

The Goal Post

June 1, 2009

Sunburst 2009! What an Event!

WWPSA proudly welcomed 206 Travel teams from all over the northeast U.S. to West Windsor in the last weekend of May to participate in the 15th Annual Sunburst Soccer Tournament. The weather remained unusually perfect the entire weekend as players, coaches, referees, parents and volunteers all congregated at Mercer County Park, Conover Park and Zaitz Park for another terrific tournament!



Our Tournament Directors, Jacqueline Stein and Diane Kooker, arranged for new food vendors who brought an upgraded selection and attitude to the tournament and our army of volunteers ably executed their tasks to run it to perfection. PUMA arranged for Christine Shaner and Julianne Sitch, members of Sky Blue FC, our area's team in the Women's Professional Soccer league, to stop by and meet the players, sign autographs and spread the word about their team and the league. You can see more pictures from the tournament [here](#).

While numerous WWPSA teams had strong performances, the U-16 Wild won the U-17 Girls Red flight, the Metrostars finished 2nd in the U-15 Boys White flight and the U-11 Terminators finished 2nd in the U-12 Boys White flight. Congratulations!

As a volunteer-run association, WWPSA depends on the involvement of every Travel soccer team to provide volunteer parents to serve at Sunburst in all manner of roles, all in the name of our largest fundraising event that funds our Club's ability to maintain and develop our high-quality facilities.

We're collecting feedback from all participants and the initial results have been strong. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Coaching Courses

E License

If you are interested in pursuing the E license, Hillsborough will host a course in August. WWPSA will not be hosting an E license class of our own. [Click here](#) for details.

Referee Training

WWPSA will host a referee training course on August 8, 2009. If you are interested in soccer and would like to make some money participating in your sport, this is a great opportunity. This Grade 9 licensing session will equip you to referee recreational soccer games up to U-14.

WWLL First Annual Golf Outing

WWPSA is pleased to support West Windsor Little League which will hold its Inaugural Golf Outing at Mercer Oaks Country Club on Thursday, August 27, 2009. All proceeds will fund permanent lighting projects at baseball and softball fields at West Windsor Community Park. [Click here](#) for full details.

Planning Ahead for Summer?

WWPSA is offering a number of Summer Soccer Programs in 2009 for both Recreational and Travel players. WWPSA also supports camps offered by quality training organizations even though these camps may be organized outside of our Association. To help you with your summer planning, [click here](#) to learn more about what WWPSA has to offer.

NJ Wildcats W-League Game

Join WWPSA in support of the NJ Wildcats on Friday 12 June for an evening of fun, soccer and record-setting. Plans include:

- Pre-game 5v5 Tournaments
- Tailgating from 6 to 7 PM
- Set NJ Juggling Record at halftime
- 50% of Ticket Price Donated to the Graeme Preston Foundation for Life



Kickoff for the game is at 7 PM. The juggling record will be set when all fans who bring a ball simultaneously juggle that ball on the field at halftime. Don't worry; it doesn't have to be for long, just once or twice so that everyone is juggling at the same time! [Click here](#) for more details.

Fall Rec Registration Now Open

We are pleased to announce the launching of registration for the Fall 2009 Youth Recreational Soccer season. All recreational soccer players ages 5-18 can participate in the Fall Rec program, while our younger players ages 3-5 (not yet in Kindergarten) participate in the Fall Rec Pre-K program.

Visit our [Fall Rec home page](#) for more details and registration info.

5v5 Just Play!

5v5 "Just Play!" is the fun summer soccer program for U-7 through U-12 players designed to provide a low-commitment way to improve player's skills through fun play. Register as an individual or as a team and play on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July.

[Click here](#) for more details and registration info.

Articles in the News

4/15/09: MSNBC: [Pushed to the Point of Injury](#)

4/16/09: MSNBC: [Sports Injuries Put Girls in a League of their Own](#)

4/13/09: Sports Illustrated: [The Kids Aren't Alright](#)

First Touch Online

We have added a link on our Home Page to [First Touch Online](#), a soccer fanatic's favorite place on the Internet. We met representatives from First Touch while at a PUMA event in NYC and we agreed that our mutual passion for soccer made sense to work together. Check it out and let us know what you think!

2009 Scholarship Program

Each year the West Windsor Plainsboro Soccer Association awards scholarships to graduating seniors who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association, to soccer and to our community.

[Click here](#) for more information and to learn how to apply.

WWPSA Players Earn Awards

As disclosed in the May 1, 2009, edition of The Goal Post, WWPSA players had a great high school season in 2008, earning several individual honors. One additional player receiving awards was Michael Francisco, a junior at Robbinsville H.S. and a 4-year member of the WWPSA Vipers, who received a "Coaches All Colonial Valley Conference Honorable Mention".

Pride Win Championship

The WWPSA Pride U-12 girls played intelligent soccer all weekend on their way to be crowned Champions at the Hopewell Valley Memorial Tournament. The Pride showed good decision making and ball control while unsettling opponents with their Barcelona style of play. During their four games, the Pride only allowed two goals. Congrats to the Pride and all the parents who support the team!



Challenge Finalists At Columbia Invitational



On the Memorial Day weekend, the WWPSA Challenge U-15 girls represented our Club at one of the top girl's tournaments in the country. Playing in the premier flight of this college showcase, the Challenge lost the championship game 1-0. It was a hard-fought match against the Braddock Road

YC Santos (VA), which is one of the top teams in Region 1. The Challenge won their bracket with a record of 2-0-1 by defeating the Patriots FC (NYE) 3-2, Victory Express (PAW) 2-0 and playing to a draw against the Thunder-Extreme (MD) 0-0. In the semi-finals the Challenge defeated the tournament's top seed Lower Dauphin SA LDC United (PAE) 2-1. During all five matches over the three days of tournament play the Challenge played inspired quality soccer and continuously received complimentary comments from their opponents and the referees. Congratulations ladies!

Announcing the WWPSA Online Forum!

WWPSA volunteer Big Brother Ryan Dolan has stepped up once again to help WWPSA, this time by helping us launch our very own online forum! This site, which will be accessible via a link on our home page, will give our players, parents and other constituents a vehicle to post questions, comments or other materials that may be of use to many in the Club.

The Forum will contain several default topics under which various discussions can reside, e.g., Rec, Travel, Adult, Training, etc.

Stay tuned for an announcement of its launch!

WWPSA's 30th Anniversary!

Did you know? WWPSA was founded in 1979, making 2009 our 30th anniversary year! We are discussing a variety of options for celebrating this tremendous achievement, and will reach out to our parents over the summer for volunteers to help plan and run these events. We're excited to share the details with you!

Stay tuned!

What's Next for Facilities?

We're working hard to ensure that our players have the best facilities available to meet the needs of each program. Here's the latest update:

- The three top-quality full-sized fields at our new Duck Pond Park complex are growing in and looking good; we've just made a down payment to install permanent light towers so that we can use the complex as our primary nighttime practice facility, relieving pressure on Zaitz and Conover Parks. This will also result in significant annual cost savings as we will no longer be dependent on our portable lights to hold nighttime practices! The final price for the lighting contract was negotiated downward by leveraging buying power with West Windsor Little League and West Windsor Wildcats, who are contemplating similar projects.
- Repaired Zaitz Park fields, including installing a drainage system to improve our use of the facility; we've already seen very strong results based on the work done
- West Windsor Township will install a permanent fence at WWCP to protect our top fields
- Working with Plainsboro Township to install irrigation at PCP FS # 1 and SS # 1
- Planning with West Windsor Township to regrade and install irrigation at Conover FS # 3 and FS # 4.

You can reach Howard Rabin, our Director of Facilities, via facilities@wwpsa.org or Robin Dean at execdirector@wwpsa.org to discuss any facilities needs.

Sponsorship Opportunities

With the planned opening of Duck Pond Park this fall, we plan to offer our sponsors permanent signage at this facility in the form of banners flying on the light towers, signs hung along fencing surrounding the fields, and more. We envision that this facility will support significant programs going forward and that it will receive strong traffic each week. As a result, we want to extend to all our current and future sponsors an invitation to consider our offer to improve the value they receive for their sponsorship dollars by investing with our Club.

In this light, we need a capable parent to step forward to coordinate these activities and serve as Sponsorship Coordinator. We know that there are many of you who could capably take ownership of this role, with the full support of the Board, so please consider helping us in this endeavor. [Click here](#) to e-mail us to request additional information or to express your interest in this critical position.

Website Tips

Now that Travel Tryouts are over, we are working with Demosphere to simplify the process of registering for Travel Soccer. We appreciate your patience as we work out potential options for all Travel Soccer registrants, and not just those who signed up online for the tryouts.

New Feature: We now show the current local weather at the bottom of our Home Page.

New Feature: You can now use a new plug-in to see where people are accessing our website from around the world. Cool stuff!

New Planned Feature: We are in the process of working with Demosphere International, Inc., our website and online registration system provider, to revamp our website to make it easier for you to find the resources you need and leverage the systems we support. Stay tuned!

Useful Resources

[Online Registration](#)
[Field Maps](#)
[Educational Seminars](#)
[Parents' Resources](#)

WWPSA Volunteers Needed!

One of our largest ongoing challenges is relying too much on too few of our volunteers for too much of the work, when we could accomplish more in less time if we could just find a few more helping hands. Our Club depends on volunteers to achieve the success we've all enjoyed over the past few years, and we need your help or risk losing our momentum. Please e-mail volunteer@wwpsa.org with the position that interests you. [Click here](#) for more detailed descriptions of all volunteer positions, the expected time required and more. We need help with the following:

- **Sponsorship Coordinator**
- **Goal Post Coordinator**
- **Goal Fest 3v3 Tournament Director**
- **Community Events Coordinator**
- **KidSafe Coordinator**

Calling All Women Volunteers

We'd like to reach out to the countless women in our Club who are underrepresented in numerous volunteer positions to step forward and help out. We on the Board are concerned that our daughters are lacking examples of women leaders in our Club, so won't you please consider stepping forward?



Don't Move the Goals!

Falling goals that weren't properly anchored are the # 1 cause of preventable injuries in soccer. If you want to move a goal for casual use, ***please don't!!!*** You may not realize that large goals are ***extremely heavy and can cause serious injury or death*** if the goal isn't properly anchored and falls on a player. Before you think that you can simply replace anchors by hand, please be aware that our Facilities personnel use sledgehammers to anchor the goals firmly in the ground.

The next time you see children playing on a goal or hanging from the net, please be proactive and make sure to get them down for their own safety.

[Click here](#) to read more about soccer goal safety.

Thanks to Fall Rec Team Sponsors!

We want to thank all of our Fall Rec Team Sponsors for their continued support of WWPSA's largest program. Please support our sponsors whenever you can and let them know that you saw their listing with WWPSA!

- [Sarnoff Corporation](#)
- [Dick's Sporting Goods](#)
- [WWPEA](#)
- [Plainsboro Dental Care](#)
- [UPS Capital Corp.](#)
- [Pied Piper Kids](#)
- Blackrock, Inc.
- Plainsboro Township Police Dept., Special Svcs.
- Plainsboro PBA
- [Huntington Learning Ctr., Lawrenceville & Hamilton](#)
- [Mobivity](#)
- [A-1 Limousine](#)
- [Bergdorff-ERA Princeton](#)
- [Braun Research, Inc.](#)
- [PlaySports TV](#)
- A+ Family Barbershop
- Dreyfus
- Cariaga Family
- Akros Pharma, Inc.
- Kinka Tai

Useful Links

[WWPSA Home Page](#)
[Recreational soccer](#)
[Travel soccer](#)
[TDA soccer](#)
[Adult soccer](#)
[Referees](#)
[Parents' Resources](#)
[WWPSA Trainers](#)
[Sponsors](#)

[Sunburst Tournament](#)
[Goal Fest 3v3 Tournament](#)
[Training / Education home](#)
[Directions and Facilities](#)
[Club Policies](#)
[Fall Programs](#)
[Winter Programs](#)
[Spring Programs](#)
[Summer Programs](#)

Upcoming Events

July 13: WWPSA Board meeting, 8 pm, WW Library

Contact Information

Use the links below for the fastest response:

Rec: rec@wwpsa.org

Travel: travel@wwpsa.org

Adult: adultsoccer@wwpsa.org

Pre-K: prek@wwpsa.org

Training: training@wwpsa.org

Facilities: facilities@wwpsa.org

Volunteers: volunteer@wwpsa.org

Registration:

registrar@wwpsa.org

Technology: webmaster@wwpsa.org

Forum: forum@wwpsa.org

Sunburst: sunburst@wwpsa.org

Goal Fest: GoalFest@wwpsa.org

KidSafe: kidsafe@wwpsa.org

Photos: photos@wwpsa.org

Refs: refs@wwpsa.org

Equipment: equipment@wwpsa.org

Fundraising: fundraising@wwpsa.org

Merchandise:

merchandise@wwpsa.org

Executive Director: execdirector@wwpsa.org

General: soccer@wwpsa.org

Phone: (888) 267-8988

Mail: P.O. Box 757

Princeton Junction,

NJ 08550

WWPSA Board

Chairman – Justin Stein
 Secretary – Mary Painter
 Finance – Patti Stanley
 Facilities – Howard Rabin

Rec – John Slater

Travel – Glenn Gargan
 Adult – Michael Donnelly

Community – Vacant

Development – Paul St. Amour

Fundraising – Vacant

Technology – Brent Nielsen
 At-large – Scotty Borsack,
 Gabriel Ramirez
 and Jerry McSpiritt

Coordinators

Sunburst – Jacqueline Stein /
 Diane Kooker

Photo Day – Mary Painter

**Volunteers – Jacqueline
 Fernandes**

**Merchandise – Carolyn
 Demouth**

KidSafe – Vacant

Insurance – Hemant Sarma

Sponsors – Vacant

You can clearly see the vacant positions that need a reliable volunteer to help fill our numerous needs. Interested in helping? Please [e-mail us](#) and we'll give you more information about what's expected and how you can help. There are hundreds of little ways you can participate, so please don't be intimidated from coming forward and joining us. Thanks for stepping up!

Chairman's Corner

Another Sunburst has come and gone, along with another year of Travel soccer and season of Spring Rec, as well as the Adult Competitive and Recreational programs, and now the summer beckons us to the beach. But wait; there's more! In case you haven't noticed, WWPSA's summer schedule is loaded with activity, so please check it out to see whether there's a clinic, course or league that piques your or your child's interest. It's amazing to me that so many activities occur within our community each year and all run by volunteers who just really care.

It is along these lines that I wish to address a growing concern at the management level in WWPSA. We have witnessed several recent incidents that, frankly, shocked me to learn how easily some of us forget that we are part of a terrific community and that respect for our neighbors lies at the core of an association such as ours. WWPSA thrives because of its volunteers, whether on the Board, a committee, or simply a parent who steps forward to be in charge once a week; these volunteers do so out of a sense of belonging, a sense of charity and a sense of community. The next time you have an issue to discuss with a WWPSA volunteer, please remember that any person of authority within WWPSA, in any capacity, deserves to be treated as a member of the community and not subject to derision or disrespect. These incidents will never be tolerated and we are taking swift and decisive action to clearly let our volunteers know that they have our support. The recent list of incidents does not concern me that we are heading towards a greater breakdown of the Club, but rather some parents who have lost sight of our values at the expense of their own sense of appropriate behavior.

We are rolling out new initiatives for our coaches that will provide them with guidance with how to handle each of their duties and clearly lay out the Club's expectations. In addition, we are launching a new mentoring program to provide our less experienced coaches and team managers with guidance from select coaches who have demonstrated strong communication skills and have the experience to help younger coaches feel more comfortable in their roles. We hope that these two initiatives will serve to reduce some of the issues we have recently faced.

Again, we are completely reliant on our volunteers; please remember this during any interaction with volunteers and that they deserve your respect. Thanks to all of you for your help in making this a great Club.

Regards,

Justin D. Stein
 Chairman, WWPSA Board of Directors