



# MEDWAY YOUTH SOCCER

*www.medwaysoccer.com*

## MARCH '07 NEWSLETTER



### SPRING SEASON KICKOFF

*Are you ready for some futbol?*

OK, so that slogan's been used by someone else. Still, the message is the same: Soccer season is right around the corner. There is plenty of news to pass along as we prepare for another successful season of Medway Youth Soccer.

As always, we urge you to sign up for our mailing list at [www.medwaysoccer.com](http://www.medwaysoccer.com). **Team schedules** and **rosters** will also be posted on our Web site.

Here is a breakdown of things you need to know:



### **INSTRUCTIONAL**

Our preschool-aged program will begin on Saturday, April 14 and end on Saturday June 16. There will be no instructional soccer the weekend of May 26-27 due to the annual Medway Cup tournament.

Instructional players are reminded to wear the jerseys they were given in the fall. New jerseys will be provided to newcomers. Players should wear shin guards and cleats. For the most part, rosters are similar, but make sure to check the Web site. You will also receive a call from your coach the first week of April.



### **MICRO/INTRAMURAL**

The Kindergarten-first grade, and second-third grade groups begin on Sunday, April 15 and end on Sunday, June 17. There will be no in-town soccer the weekend of May 26-27 due to the annual Medway Cup tournament.

There was very limited player movement for the spring among these teams, but make sure to check the Web site for your child's placement. You will also receive a call from your coach the first week of April. Jerseys will be provided for those players who did not participate in the fall season. Remember cleats and shin guards for practice.



### **TRAVEL**

The travel season begins on April 7 and coaches should be contacting families very shortly. BAYS has not finalized schedules yet, but for an idea on where your team will be traveling, here's a link to the placement page: [www.bays.org/HTML/placement.html](http://www.bays.org/HTML/placement.html)



### **COACHES' MEETING**

The spring coaches' meeting will be held Saturday, March 31, from 9-11 a.m. at the VFW. Breakfast will be served. Rosters and necessary information for the season will be

passed out. Coaches will also have a chance to split up into groups to get the latest updates from the board members in charge of each division.

**We strongly urge all coaches to attend.**

We are fortunate to have Framingham State College women's soccer coach Tucker Reynolds on hand to address the coaches. Tucker is a Medway resident and a coach in the Mass. Olympic Development program. He was honored in 2003 as the Mass. Youth Soccer Association's Boys Coach of the Year. Listening in on his wealth of knowledge will be a great way for coaches to hit the ground running this spring.



## **GETTING IN SHAPE**

With the season around the corner, it is a good idea to get your soccer player out into the yard with a ball in the near future. If indoor soccer was not part of your winter, then the muscles your children will be using in just a few short weeks have not had too much of a workout lately. It's important for their health for them to start exercising those soccer muscles slowly but surely. Have them go through many of the stretches they've used in the past – knees up to chest; reach down to toes; hip rotations; jumping up from a squat position.

With the onset of the season, here are a couple of other things to keep in mind:

- Stress to your children not to hang on the nets at the various fields. There have been a couple of newspaper stories in recent months concerning soccer net injuries. All of our goals are weighted down, but there's no telling what can happen if a child hangs on or pulls at a goal.
- When you are practicing on the fields, please keep in mind that early spring is a particularly muddy time. Please try to stay out of the goalmouths on the fields at Oakland and Idylbrook. If need be, you can set up a goal away from the designated area. That will hopefully keep things in shape for when the games begin.
- Check your equipment. It's been a while since your children have worn those cleats and shin guards. Make sure the shoes still fit and the protection protects.



## **SMILE...**

Picture Day is back! This spring, we will have **Jim McHugo** and **Peter Chapin** of **New England Action Sports Photography** taking our team and individual photos. They live and work right here in Medway. The two dates we have established are May 5 and May 12. Details, times and prices will be forthcoming. We are very pleased to have Jim and Peter on board.



## **WELCOME KEVIN CHILVERS**

As announced in last month's newsletter, we are very excited to be hiring a professional soccer trainer from Challenger British Soccer for four weeks this spring season. His name is **Kevin Chilvers**. Other programs around the state – and country – have taken advantage of this program and the feedback has been tremendous.

We are planning for Kevin to begin his work in mid-April and in the course of his time with us, every travel team will have an opportunity to work individually with him. We also plan to have him run clinics for the in-town program. In addition, he will be available to watch games, assess performance and needs, and report back to coaches with recommendations on how the players and coaches can improve.

Kevin will be living with the O'Connell's for his first two weeks here, but we are in need of volunteers to help house him the rest of his stay – either for both remaining weeks or one of the weeks. Challenger British Soccer, the organization that runs the summer camps in town, provides thorough background checks on all of its employees, and Kevin is a veteran of this sort of thing.

If there is a family out there that would like to volunteer to provide living arrangements for Kevin, or would like more information on the process, please contact Steve O'Connell at [num3okie@comcast.net](mailto:num3okie@comcast.net).

Here is a quick look at Kevin's credentials:

- 🏠 He's 23 years old and hails from Newcastle, England.
- 🏠 He is employed by Challenger and has done this type of work in New Mexico and North Carolina.
- 🏠 He owns UEFA B, C, D and E licenses as well as a Level 1 coaching badge. He is experienced in CPR and First Aid.
- 🏠 His playing experience includes Newcastle United School Excellence (8-12 years old); Sunderland Academy (12-15 years old); Gateshead FC UNI-Bond League (semi-pro); and Whitley Bay Northern League (semi-pro).
- 🏠 He has coached for the Newcastle City Football Development program (ages 10-16); Newcastle Football in the Community (ages 5-11); and Red House U-10 program.

You will soon be seeing Kevin around the soccer fields. Please say hello and feel free to pick his brain a bit. After all, that's his job!



### **DOES IT FEEL LIKE SUMMER?**

Since we're on the subject of Challenger, we're happy to announce that the Challenger British Soccer camps will be back again this summer and that Medway Youth Soccer will once again endorse them. If you haven't participated in the Challenger camps, ask a neighbor or coach and they will likely tell you how much fun their children had. For more information on the camps, check out their Web site at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com).

We will have information of our own on our Web site very soon. Here are the dates that Challenger will be in Medway:

- 🏠 July 16-20 at Oakland
- 🏠 Aug. 20-24 at Oakland



### **MEDWAY CUP TOURNAMENT**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Medway Cup Soccer Tournament is scheduled for May 26-27. There will be both 6v6 (4 games per team) and 8v8 (3 games per team, plus playoffs)

competition. It is a well-respected tournament that annually draws some 100 teams from all around the state.

The tournament thrives on the efforts of volunteers from Medway Youth Soccer. If you would like to help out in any way, please email tournament director Paul Martin at [medwaycup@medwaysoccer.com](mailto:medwaycup@medwaysoccer.com).

In addition, help us spread the word. In your travels, tell other coaches or families about the tournament and direct them to our Web site [www.medwaysoccer.com](http://www.medwaysoccer.com). There is a link to the Cup right at the top of the page.



## ICE-BREAKER JAMBOREE

The Medway Ice-Breaker Jamboree starts March 16 and takes place over a three-week period with games on weeknights and weekends. It is a special event in that all teams play on the Medway High School turf field, with some games being played under the lights.

The tournament is a joint venture between Medway Youth Soccer and the Medway Mustang Soccer Club (MMSC). For a number of years, MYS has financially supported the sub-varsity soccer program at the high school. We will continue to do that, but this year we have taken it a step further by forging this partnership. Our hope is that the funds raised from this tournament will allow the MMSC – a group of volunteer parents – to keep the sub-varsity program self-funded for the foreseeable future.

Groups from all over the area will participate so come out and support our teams. Schedules are available at [www.medwaymustangsoccer.com](http://www.medwaymustangsoccer.com). It's a fun tournament and raising money for this cause helps everyone involved.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

-  Medway Youth Soccer provides a scholarship for a High School graduate who participated in the youth soccer program. If you're not aware of it, check with your child's guidance counselor for the application.
-  Parents are encouraged to go online and fill out coaching evaluations. Your input is important to us. The feedback we receive will help us identify the strengths and weaknesses of our coaches as well as the entire program. The form is located on the home page ([www.medwaysoccer.com](http://www.medwaysoccer.com)) and must be printed out and mailed to MYS, PO Box 11, Medway, MA 02053.

## A BIG THANK YOU:

Medway Youth Soccer would like to thank all of our generous sponsors, including:

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For a list of all of our sponsors, go to:

<http://www.medwaysoccer.com/info/sponsors/default.htm>



## **MYS MISSION STATEMENT**

Medway Youth Soccer's main purpose is to provide a recreational youth soccer program for the town of Medway and to ensure all players have an enjoyable soccer experience. Medway Youth Soccer is a non-profit organization dedicated to the youth of Medway. Membership guarantees equal playing time regardless of ability. As an association, we strive to foster fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-confidence, self-discipline, and competition. Medway Youth Soccer's goal is to encourage these values in our players, coaches, parents, referees, and volunteers. We hope to instill a lifetime passion for the sport of soccer and provide an overall safe and fun experience.