve Per  
 Referees – Chris Hazen  
 KidSafe – Andre Maglione  
 Community – Dan Bartell  
 Registrar – Brent Nielsen

# Chairman's Corner

Just when I thought the summer was here and things would calm down a bit, on comes Fall Recreational Soccer, Facilities projects, Fundraising efforts, Sponsorships and more! It just never slows down at the WWPSA, and I want to extend a special thank-you to the dedicated volunteers from the Board of Directors to the Program Executive Committees to the League Managers, coaches and of course, to you as parents for helping to make this organization special.

As you can see by our new Goal Post format, we're continuously working to properly represent the WWPSA as the high-quality program that it is, and that's just the start. Going forward, we plan on engaging all of you to help us continue the great momentum we've built over the past 9 months, so stay tuned to hear more about what we're planning next!

Have you seen WWCP Field # 1? Doesn't it look great? For those of you who haven't heard or have just deleted the past few issues of The Goal Post ☺, we've completely restored Field # 1 to use as our prime game-only field starting in the fall. Thanks to all of you who have helped it grow by staying off while the grass grew in, and we'll have to rely on all of you to stay off of it as we deploy a new field management strategy to keep our vital fields in top playing condition. That means no practices or games on this field unless you're scheduled to be there, so your cooperation is crucial. We're using the experience with this field to help us as we continue our facilities initiatives to improve the quality of the fields we share. Many thanks to all involved in helping repair our fields and our image!

My parting words this month plead with you to contact us to volunteer to fill one of the vacant positions posted above. This organization sorely needs your help and any time that you can lend is welcome. For the first time in my experience with the WWPSA, we had to turn away kids who wanted to play Recreational soccer because there weren't enough coaches, and some kids are assigned to teams with too many players for the same reason. Volunteers make or break any great not-for-profit organization, and we want to continue our momentum to achieve this organization's current and future needs and can only do that with your help. Thanks for your contributions!

Regards,

Justin D. Stein  
 Chairman, WWPSA Board of Directors