



The Final Third

Springfield, Missouri

Issue 3

Fall 2007

SSC Indoor Facility and Offices

Welcome all players, parents, sponsors and coaches to the Springfield Soccer Club for the 2007-08 season. It's hard to imagine that we have been practicing for over a month now this fall. The amount of hard work being put in by the players and coaches on the fields (and the parents in getting them to everything) is amazing. This season promises to have lots of exciting moments in it just like the previous ones have.

By now almost everyone has had a chance to come by and either visit or practice in the new SSC Indoor Practice Facility and Offices. This has been a monumental undertaking by our club to provide our players a place to practice during inclement weather and the winter months. As a club we have always provided our players and teams with as much indoor training as possible, but we have been limited by availability of facilities, or we have had to practice in gyms or basketball courts. Now we have complete control over practice schedules indoors and will be able to offer more programs for our players.

The artificial turf has been laid down and the construction of the dasher boards, safety nets, and goals should be complete within 2-3 weeks. This will be the final steps in making a first-class soccer facility that will allow our players and teams the chance to continue their development year round as well as provide a 'Home' for everyone associated with the club. Upon completion we will hold a Grand Opening for everyone associated with SSC complete with food, beverages and our fall raffle. The facility will also host camps, clinics, and 3 v 3 indoor tournaments throughout the year.

While we are almost complete with the set-up of the Indoor Facility we are still looking for sponsors to purchase a wall sign, dasher board sign or an arena banner. These advertisements will help the overall club budget of operating our Indoor Facility. If you know of a business or organization that would like to advertise please contact me in the SSC Club Office at 832-1552 or alumbaugh@springfieldsportsclub.com

THANK YOU for your support of the Springfield Soccer Club and best of luck to everyone this season!



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SSC has ODP Success this summer

Several players from the Springfield Soccer Club have tried out and made the Missouri State Olympic Development Program State Team. During the early part of the summer the different state teams from the Midwest Region (13 States) meet and compete in front of the Regional Coaching Staff. Several players are given the opportunity to train together. From these players (Holdover Players) the staff picks a pool of players to train together from which a Regional Team is picked. The Regional Teams go on to compete against the other 3 Regions in tournaments around the country as well as making trips overseas to compete against foreign teams. The National Team Coaches then form a pool of players to train from which a national team is formed. This isn't the only way to make it to a National team, but it's one. Here's a recap of those players that had success at the State ODP camp held in Rockford, Illinois.

Heath Melugin—SSC 89/90—Region II Pool Team

Devon Newport—SSC 92/93—Region II Pool Team

Parker Maher—SSC 92/93—Holdover Player

Evan Loyd—SSC 94/95 Red—Holdover Player

Congratulations to these players and all of those that competed with their State Teams!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Coming in October are the LCS Fall Boys Classic and the LCS Fall Girls Classic. We will once again call upon the families of SSC to help make the local tournaments the best in the area. Your Team Administrator will be in touch with available ways to help out. The success of SSC has come from the families. Thank you for all of your help!

Fall Season Start-up

The start of the Fall 2007 Springfield Soccer Club has begun and all SSC teams are in full stride. After the first week of training many teams went into the first weekend of league games in the Kansas City Champions League. The girls teams representing SSC in Kansas City are the 95/96 Red, 91/92 and the 88/89 teams. For the boy's side the 95/96 Red, 94/95 Red and the 93/94 all are participating in the Champions League. As of September 21 in league play in Kansas City 4 out of the 6 teams are in first place of their respective divisions. Keep up the good work and good luck teams!! You are representing SSC very strongly!!!!

With the first weekend of Lake Country league play being cancelled due to weather, teams had to wait a couple extra days to get their seasons started up. Some teams are still waiting to get their league play going. Year in and year out SSC teams display why they are the best soccer players in Southwest Missouri during league play. We are once again looking forward to a very competitive year at Lake Country from all of our teams. The following boys teams are playing at Lake Country this Fall season; Youth Academy, 98/99 Red, 98/99 White, 97/98, 96/97 Red, 96/97 White, 95/96 White and the 94/95 White. For the girls side the, 98/99, 97/98, 96/97, 95/96 White, and the 94/95 teams are all competing at Lake Country this Fall. We wish all of these teams the best of luck throughout the entire season!!!

Along with league play, some teams have gained some valuable early tournament experience already this year. Over Labor Day weekend the 95/96 Red Girls, 94/95 Red Boys and the 93/94 Boys all participated in the Scott Gallagher Friendlies held In St. Louis. All the teams were able to play some very good competition and everyone held their own against some of the toughest teams from the Midwest.

Some other teams have already gotten their first tournament of the season underneath their belts as well. The 97/98 Boys, 96/97 White Boys, 95/96 White Boys, 94/95 White Boys, 97/98 Girls, 95/96 White Girls and the 94/95 Girls teams all took part in the Clorox Cup in Bentonville, Arkansas. The tournament is hosted by the NW Arkansas Lightning Soccer Club and all the teams were able to play some teams that they don't normally get to see. Teams from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri were all present and again every team enjoyed competing and got some good quality tournament experience.

As you can tell it has been a busy start to the season for SSC and we couldn't be more excited with the start that we have had as a club and with all of our teams. We look forward to seeing everyone compete in league play and also in their upcoming tournaments. Best of luck!! And keep representing SSC!!!

Q & A with SSC Alumni:

Katie Brooks



What was the biggest transition to college (not soccer wise)?

Time Management! In high school you are in school for six hours a day, maybe have soccer practice in the evening, and then do your homework at night. In college though, you are in school for anywhere between 3-7 hours a day leaving lots (or in some cases little) of unscheduled free time. With a lack of structure to your day it's easy to put things off until later because it seems like there will always be time. Figure out early on when to get your homework done and when it's ok to spend 4 straight hours playing guitar hero...

What is the biggest difference between youth soccer and college soccer?

The overall time commitment and the speed of the game are two aspects that I have found the most different. The time commitment is relatively obvious seeing as how soccer becomes your "job" for one semester each year. It dictates when you eat, have free time, do your homework, and at times even sleep. In terms of playing, the speed of the game is simply faster. Players are quicker and stronger due to off season training and regimens and the speed of play is quicker in order to adapt to the faster players.

What is a typical week like in season?

During a typical week we play two to three games. On days that we don't have games we practice for an hour and half in the afternoon. If we are going on a trip we will meet to pick up our uniforms and food before we leave. On a home game day we meet 2 hours prior to the game to get treatment, change, and have a meeting before we warm up and play. Usually Sunday's are a day off as long as we don't have a game on Monday.

Applying what you know now about college soccer is there anything you would have changed or focused more on during your youth soccer career?

I would recommend trying to play with people older, better, or faster than you. Many times you might be one of the best players on your team, but when thrown into the college environment it will take a while to adjust to the quickness of play. If you can prepare yourself by constantly playing with people who challenge you; whether that's scrimmaging with college kids in the off-season, or playing a "year up," you will be better prepared to walk onto the field with kids who have 3 years more college experience than you do.

Best player/team you have gone against at college level?

Fortunately, William Jewell women's and men's programs are nationally ranked in the top 25 in the country. Therefore (not to sound conceited) we are generally the better team. That said, I'd say that Graceland University, also nationally ranked in the top 20 is the best team we have played. They are an arch rival and we usually end up facing them in the final round of regionals.

How did SSC prepare you for college (on/off the field)?

The coaches I played for always demanded hard work on the field and good grades off the field. They entered us in tournaments that were challenging so we knew what we had to work towards. They have continued to build the club and now offer numerous off-season and preseason camps that are extremely beneficial.

Any advice for those starting the recruiting process?

Start early and don't limit your options! Just because you don't think a small school, or a certain division is right for you don't rule them out. Write letters to any school you are remotely interested in. Take as many visits as you can and try to watch the teams play. It's important to know that you will be comfortable and fit in once you get there. The more options you have the more opportunities and choices you will have in the end.

What are your career goals after college?

I find this becomes an increasingly popular question as college progresses. The best answer I have so far is that I'd like to work somewhere that allows me to travel as much as possible. That way I can figure out where I eventually want to live. I'd like to make some money as well... Ultimately I'm going to enjoy myself somewhere doing something I like.

Juggling Crew Updates

We are very proud of the juggling crew and it's been exciting to see players improve over the past year. As a reminder of the achievements we recognize we have the 50 Club, the 100 Club, the 250 Club, the 500 Club, and the 100+ Club. Each player receives a t-shirt for the 100, 250, and 500 Club. The 50 Club gets mentioned in the newsletter and the 1000+ Club receives a plaque. Here are the **recent achievements** to each juggling club **since the beginning of the season** and the team they play on. Congrats to each and every player!!

50 Club

Josh Call—97/98
Sam Hockett—97/98
Jacob Brown—97/98
Miriam Melugin—95/96 red girls
Blake Webber—95/96 red
Devon Caverro—95/96 white
Chase Grubb—94/95 white
Cole Sheppard—94/95 white
Joseph Lightner—95/96 white
Jesse Bihlmeyer—95/96 white

100 Club

Hunter Wallace—96/97 red
Aaron Strunk—94/95 red
Megan Melugin—91/92 girls
Chase Grubb—94/95 white
Locke McAllister—95/96 red
Grant Dahm—95/96 white
Kory Hellmer—95/96 white
Megan Melugin—95/96 red girls

250 Club

Evan Garrad—94/95 red
Will Burton—94/95 white
Taylor Pedigo—94/95 red

500 Club

Will Burton—94/95 white

1000+ Club

Dallas Moses—94/95 red
Heath Melugin—89/90

**Continue to visit the Springfield Soccer
Club web site for Club updates at:**

www.springfieldsportsclub.com



The Springfield Soccer Club "Final Third" newsletter is published quarterly by the coaches and staff of the Springfield Soccer Club and Springfield Sports Club, Inc. The contents are meant for current members and former members of the Springfield SC and its predecessor organizations, as well as members of the Springfield area soccer community.

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