

# Concord Soccer Association Newsletter Spring 2009



P.O. Box 7063 • Wilmington, DE 19803 • (302) 479-5030 • [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com)

## A Message from the President

John Weaver, President, Concord Soccer Association

The summer is coming and as parents we look for something our kids can do. I have a recommendation for you. I have been able to observe our Director of Coaching, Fran Kulas, teach our players the game of soccer. When you watch Fran you are struck by two things; Fran loves kids, and he can really teach the game our kids like to play. He has helped many of our teams by offering training sessions. The coaches come away ecstatic because, with Fran, the players learn a lot and they have fun. As a parent what more can you want than to put your child in a learning environment that they really enjoy.

At a Fran Kulas training session nobody stands around. The players are always moving and always learning. Fran is running our summer camps this year – the back page of this newsletter and our website ([www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com)) have more information. Take a look and consider sending your player this summer to a Fran Kulas camp.

Besides Fran, I have other heroes: Rudy Rudawsky, Nancy Schragger, Anne Connolly, Chad Hughes, Joe Williams and Leona Williams. They and their team ran Field Fest III. They put in hundreds of volunteer hours and raised money to help us build our fields. I can't tell you how critical the dollars they raise are to the building of the Channin complex. The result of their hard work will be the enjoyment of our players playing soccer on quality fields for years to come. I am so grateful for their hard work.



## Concord Soccer Representative Team Tryouts for the 2009-2010 season

### Girls Tryouts:

Monday May 11 U9 & U10  
Tuesday May 12 U11 & U12  
Wednesday May 13 U9 & U10  
Thursday May 14 U11 & U12

### Boys Tryouts:

Monday May 18 U9 & U10  
Tuesday May 19 U11 & U12  
Wednesday May 20 U9 & U10  
Thursday May 21 U11 & U12

All tryouts will take place from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Check [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com) for the location.

Registration will be held from 6:00-6:15, and tryouts will begin promptly at 6:15.

There is no cost to tryout, but you must register on site with a CSA staff member.

Shin guards are required for all players wishing to tryout, and each player must arrive with a properly inflated age-appropriate soccer ball.

Tryouts for teams U13 – U19 will be held in June.

Details will be posted on our website, [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com), by June 1.

### Age Groups for the 2009-2010 Representative Teams:

Under-9 (U9) - born between 8/1/00 - 7/31/01	Under-10 (U10) - born between 8/1/99 - 7/31/00
Under-11 (U11) - born between 8/1/98 - 7/31/99	Under-12 (U12) - born between 8/1/97 - 7/31/98
Under-13 (U13) - born between 8/1/96 - 7/31/97	Under-14 (U14) - born between 8/1/95 - 7/31/96
Under-15 (U15) - born between 8/1/94 - 7/31/95	Under-16 (U16) - born between 8/1/93 - 7/31/94
Under-17 (U17) - born between 8/1/92 - 7/31/93	Under-18 (U18) - born between 8/1/91 - 7/31/92
Under-19 (U19) - born between 8/1/90 - 7/31/91	

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## Field Construction Update

Dan Hammond, CSA Treasurer



As this newsletter goes to print we have had a few days with highs in the 60's over the past week, which means the grass seed planted last fall should be germinating at the Concord Soccer Complex on Naamans Road. The first fertilizer treatment has been applied and we are seeing the bright green results from the grass that got started last fall. We are currently evaluating additional over-seeding. Our dog silhouettes have proved to be very effective in deterring our winged guests, the Canadian geese, from visiting. Please take a look the next time you drive by; it is very exciting to see our fields taking shape.



We expect that our mowing and irrigation will start in mid to late April. We will be watching very closely to make sure everything grows as close to plan as possible. The fields were designed and built with a 1% slope from the south to the north promoting good drainage without impacting the quality of the playing surface. This design has proven to be effective as there are only a few puddles and erosion issues.

On the construction front we still need to pave the parking lot and install some fencing, as well as plant all the trees, shrubs and other green things required by the county. Please see the following articles on our recent fund raiser, Field Fest III, and the capital campaign in general.



### CSA Board Meetings

**Regular CSA board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Foulk Road. Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the June 16 meeting – time and place to be announced (check [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com) for updates).**

# Capital Campaign Update

Dan Hammond, CSA Treasurer



We have had an active few months since our last newsletter. Two additional grant requests have been submitted. We are hopeful we will hear the excellent news of being awarded something from both of these grants in the next month. We are also actively networking with our contacts within and outside the club for additional support from various sources.

There is a question that we are frequently asked in the grant proposal process: *How is the support from within the club?* Thankfully there are individuals that make contributions to the club when they register their children online. Several of our travel teams have lead the way by organizing some fundraiser events or taking up a collection for the capital campaign. Thanks to all those teams and individuals that have helped.

If your child is a travel team player they are surely looking forward to playing on a well maintained field at the CSA complex. Soon we will have a true home field advantage! Has your travel team done something to help?

Some individuals have contributed to the capital campaign through the United Way. CSA is United Way affiliate #9448. Others have employers who match their volunteer hours or cash contributions with a contribution to CSA's capital campaign.

The grass is growing at the CSA soccer complex! Please do what you can to help us finish the project. The primary things left to fund are all of the ancillary items that are required by New Castle County to open the fields for play. These items include some portable goals, landscaping (even through more than six acres of grass will be growing at our complex), and a paved, curbed and lighted parking lot.

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## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

To submit an article to the next Concord Soccer Newsletter, forward to Laura Hagood at [hagoodlb@comcast.net](mailto:hagoodlb@comcast.net) by June 30, 2009.



Field Fest III, CSA's biggest fundraising event of the year, was held March 27 at the Waterfall Banquet and Conference Center on Philadelphia Pike. At the time of this printing we are still adding up receipts, chasing down happy winning auction bidders, collecting credit card proceeds, tallying expenses and writing thank you notes for contributions so the exact proceeds are not yet known. **We do know that we raised more than \$20,000.** What we are sure about is that everyone that attended had a great time enjoying the music of Heavenly Hash, bidding on the many exciting auction items, socializing with others affiliated with CSA and consuming the beverages provided by Twin Lakes Brewing Co., Southern Wine & Spirits of Delaware and Shangri-La Tea by Alice Zino.

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who helped organize Field Fest III, with particular thanks to Rudy Rudawsky, Nancy Schragger, Anne Connolly, Chad Hughes, Joe Williams and Leona Williams for all their hard work on behalf of Concord Soccer. For helping Nancy Schragger with the organization of the silent auction we would like to give special thanks to the following people:

Mary Culnane Tuntivate - for the long hours of work visiting retail merchants multiple times to ask for donations, as well as final prep and setup the week of Field Fest III.  
Vicki Huber-Rudawsky - for the long hours of work visiting retail merchants multiple times to ask for donations, as well as final prep and setup the week of Field Fest III.  
Fran Kulas - for working with all of the teams for their participation in and contributions to the silent auction, as well as acquisitions of some of the big ticket items.  
Bob Bussierre - for all the phone calls and visits to potential donors asking for donations.  
Chad Hughes - for everything!!!!  
Mary Kate Smiley - for her help with final prep, setup and closeout.  
Denise Losco - for help with final prep and setup.  
Michele Fontana - for help with setup and closeout.  
Anne Connolly - for help with setup and closeout.

Many thanks to Dan Marini of Marini Produce, who provided valuable assistance to the event and to all the restaurants that donated gift certificates to the raffle, including Ameritage, The Back Burner, Big Fork Restaurant, Corner Bistro, Culinaria, Domaine Hudson, Harry's Savoy Grill, The Melting Pot, Mendenhall Inn Restaurant, Pizza By Elizabeths, Rasa Sayang, Union City Grille and Walter's Steakhouse. Thanks also to the many businesses and individuals who donated products and services for the silent auction (details on the CSA website), to those who coordinated their teams' contributions, and to many others who helped make this night a success.

And of course, a big thank you to every one of you who attended this event - in doing so you not only had a fun night out, but you are also helping us attain our goal of having our own soccer fields for our children to play on. We'd love to have your feedback - go to [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com) and click on *Field Fest III Feedback* a little way down the home page. We appreciate your help!



## Girls & Boys Representative Team News



Bruce Haberman,  
Boys Representative Program Coordinator

Concord Soccer has seventeen representative (travel) teams participating in the Mid-Atlantic Soccer League and/or the Delaware State Cup Tournament for the Spring 2009 season. Our ten boys teams are the U9 Concord 99, U10 Thunder, U11 Cosmos, U12 Revolution, U13 Nitro, U13 Dynamo, U14 Chaos, U14 Rockets and the U15 Titans. Our seven girls teams are the U9 Soccer Sisters, U10 Fusion, U11 Avalanche, U13 United White, U14 Magic, U14 Fury and the U18 Courage.

Good luck to all of our Concord Soccer representative teams and players in the spring season. Our teams will be conducting tryouts for the 2009-2010 soccer year in May and June. For details, see the front page of this newsletter or go to the Concord Soccer website at [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com).

### Other Representative Team News:

In January the **U9 Soccer Sisters** played in a mini tournament at the home of the Philadelphia Kixx. Two exciting games of 20 minutes were played. As a result of their fantastic efforts, the girls had one win and one loss. After the tournament we met as a team again at the Spectrum and enjoyed watching and learning from the professionals. This was a great experience and fun was had by all.



U9 Soccer Sisters

The girls **U10 Concord Fusion** recently competed in the Hockessin Spring Classic Tournament. The team achieved finalist (2<sup>nd</sup> place) status in their bracket, with a 2-1 record. The Fusion team was excited by this result, as they competed in the top bracket (out of three U10 brackets) of their age group, encompassing twelve

teams. They earned victories in their games vs. the SCCSA Green Hornets and the River Soccer Club Hornets. Their only loss was in the final game vs. the Hockessin Force, which gave the Force the top spot. In order for the team to take their play to the next level, they need to continue to compete with the best teams in the area. The Fusion will be playing in the top U10 spring bracket of the Mid-Atlantic Soccer League. Players that participated in the Hockessin Tournament were Hannah Biener, Hannah Cutler, Melanie Haberman, Marite Horton, Ali Kochie, Juliana Looney, Zoe McFadden, Gina Miller, Megan Ogden, Alexis Schofield, Katrina Skibicki, Arden Sullivan and Kendal Trickey. The team is coached by Bruce Haberman, and is trained by Mike Kleinert.



U10 Fusion

For the third year running the boys **U13 Nitro** hosted a winter indoor Futsal league. The league was held at Sanford School, and was organized by the Nitro's coach, Greg Gerken, and parent Tom Wiechecki. Twelve small-sided teams participated from CSA, Hockessin Soccer Club, Kirkwood Soccer Club, Garnet Valley Soccer Club and IHM.



Participants in the Nitro's Futsal League

The fast-paced, small-sided games were played with a special Futsal ball. The game encourages good ball control, requiring players to think and react quickly, and helps them improve their foot skills. Futsal has been

shown to help youth players develop quicker reflexes, faster thinking and more accurate passing.

On the final day of the league, following the Championship match, the players participated in a skills competition. Much fun was had by all!



*Players participated in a Skills Competition*

### **Coaching News:**

Phil Blatz and Peter Flanagan of the girls U11 Avalanche, Ed Judge of the U9 Soccer Sisters and Steve Furman of the U12 Atletico all recently achieved their USSF "D" coaching licenses. Congratulations to these Concord coaches!

**For more information on our representative program, please contact Bruce Haberman, Boys Representative Program Coordinator at [bhabe2@comcast.net](mailto:bhabe2@comcast.net), Amy Sullivan, Girls Representative Program Coordinator at [sullivangang@hotmail.com](mailto:sullivangang@hotmail.com), or Fran Kulas, Director of Coach and Player Development at [frankulas@comcast.net](mailto:frankulas@comcast.net).**

*Thank you for your participation!*

## **Resources for Parents, Coaches and Players on the Concord Soccer Website**

Check out our website for many helpful articles and other resources.

Go to: [www.concordsoccer.com](http://www.concordsoccer.com) and click on "Helpful Resources"

## **Help Me Collect Soccer Balls for Children in Iraq**



Aaron Klein  
U13 Boys Dynamo

Hi! My name is Aaron Klein and I'm a striker on the CSA Dynamo (U13 boys) travel team. I'm doing a service project for my bar-mitzvah where I am collecting new and used soccer balls for an organization called *Kick For Nick* (please see [www.kickfornick.org](http://www.kickfornick.org)). This organization was put together by the friends and family of Nick Madaras, who was a young soldier who was killed in Iraq. Nick was a youth soccer coach and loved the game. He saw how much kids in Iraq enjoyed soccer and he wanted to bring joy into their lives in the face of war. He started collecting balls to distribute to Iraqi children but he was killed before he was able to distribute them. His friends and fellow soldiers took it upon themselves to fulfill Nick's goal and that's how *Kick for Nick* was started. So far 20,387 soccer balls have been collected from throughout the United States. Concord Soccer Association and its players can help. If you would like to donate balls to this worthy project please call me at 302-478-3524. (I also plan on donating some balls to a local organization.)

Thank you.



*Donated balls are distributed to children in Iraq.*

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## Soccer Development Program News

Chris Lee  
Soccer Development  
Program Coordinator



### WIND CAN'T BLOW AWAY SDP OPENING DAY!

The rains came early and often on the days before opening day, but Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> brought sunny skies and high winds to dry out the fields and let another season of Concord Soccer's Soccer Development Program (SDP) begin. Despite 45 mph gusts the kids of CSA prevailed and got the season off to a great start. Even the "Chick-fil-A" Cow came out to see the kids of Concord Soccer at their best.

The first day of each season kicks off with a team clinic in which the new teams get together for the first time and go through a series of activities to get them ready for the practices and games to come. This season marks the beginning of a new era for CSA where the clinics are run by professionally accredited instructors and managed by our Director of Coaching (DOC) Fran Kulas. Fran brought highly qualified coaches to the fields this year, including State Director of Coaching Lew Atkinson, Bob Bussiere and Dave Whitcraft, all of whom are members of the DYSA state coaching education staff. The kids in one of the Kiddie Kicker II clinics were so energized that when asked to pick up the cones at the end of one particular drill, they ran around and collected the cones up from all the Kiddie Kicker fields. What can you expect from a group of four and five year-olds having such a great time playing soccer!

This year's program also represents a change in the U12 through U16 age groups. Despite an overall increase of 30 kids from last spring, the number of kids playing in these older age groups is down slightly. Not having enough players to field teams that would provide a variety of competition week to week, we were left with a decision; cancel the age group, play the same team every week, or create more small sided teams. The age group coordinator, and several parents worked out a program that will actually be more beneficial for those involved. The kids in this program will practice and play in a 5 v 5 round robin format on small fields with no goalies. The result will be a large increase in playing time and a huge jump in touches on the ball for everyone. This type of fluency is only possible due to the volunteers who are giving their time to coach. Due to this flexibility we now have 30 kids playing the game of soccer who otherwise would not be able to.

The Soccer Development Program is the basis of CSA where we strive to give every child the opportunity to play and learn the game of soccer without the pressure of having to become a professional over night. To see the little pony-tailed girl smile as wide as she can when putting on her jersey for the first time, and see the six year-old boy scream with delight as he scores his first goal, it reminds me what really matters....the kids.

## Thank You for the "Chargebacks!"



As all of you with children who participated in our Winter Indoor Soccer Development League know, the company we used at that time to process registrations, *Count Me In* (CMI), has filed for bankruptcy, owing CSA approximately \$10,000. In order for CSA to recover the amount owed to the club, we asked you to contact your credit card company and dispute the charge, requesting that they "chargeback" the transaction for Concord Soccer using the reason "services not rendered." This request was within your rights under the terms of your agreement since CMI did not provide the service they were contracted to do.

Many thanks to everyone who has already sent us a check. We had already paid gym rental fees, etc. to make the season a success, and appreciate you inconveniencing yourselves on our behalf. CSA is a non-profit organization, and we thank you for helping us recover the fees we are owed for the winter season.

If you have not yet requested the "chargeback," you still have time to help us recover our dues, and we appreciate the effort you are making on our behalf. We have implemented a new registration system with a new vendor (*Blue Sombrero*) and have taken steps to further insulate CSA from this type of issue in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Weaver, President of CSA at [jweaverlaw@verizon.net](mailto:jweaverlaw@verizon.net).



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### CSA Newsletter Advertising

Support Concord Soccer and advertise your business in our newsletter. The newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,900 families in the local area three or four times per year. Ads, roughly the size of a business card, can be included at a cost of only \$50.

The next newsletter will be published in July. For more information and to get your ad included in our next newsletter, contact Ed Judge at [e\\_judge3@verizon.net](mailto:e_judge3@verizon.net).

## **DEVELOPING DECISION MAKERS – ARE WE OR AREN'T WE? Empowering Players vs. Encouraging a Coaching Dependency**



Fran Kulas,  
Director of Coach and Player Development

Would you as a parent, go in your backyard and cheer for your kids while they are playing tag with their neighborhood friends? Would you tell them where to hide in a game of "hide-and-go-seek?" Would you tell them who to pass to in a two-on-two basketball game in your driveway? I feel sure those who asked themselves these questions responded with a definitive "no." Since you wouldn't cheer for your child or offer strategic comments to them in neighborhood games, why do you do it during their team's soccer game? Is it because you view their performance as being more important because they are wearing uniforms and there is a referee? Are you the type of parent who believes that your success in raising your child will be measured by what your child does or doesn't do in his/her soccer game? The sideline behavior of coaches and parents must improve so that the children can play in an environment that is less confusing to them tactically and psychologically safer. In Dr. Lynn Kidman's book "Developing Decision Makers," she points out **"it is imperative that we give priority to the development needs of children, ahead of adult needs."** Children actually need less direction than most parents and coaches are giving them. Let's explore solutions that will help give the game back to the kids.

### **Adult Reinforcement**

Adult influence is a very instrumental factor on the way children develop psychologically, socially, cognitively, and emotionally. As Kidman points out, **"Adult reinforcement is the main influence on the way children perceive failure. If adults make it clear that they expect their children to win, they insinuate that the children will fail unless they win."** Adult reinforcement can be both positive and negative. While parents and coaches may have the best intentions at heart, Kidman notes that adult expectations can often inhibit a child's enjoyment of a sport. **"Because the desire for adult approval is very strong before puberty,"** Kidman writes, **"children's ability to perform at their own level and for fun can be inhibited. Therefore adults have a responsibility to consider which expectations are their own and which are their children's. This is a difficult task because it requires some degree of objectivity."**

### **Sideline Behavior and Comments**

A simple, yet seldom-used method of determining what children want to hear from the sidelines is proposed in the book: **"A good way to determine whether the sideline comments are helpful and supportive is to ask the children what they prefer to hear on the sideline, if anything."** Have you ever tried this approach? I challenge you to do so and report back to me with the responses you solicit. One approach I am currently using with the team I coach is to only offer comments to them when the ball is out of play during

a natural stoppage (out of play, restart, etc.) I communicate my intentions to the players and while this may be considered extreme, it certainly serves as a sound guideline for me to refrain from trying to control the players' every move versus allowing them to discover the game at their own rate. Additionally, by communicating my intentions to them in advance, I now am holding myself accountable to this appropriate behavior. Parents and coaches often get wrapped up in the moment and get overwhelmed with the emotion that they want the players to succeed. We must, however, as adult leaders in a child's game, ask ourselves, **"Are we giving information for rapid performance change or for deep rooted learning?"** An old Chinese Proverb states: **"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."** Let's remember these wise old words while on the sidelines of the soccer field. Kidman points out that **"too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."** There couldn't be a more true statement.

### **Let Them Play!**

U14 boys' rugby coach Hugh Galvan paints a clear picture in Kidman's book when he is quoted saying, **"Certainly I used to be more directive, make a lot more decisions for players and didn't include them in the decision-making process, yet ironically, they play the game, not me."** This youth coach has a firm grasp on what a coach is really meant to do: empower players to perform and make decisions independently. **"There is no point in coaching unless the teaching you do helps the student overtake you,"** Galvan said. **"Yet sometimes as parents and coaches, we sometimes selfishly want players to rely on us to be successful."** Letting players play and make decisions on their own is perhaps the most important responsibility for adults. It is well documented that decision-making ability is considered particularly important within a free-flowing dynamic sport such as soccer, in which the coach has limited influence once the game begins. Sometimes, less is more. Recently at a U.S. Soccer National Youth License course, instructor Ron Quinn provided a slogan for all adults in the game to model themselves after: **"Over-coaching is when players look to you for every move they make. Under-coaching is when they can't find you."** I would argue that we need to find the middle ground to provide the best possible environment for those children we are entrusted with developing.

### **For more on this topic...**

"Developing Decision Makers" can be purchased by logging onto [www.ipcltd.com](http://www.ipcltd.com). Send comments about this article to Fran Kulas at [frankulas@comcast.net](mailto:frankulas@comcast.net).

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