



The Final Third

Springfield, Missouri

Issue 4

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Zach's D3 recap including his own trip

Since graduating from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 2002 I have only been able to see the Duhawks play one game. And that was as an opposing coach so I didn't really get to enjoy it, mainly because they destroyed our team. I have been following them via the internet and also through friends that still live in Dubuque and are able to get out and see some of their matches. This year was by far the best in the programs history, they won the regular season conference title, tournament conference title and were ranked third nationally. Also they have been extremely good defensively and had only given up 4 goals prior to the NCAA tournament and carried a 20-0-1 record into their NCAA 1st round game. They were matched up against Wheaton College(IL) in the first game and this was the team that they tied earlier in the year. They came out victorious and that sent them into the sweet 16 round. The four teams in their bracket were University of California-Redlands, Virginia Wesleyan, North Carolina Wesleyan and Loras. Being Division III they placed the games at Rocky Mount, North Carolina home of North Carolina Wesleyan because they would only have to fly 2 teams instead of 3 to Dubuque.

After talking to some old teammates a few of us decided to make the trip and catch the sweet 16 games. I was able to meet up with a teammate in Chicago and we flew out to Raleigh, NC, which is about 40 minutes from Rocky Mount.

Loras' game was against NC Wesleyan and they boasted a very potent attack and had some extremely talented players. With Loras' defense it was a matchup that many people were excited to see. Two minutes into the game Loras was granted a penalty kick due to a clear hand ball and they went up 1-0. That sent the Loras alumni, family and friends into an uproar as there were around 65 Loras people who made the trip out east.

For the rest of the story, check out the SSC Insider Blog at <http://springfieldsoccerclub.blogspot.com>



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Springfield S.C. High School Girls Compete at Showcases

The highest rated fall girls showcase is hosted in Collinsville, Illinois by the Metro United Soccer Club. This event annually attracts top-level teams from throughout the nation. The SSC 92/93 Red team walked away with a stellar record of 2-1 including a solid defeat of the Chicago Magic SC. The girls did well in their first showcase opportunity and it was a sign of things to come. The SSC 91/92 team also did well with a 1-1-1 record including a tie against the eventual Finalist Shattuck-St. Mary's out of Minnesota. The SSC 89/90 team struggled with their team performance, but did gather plenty of attention from college coaches.

The Sam Shannon Cup & Showcase hosted by Tulsa Soccer Club was the next event for the girls. Once again the SSC 92/93 Red team got things rolling for the club as they were a Finalist in the prestigious tournament. The weather and fields were in great shape in Tulsa and the SSC 91/92 team played some good soccer and ended up with a 2-1 record. Not to be outdone by the outstanding play of their younger club mates the SSC 89/90 team walked away with a 2-0-1 record including an outstanding win against the Dallas Texans North. "By far the play of the teams and the results at the Tulsa Showcase were the best of any college showcase for the club on the girls side." said Jeremy Alumbaugh Director of Soccer Operations. "The number of college coaches who were watching our games and then approaching the coaches and asking about our players was by far the most interest we've ever had." Tulsa was just a glimpse of what would come next.

Mike Rose Soccer Complex in Memphis, Tennessee was the site of the GIT College Showcase December 8-9, 2007. While the weather back in Springfield was frightful the conditions in Memphis could not have been better and the SSC 91/92 and SSC 89/90 teams took full advantage. The SSC 89/90 team while missing several players due to injuries put together an outstanding weekend of play going 2-0-1. It was a total team effort and every player stepped up and made the most of their opportunities. Saturday night was the setting for a memorable game with the SSC 91/92 team playing Brentwood Beat from Nashville. The 16's were down 0-1 at halftime, before producing some outstanding team play and offensive firepower to win 3-1 over the 5th ranked team in Tennessee. "What a game. At halftime we talked about enjoying the challenge of playing such a good team and if we did that the result would come. Defensively, we played one of our best games ever and scored three unanswered goals to get the result." said Alumbaugh. This record represented the first time on the boys or girls side that SSC has walked away from the GIT Showcase without a loss on the weekend.

A big thanks to all of the players and parents for their dedication in getting to the extra practices in order to be ready for these events. Also, Coaches Rob Brewer, Kirsten Hatz, and Josh Hertel, hats off on preparing the girls for an outstanding showcase season.



SSC all over the Southwest All-Stars Game

The Springfield Soccer Club is once again well represented in the 4th Annual Southwest All-Stars game. The game is being held at Lake Country on Thursday, June 19th. Below is a list of players and the schools that they attend. Only High School Seniors are eligible to partake. Congratulations to these players and all of the others that were chosen to take part in this annual event.

Michael Handley	Webb City	TJ Martin	Webb City
Brice Hunt	West Plains	Justin Scicluna	West Plains
Stuart Ziegler	West Plains	Matt Beckett	Parkview
Tim Griffin	Parkview	Tucker Downs	Glendale
Patrick McCarthy	Glendale	Tyler McElroy	Glendale
Shaun Morris	Glendale	Zac Hay	Kickapoo
Heath Melugin	Kickapoo	JT Chirwa	Carl Junction

A big THANK YOU goes out to Steve Olson and SGF Soccer for his help in putting this event on!!

Q & A with SSC Alumni:

Andrew Parsons



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

The biggest transition for me, as well as for most college students would have to be independence. In college, you are completely within control of your time and activities. You schedule when your classes are and decide how you spend your days. Of course when you are involved in a sport, you must devote your time to practice and preparation as well as school and an attempt at a social life. This transition into independence isn't frightening like some may think, but a great opportunity to have direct control of your life.

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

Everyone will say the same thing, the speed. The change in the pace of the game is not only seen in the physical aspect, but the mental side as well. The speed of play dramatically increases with every level of play from youth, to collegiate, to professional.

What is a typical week like in season?

In season, there is not as much work on the field as some believe. There are not any sprints and early mornings with late nights. Practices mainly deal with the strategic side of play and fine tuning. You go to school and put in your hours, but you are really thinking of the match ahead. Every week is focused on the upcoming game, and preparation, both mental and physical, begins days ahead. Now if you want 5:00 am morning track workouts, wait for the off-season.

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

Youth soccer does the best job that it can to prepare athletes for the next level, but you should always try to play with players that are at that next level. Whether it is playing with people older than you or just at a higher level, it is always beneficial to push yourself.

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

Colorado Rapids. Pablo Masteroni was unreal when we played them in an exhibition match in spring '07,

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

SSC helped much in the soccer transition because it gives a competitive environment similar to college soccer. Off the field it helps with the ladies. "Hey, you know, I played for Springfield Soccer Club. Why yes, I would love to come over."

Any advice for those starting the recruiting process and those who will begin college in the fall of 2007?

Make the initial contact to the schools that you really want to go to; don't wait for them to contact you. The more forward you are with your commitment to the school, the more they will respect you. For those about to go to college, just relax and prepare in every way with both school and soccer.

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

Nicholas Harden—94/95 White
Austin Meyers—94/95 White
Mitch White—95/96 Red

100 Club

Joseph Lightner—95/96 White
Christian Harden—94/95 White
Cole Shepard—94/95 White

250 Club

500 Club

Kelsey Garnett—92/93 Red

1000+ Club

Jackson Patillo—92/93 Red

SSC represents well in State Recognition

When the State High School awards were sent out, several players from the Springfield Soccer Club were on the receiving end. The highlight of the awards has to go to Heath Melugin as he was selected to the NSCAA All Midwest Region team. That is quite an honor as it includes kids from several states. Next up would have to be Justin Scicluna as the Class 2 Co-Offensive Player of the Year. Congratulations to both of these players for such high honors.

Below is a list of other players and their All –State Honors:

Class 3

Heath Melugin 1st Team
Zac Hay 2nd Team
Devon Newport Honorable Mention

Class 2

Stuart Ziegler 1st Team
Justin Scicluna 1st Team
TJ Martin 1st Team
Brice Hunt 2nd Team

Heath Melugin NSCAA All Midwest Region Team

Justin Scicluna Co-Offensive Player of the Year—Class 2



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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