



Kick It Around!

*From the Desk of
Jolene Nielsen*

A slightly belated Happy New Year! I want to thank all of you for all you do. Because of you, thousands of players across the West are learning teamwork and sportsmanship while they stay fit and healthy. Thanks to you, they're enjoying the game we all love.

This is the first Region IV newsletter and it is designed to keep us in touch with all of you. If you have questions you want answered or a subject you want covered, please just drop an email to me (jolene.nielsen@regioniv.com) or our editor, Pat Dunham (patricia.dunham@regioniv.com).

Remember, each of our directors, program managers and staff is here to help you administer the programs in your State. If you have a problem, a concern, a question or a suggestion -- please share it with us. I hope this newsletter will be another way we stay in touch with you! Have a wonderful 2009!

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We're Sending a Slate of Winners to San Jose

Congratulations – we couldn't have found better coaches, referees, parents or administrators to represent us at San Jose! Each of you has already won – you have served our youth in a way that builds a lifetime of great memories for the players. You couldn't ask for a bigger victory! So, here's our full slate of winners:

Recreational Coach of the Year (girls): Kurt Grevstad Since 1999, Kurt has been sharing his infectious enthusiasm of the game with multiple recreational teams in the Magnolia Soccer Club in

Seattle, Washington. Teaching fairness and hard work, his balanced approach teaches the love of soccer and values that will serve his players throughout their lifetime. His assistant coach summed it up saying, "Kurt brings out the best in his players. We laugh. A lot. We have fun. A lot."

Recreational Coach of the Year (boys): Shirley Thompson from Tracy, CA. in Cal North is very clear about her goals. She wants to teach her players to work for "a common goal no matter the differences in their personalities (and) to walk

away with their heads held high win or lose." She started coaching in the U8 division 20 years ago with her youngest daughter. Now, she brings her skills and enthusiasm to whatever team needs a coach – most recently a U19 boys squad.

Competitive Coach of the Year (girls): Tad Bobak hails from Laguna Niguel and coaches the So Cal Blues Bobak. The winner of two National USYS titles and numerous State National Cup Titles, he knows his way around the

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Region IV ODP Championships Played in Phoenix

It was a very sunny event – filled with delightful warm weather, warm Western hospitality and really hot competition. The Regional ODP Championships were held in Phoenix Jan. 17-20.

Thanks go to Arizona State Association President Jason Vanacour, Program Director Leslie Johnson and Tournament Director

Kelleigh Evans for rounding up a great group of volunteers. And, our course Region IV's Wayne and Terri Carver were at the helm making sure it all went smoothly.

Southern California was the big winner – taking gold six times. They won for '92 Girls, '93 Boys and Girls, '94 Girls and the '95 Girls and Boys. Cal North was the winner for the 92

Boys while Nevada won for '94 Boys. Arizona and Hawaii rounded out the winners with first place in '96 Boys and '96 Girls respectively.

The ODP Championships were well attended by both cheering fans and a full compliment of college coaches. We gave them some great games – and outstanding players – to watch!



TOPSoccer Symposium Scheduled in April

Boise, Idaho will host this year's Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium April 3-5. This is a great opportunity for your State to learn how to serve your TOPSoccer players better!

The Symposium will feature a full schedule of speakers, classes and presentations that will help you strengthen your programs and give you a greater understanding of how to teach a wonderful

group of kids to love the game of soccer.

One of the highlights of the event will be the opportunity to earn a TOPSoccer Coaching Certification.

For more information or to register for the Symposium contact Penny Scott at 208-375-9509 or email her at plscott@jpsenterprises.com. You can also contact Region IV Chair Ray Welch

at ray.welch@regioniv.com or your State Association TOPSoccer Chair.

Go to www.regioniv.com to find out more about TOPSoccer including presentations that can help you start and run a TOPSoccer program, coaching information and Risk Management information for TOPSoccer.

TOPSoccer is what makes us the game for all
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Need some help ...Ask an expert!

Richard Yoder Can Help Your State Association

The Region IV Program manager for Bylaws and Policies Richard Yoder may be exactly the right person to call if you're facing a thorny situation in your State.

Richard has served on Appeals and has proven himself to be pretty appeals-proof. After serving as the Disciplinary Chairperson for a hearing in one of our States, the decision was appealed to the Federation. The results reached with his guidance were upheld!

"I want to remind everyone that I am available to assist any state with regard to Bylaw/Policy or Disciplinary issues. I can teach classes, run hearings, etc. at your request. The only cost is travel, lodging and meals. Don't hesitate to call on me, that's what I'm here for," Richard said.

"Bylaws and Policy held a great meeting at the Salt Lake workshop," he continued. "Feedback was positive with some

suggested additions for next year's meeting. One thing that came out of the meeting was a desire by some of the State Presidents to submit a Policy change to the Federation AGM regarding small sided games for youth players. This effort has been an innovative, proactive approach to solving issues by the State Presidents that should have great influence during the AGM."

Contact Richard at richard.yoder@regioniv.com

Go National and Stay in the Region!



Don't miss it! Workshop 09 is right in our backyard – San Jose, CA on March 5-7. There is so much to do – so much to learn. The US Youth Workshop is a sure way to renew your appreciation for everything US Youth

Soccer has to offer. There will be a full slate of presentations and workshops that will help you be a better coach, a more effective administrator and a super referee. Learn from some of the really big names in

youth soccer. Go to www.usyouthsoccer.org for all the information. This is a great chance for your State Association, League or Club to take advantage of the workshop – and keep travel expenses down.

Our Winners Are on the Way to San Jose (con't.)

field, but he doesn't just prepare his players for the next game – he prepares them for life. The general manager of his Club Dave Mildrew whose daughter was coached by Tad says, "It was the life lessons, not so much the soccer success that made us indebted to Tad for being such an influential teacher and coach." That pretty much says it all.

Competitive Coach of the Year (boys):

Emerson "Skip" Robbins from Washington coaches in Seattle. Skip has been making a difference in the lives of young athletes for 24 years, his current team is the U17 FC Shoreline International team. The team roster represents the cultural beauty and differences of more than 10 countries, but under Skip's guidance they are an extended family that supports each other both on and off the field. Skip is a role model – sometimes a father figure – and a positive force in the lives of these young men.

Administrator of the Year: Gary

Martschinske also hails from Washington – a member of the Cama-Washougal Soccer Club where he's been everything from a coach to President. His talent for getting things done helped

establish a better program for all the players, an increase in player numbers, improved training for coaches and the introduction of TOPSoccer – to name just a few of his accomplishments. He even was a key committee member and helped secure three brand new turf fields in the area! His passion for the game has never wavered – and he has benefited through his love of the game!

Soccer Volunteer of the Year:

A pillar of the Seattle, Washington soccer community, **Neil Callahan's** leadership has shown "how much this seemingly simple game could be developed to have a positive effect on coaches, players and, even, parents" according to Washington Youth Soccer. Neil has been a recreational coach, a referee, a Club president and an innovative leader who helped develop Spring Soccer for more than 5,000 recreational players in the Seattle area. Neil has shown what can be accomplished when we look beyond the restrictions of current realities and see opportunities and solutions!

Young Referee of the Year (female): Maia Anderson may be from

Anchorage, Alaska but she's hanging out at Harvard University -- her college of choice after graduating second in her class. Maia has been a referee since 2004 and earned her Grade 7 in 2007. She's refereed at the US Youth Soccer Alaska State Championships and at the Region IV Championships. She didn't serve just on the field – she was also the secretary of the Anchorage Soccer Referee Association Board in 2006.

Young Referee of the Year (male): Zachary

Pendt, Bremerton, Washington, is both a referee and a captain – Captain of his U18 Bainbridge Island Soccer Team. He's used to excelling on the field! He started as a referee for small-sided games in 2000 and has since earned a Grade 7. Now, he serves as a mentor for younger refs. He has refereed at the Washington State Championships and at the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships!

Congratulations to all of our representatives from Region IV! You ARE the best! Thank you for all you've done for your State and our Region!

"Leadership -- not just to prepare for the game -- but to prepare for life!"



Zachary Pendt & Maia Anderson