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2010 US Youth Soccer Girls and Boys Recreation Coaches of the Year named

Utah's Jenifer Wood and Eastern Pennsylvania's Joe Ragusa honored at Awards Gala

Louisville, Ky. (Feb. 25, 2011) – The recipients of the 2010 US Youth Soccer Recreation Coach of the Year award for Boys and Girls were announced tonight at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala, held in conjunction with the 2011 US Youth Soccer Workshop at the Marriott Downtown Louisville. The national US Youth Soccer Recreation Coaches of the Year award winners are Jenifer Wood of West Valley City, Utah (Girls) and Joe Ragusa of Hawley, Pa. (Boys).

Hilary Kennedy, host of The US Youth Soccer Show on Fox Soccer Channel, set the stage for the night as the master of ceremonies for the more than 1,000 in attendance. [Boys and Girls Competitive Coaches of the Year](#), [Administrator of the Year](#), [Volunteer of the Year](#), [Goal](#) and [Save](#) of the Year, [Male and Female Young Referees of the Year](#), [TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year](#) and the [Dr. Thomas Fleck Award](#) were also presented during the Gala and the [US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame](#) inductees were honored as well.

With each season Jenifer Wood has coached with West Valley Soccer Club, she has picked up an additional team. Now in her third season and three teams deep, she continues to exude a positive attitude to her players at practice and during games, instilling within them a true love for the game. Wood teaches drills that are fun and educational while also creating an environment of enthusiasm for both players and parents.

For more than 30 years, Joe Ragusa has been volunteering as a youth coach. Beyond serving on the Walenpaupack Youth Soccer League board, he coaches Under-6 through Under-14 co-ed teams. Ragusa helps in every dimension of the league from ordering uniforms and coaching to starting a referee education system and encourages players to become certified referees in the youth league. As a coach, his players go on to earn starting positions on their junior high school teams and younger players are able to understand and perform important soccer strategies.

Recipients of the Recreation Coach of the Year awards are selected by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors on the basis of sportsmanship, player development, personal coaching development and community involvement (citizenship).

For bios on each of the regional award winners, [click here](#).

These coaches have committed to continued education and self-sacrifice to give back to the sport they love with the hope that they might enhance one of their players abilities and quality of life. US Youth Soccer is proud to

highlight these Recreation Coaches of the Year for their time and efforts in contributing to America's youth through the great game of soccer. By promoting teamwork, discipline, fitness and fair play these coaches are making a difference.

For more information about the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala and award winners, go to USYouthSoccer.org/workshop/galaawards.

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About the United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) – US Youth Soccer - "The Game for ALL Kids!®" is the largest youth sports organization in the country and largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body of soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer registers more than 3 million players annually, ages 5 to 19, and over 900,000 administrators, coaches and volunteers in 55 member State Associations. US Youth Soccer programs provide a fun, safe and healthy environment for players at every level of the game. For more information, visit www.USYouthSoccer.org.

Media Request: When referring to the United States Youth Soccer Association, the largest youth sports organization in the United States, please refer to the association only as US Youth Soccer, and never as USYS or USYSA. We appreciate your cooperation.