

LSC Coaching Notes Vol. 2, No. 8 - Dave Gosselin, LSC Coaching Director.

What have you learned from your players?

Since I started coaching, I have had the opportunity to coach at the NCAA Division III college, Class A and Class B high school, In-house and traveling competitive club, and recreational levels. I have watched my older girls club team evolve from pre-teen soccer players to high school players. It is also been interesting to have the opportunity to have another group of young players (U-14 girls) whom I can watch and share some of the things that I have learned from my previous experiences. It is amazing what I have learned from my players, especially when I open myself up for the opportunities for them to teach me. One of the lessons that I have learned is that each and every player brings something to the team. That something may not be athletic ability or soccer skills. It may be leadership. It may just be a warm friendly smile that makes others feel comfortable. It may be that one player who is one of the least skilled players on the team who leave it all on the field each and every time they play. They may be judged by parents on your team as a weak link, but this player has a lot to teach us as coaches and parents about what is important not only in the context of the game, but in life as well. We need to recognize all kinds of contributions to our teams. I love coaching these types of players. We all want our players to be successful at soccer and as coaches we try to give them the opportunities to improve. However, have you ever thought about what other things that our players learn from us that go beyond the soccer field. Good luck with the rest of your season and give yourself the opportunity to learn from your players as you try to help them learn about the game and life as well.

Coaching Director Accomplishments over the Last Year.

Over the last year, there have been many accomplishments related to my activities as coaching director. Worked with Sandy to provide 52 club and high school soccer coaches the opportunity to obtain their State, Regional and/or Advanced Regional Diplomas through our club's sponsorship of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Coaching Academy. I worked with a subcommittee to address the issues of older players, we have developed a strategy and a 2 page informational handout to help our U13 and U14 players transition to the U15 to U19 level. In the past, many players were lost from our club at this age-group transition when these players entered high school. We want to keep players involved with soccer. Our club has instigated regular meetings of our coaches at seasonal coach pick up. This recently has evolved further into specific age group meetings. From feedback that we have received, these meetings have been well received. I have put together eight issues of coach's notes that I sense most have found useful. I offered several opportunities for coach's clinics, which have had minimal attendance. I have received my GoalKeeper Level II Diploma from the NSCAA and attended the annual conference in Charlotte, NC where I represented our club.

Goals for the coming year as Coaching Director

In the coming year, I plan to continue Coaches Notes and will seek articles from other coaches to enhance the exchange of information between us. Any volunteers???? I will be attending the

NSCAA Advanced National Diploma Course this summer. We will continue our work with the older age group transition. I will help facilitate our club's sponsorship of NSCAA courses. I would like to open the discussion of some level of coaching certification for all our coaches. There are pros and cons to a proposal and I will look forward to your input.

I would also like to hear suggestions from all of our coaches as to what the club to do to assist you in your quest to educate your current players about soccer. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas at dg10435@alltel.net or 420-7459.