



The Final Third

Springfield, Missouri

Issue 1

Spring 2007

New Addition to Coaching Staff

We are very excited to announce the hiring of Eric Sorlie to our staff. As of February 1st, Eric became our Director of Player Development. Eric comes to us after spending 6 years as the assistant coach for the BEARS of Missouri State where he was able to help guide the program back into the national spot light. He also helped 5 players become drafted by teams in the MLS. One of those players, Matt Pickens of the Chicago Fire, has been called into the National Team.

"I am extremely sad to lose Eric after six years" said head coach Jon Leamy "but I am extremely happy that Eric will continue to be a part of the Springfield soccer community and MSU soccer."

Eric has worked with many of your kids over the years in the summer months during camps at Missouri State University. He is very excited to get to know all of the kids and parents in the club and help continue the growth and success of the Springfield Soccer Club!

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

www.springfieldsportsclub.com



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Jeremy Alumbaugh

Director of Player Development
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*Rob Brewer, Cory Carr,
Kirsten Hatz, Joe Kofron,
Dan Meyer, Todd McCutcheon,
Jesse Miech, Emilie Phillips
Jeff Reinold, Reno Rose, Memo
Latapi*



Greater Springfield Area Sports Commission Champions Challenge Tournament

The GSASC Champions Challenge Tournament has come and gone. This was the club's first attempt at hosting a tournament. We were able to co-host the tournament with the help of Lake Country Soccer. The tournament was a great success for the Club and the City of Springfield. We had 122 teams converge on the fields at Lake Country and brave the cold wind on Saturday and the Sunshine on Sunday.

On the field the Springfield Soccer Club was represented well. It was great to see all of the kids and parents support each other. The Club had 5 teams reach the semi-finals or finals in their age groups.

SSC 96/97 Red Boys	U10 Semi Finals
SSC 94/95 Red Boys	U12 Champions
SSC 93/94 Red Boys	U13 Semi Finals
SSC 92/93 Girls	U14 Champions
SSC 88/89 Boys	Senior Gold Finalists

More importantly, the Club showed its success through the parents that gave up their "free" time over the weekend to volunteer and make sure the tournament was a success. The board and coaches want to thank all of the parents for a successful weekend and tournament. Through the hospitality of those that volunteered and those that just helped a visiting team find a field, concession stand, bathroom, or parking lot the Springfield Soccer Club showed its success. Through these actions, we are excited about the future of this tournament.

Thank you Parents, Players, and Coaches!!



Midwest Regional League Update



The month of March saw the Springfield S.C. enter into its' second season of play in the Midwest Regional League (MRL). The Under 14 Red team got things off to a solid start by tying the Kansas State Champions KCFC Rangers 0-0. The boys played well dealing with freezing temperatures and snow. Their next match was against Chicago Magic North whom they defeated 4-1. With four more games to play they are in the hunt for the First Division Playoffs.

Washington University (St. Louis, MO) was the site of a historical match as the Under 16 team faced off against Ohio Elite Soccer Academy in the first match by a Springfield S.C. team in the Premier Division of the MRL. Keeping up with their trend of defeating State Champions, the 16's promptly disposed of the Ohio South State Cup Champions 3-0. With two more wins against Rockford Raptors and Team Ohio, the 16's are currently on top of the Premier Division standings with four games to play. "Every time the 16's have had the opportunity to play against top-level teams in the MRL, they have stepped up to the challenge and done well. We know there are some tough games ahead, but the boys are preparing hard and welcome the challenges that they have earned." said Cory Carr the U16 Head Coach. Not to be outdone by their club mates the Under 17 boys went 2-0-2 playing four very demanding games in two days. So far for the Springfield S.C. nine games and no losses. The MRL continues in April and May as the Under 14, 16, 17 teams look to continue their winning ways and the Under 18 boys begin play in Indiana.

Score at the Shore—Jacksonville

President's Day weekend usually means an extra day off from school for most kids, but not for the Springfield S.C. U16 & U17 players. It meant traveling to Jacksonville, FL to participate in the Score at the Shore College Showcase February 16-19, 2007. The showcase event was held at various sites in the Jacksonville area and allowed the teams to participate in some full-sided outdoor games with warmer than Missouri weather. The Under 16 team went 3-1 with their only loss to Kendall Soccer Coalition who were the eventual Finalist. The 17's lost in the Quarter-Finals to Oakville Blue Stars from Ontario, Canada. "The weekend was an excellent opportunity for our teams to play outside against teams from outside the region. With State Cup being moved up from June to April, getting these high-level games will hopefully give us a head start on our competition." said Jeremy Alumbaugh Director of Soccer Operations. A group of over 50 players, parents and family members traveled together as a group and they provided plenty of support to the players.

With over 75 college coaches in attendance there was special motivation for the players to show well. "Score at the Shore is just another example of the type of showcase events that our players can go compete against the best in front of college coaches and gain tremendous exposure. There were coaches from throughout the country watching our players." said Alumbaugh. With the success of Springfield S.C.'s first venture into a "big" trip like this there are sure to be more opportunities in the future for players in the club to attend other events like the Score at the Shore. A special thanks to Geri Curti and Gary Brown for their tremendous van driving skills in getting the players to and from all of the events on time. THANK YOU!



3rd Annual Springfield Soccer Club Awards Banquet

The event was held at the White River room at Bass Pro and the night was filled with excitement through auctions and raffle giveaways. Our club support showed with the raffle for the Trip to Florida selling out of tickets!!! The lucky winner of the trip was the Geeslin family and they are looking forward to some sunny days in Florida. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Scott Bailes after dealing his way into the drawing.

Awards handed out by the club and teams are also an annual highlight of the banquet. The family of the year was the Prater family; they have spent much of their time helping and making sacrifices of time and energy for the soccer community and SSC. Sue Kutz received the supporter of the year award for her dedication; in particular her hard work in setting up team travel for the club. Thank you to both recipients for their help in making SSC what it is today.

The player of the year awards are handed out to departing U-18 players that have been successful both on the field and off. Past winners have been Patrick Carver (Emory University), Katie Brooks (William Jewell College), Andrew Parsons (New Mexico University) and Rachel Lavoy (Purdue University). This year's winners have displayed great work ethic and determination throughout their careers. On the boys side Tom Marlow was the winner and for the girls Elle Holtmann was honored. Both players have plans of continuing their playing days. Elle signed with Rockhurst University and Tom is currently deciding between multiple schools. We wish them the best of luck in their college careers.

Each year a team award is handed out for each SSC team, this award is based on players that have shown commitment, work ethic and leadership both on the field and off. Congratulations to all of the winners:

Boys

YA- Stephen Bates
97/98- Mason Shelor
96/97 Red- Tyson Batiste
96/97 White- Cameron Durst
95/96 Red- John De la Torre
95/96 White- Derek Roberts
94/95 Red- Matt Call
94/95 White- Kory Hellmer
93/94 White- Randy Freeman
93/94 Red- Luke Moore
92/93 White- Ricky Wallenburg
92/93 Red- Alec Martinez
91/92- Patrick Baltz
90/91- Ryan Moses
89/90- Matt Beckett
88/89- Tyler Kutz

Girls

YA- Ireland Hawkins
97/98- Alyson Goodale
96/97- Mary Maerz
95/96 Red- Miriam Melugin
95/96 White- Savannah Patillo
94/95- Allie Bannasik
92/93- Molly Brewer



Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible, in particular Christie Greene, Tracy Opfer and Stacy Garner. And also thank you to the families of SSC, your support and dedication to the club is greatly appreciated.



Q & A with SSC Alumni: Patrick Carver



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

PC: Definitely adjusting to the classes. Getting into good study habits early is the best way to stay on top of the work. Teachers are less involved so it's really up to you as the student to be accountable for the work.

SSC: *What is the biggest difference between youth soccer and college soccer?*

PC: From a technical perspective, college soccer is much faster. There isn't a huge jump in skill from youth to college; things are just being done at a faster pace. Teams still use a number of different styles of play. The college soccer environment is much different than youth soccer. During the season, everyday is a practice or game day. Weekends are a mix of home and away games. College soccer gives you the opportunity to travel with your team to play across the country. Overall, it is a more intensive soccer environment but definitely worth the effort.

SSC: *What is a typical week like in season?*

PC: Class everyday during the day. We practice MWF from 3-5 and TT from 5-7 with either 1 or 2 games during the week.

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

PC: I would have liked to spend more time playing against older, faster competition. When you're playing there is just less time for resting. It took me a couple of weeks to adjust to the speed of play when I came in as a Freshman. Working hard to play fast prior to college will help the transition.

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

PC: I think the best team we have played is Furman University. They came to Atlanta earlier this year and we lost 1-0.

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

PC: SSC most importantly gave me a chance to play a lot. I would always go to older and younger teams practices to get the extra workout. The guys at SSC make it easy to play a lot. The coaches helped me learn how to play the right way and be most effective in a game.

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

PC: Get started early and take advantage of the SSC College Assistance Program and the coaches at SSC. They can do a lot for you if you put in the effort too. Figure out what you are looking for in a school but talk to all of them. Make sure coaches know who you are.

Spring Season

The current Spring season will see SSC teams participating in many leagues and tournaments. The following teams will be playing in the LCS leagues. For the boys, YA Red, YA White, 97/98, 96/97 White, 96/97 Red, 95/96 White. 94/95 White and the 93/94 White will participate in LCS leagues. And for the girls, YA, 97/98, 96/97, 95/96 White and 94/95 will be playing in the LCS leagues.

The following teams will be playing in the KC Champions league on the boy's side, 94/95 Red, 93/94 Red and the 91/92.

Also many of our teams have earned spots in the Midwest Regional League. Those teams are the following for the boys, 92/93 Red, 90/91, 89/90 and the 88/89. This is one of the toughest leagues in which teams qualify through State Cup play.

We wish all teams the best of luck in their Spring season through league play and their tournaments and State Cup play!!!!



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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