



# The Storm Watch

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 8

MARCH 06, 2015

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## Staff

- Director of Coaching: Scott Armstrong
- Director of Academy: Rob Dinnie
- Junior NPL Director: Dean Flexton
- Administrator: Marisa Whisel

## TOPSoccer Continues to Grow at Space Coast

TOPSoccer was created by US Youth Soccer to help children from the ages of 4-19 with disabilities learn, practice, and play the sport of soccer. Jennifer and Kevin Neighbor have run the TOPSoccer program at Space Coast for the past six years with the invaluable assistance of their daughter Kala and a dedicated group of teenage Buddies from our Select and Recreation programs.

TOPSoccer began at our club in 2007 and won the FYSA Club of the Year award in 2014. Our program continues to grow with a 15% increase in participant registration over last year. Our 2015 players range in age from almost 3 to 16. Jennifer said of the program's strength, "I think our program continues to grow because the parents of our players see how great the physical and social interaction of the program benefits their children's lives."



We are so grateful to the Neighbors for their tireless efforts to make sure Space Coast United TOPSoccer is well-run and provides such a wonderful experience to so many people. If you would like to help Jennifer coordinate a fundraising initiative or know of a company in our area that would happily make a donation to the program, please [email her](#). Space Coast is committed to providing this program free of charge to all participants. We would be very appreciative of any and all financial support.

## U19 Girls Select Taking Tournaments By Storm

Coach Brett Restivo and Bill Richards' U19 Girls Select returned home champions from the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Tampa Bay Soccer Classic – President's Day Tournament (February 14-15). After losing their first game 1-4 to Ridge Youth, the team went on to win their next three games. They easily shut out Winter Haven with a massive 7-0 pummeling and beat West Pasco 2-1 to reach the Final. The ladies replayed Ridge Youth for the championship and turned the tables on them this time to win 2-1.

Coach Restivo was extremely pleased and said, "It was a team effort in which multiple players scored and the defense and goalkeeper came up with big plays. This was a great win for the team just prior to getting ready for Regionals." Great example of not letting an early result determine the outcome of an event.

The team topped their group in Region B and return to the Regional Final Four for their third straight year.





### Space Coast United Player Code of Conduct

- ◆ I will always play to the best of my ability
- ◆ I will play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- ◆ I will respect my teammates, the other team, the referee, and my coach/manager
- ◆ I will play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- ◆ I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- ◆ I will listen and respond positively to what my coach/team manager tells me
- ◆ I will talk to the coach and then director if not resolved when unhappy



## A Fond Farewell to Bev Gibbs, NPL Coordinator

Space Coast United Soccer Club would like to thank Beverly Gibbs for her service to our members as the club NPL Coordinator. She has worked tirelessly to help make our NPL programming operate as smoothly as possible. Her efforts are greatly appreciated and we cannot emphasize how much her assistance has meant to our coaching staff, team managers, and the club as a whole. She leaves us with some significant shoes to fill. Thank you Bev!

Our club NPL Coordinator (NPLC) has an extremely important role as the liaison between Space Coast United, the other NPL clubs throughout the state, and the Florida NPL staff. The NPLC is an invaluable assistant to our Director of Coaching and enables Coach Armstrong to spend more time working with our kids instead of pushing paperwork. Isn't that what we all want to see?

The NPLC facilitates game reschedule requests for our 12 NPL teams, submits Game Change Request forms to the Florida NPL staff, ensures that games are rescheduled in a timely manner to avoid fines, trains team managers on the proper procedures for game day check in for our home NPL matches, and collects and submits game day reports and rosters to the Florida NPL staff for our home games.

The right person for this position will have good communication and organizational skills, proficiency with email, and basic knowledge of spreadsheet and word processing software programs. It probably would not hurt to have a little bit of inherent patience as well.

Once NPL posts the official schedule at the beginning of the season, there will be a number of hours required to reschedule conflicts. These are inevitable because of ACT/SAT testing dates, tournaments, homecoming, etc. The NPLC should be prepared to devote approximately six to ten hours per week for the first three weeks of the NPL season in August. That time commitment drops to just three to six hours per week for the remainder of the season which concludes in May.

Space Coast United cannot emphasize enough how much we need to find the right person for this role. Don't worry, we will provide training to properly prepare someone for the necessary tasks. Please contact Scott Armstrong or Ann Fuller to apply.



## U14 Girls Select Make Region B Final Four

Coach Alyssa Esposito's U14 Girls won all three of their games in the Challenge Round this past weekend. They beat Brevard Soccer Alliance 3-1, blanked Indian River Soccer Association 2-0 and shut out the Orlando City Youth 1-0. The girls now advance to the Final Four of Region B. As their coach put it so eloquently, "Woohoo!"



# Spring Break Camps

Monday, March 23 – Thursday, March 26  
Viera Regional Park



**Striking Finishing Camp**

Ages 6-18  
9:30 a.m. – Noon  
\$110.00

**Mini-Camp**

Ages 4-5  
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
\$79.00

To register for camp, just click on the big friendly red Register Now button on the [Camp](#) page of our website.

## Meet the Coach: Johnny Mitchell

*“Never ever quit, just keep playing!”*

Coach Johnny Mitchell is starting his fourth season as a volunteer coach with Space Coast United. He coaches a U12 Rec team that competes in BYSL league play.

One of his favorite things about coaching is you get to be your own kid’s soccer coach. He says, “I had a great soccer coach growing up who made a positive impact on me. The opportunity to make that kind of impact on a kid is pretty awesome.” He loves his job and family time, but any chance to be on an open field with kids playing soccer is likely the highlight of his day, even when it’s raining!

He is determined to improve each player’s ability to play the game as a team. He wants to challenge them to be responsible for their position. His coaching philosophy is to encourage his team to play with enthusiasm.

Coach Mitchell has played soccer his entire life; as a youth, in high school, intramural leagues as a service member and in college, indoor leagues, adult leagues, lunch time with co-workers, you name it! He is partial to the sport and says, “you can play this game for the rest of your life no matter where you live, so keep playing the game. Never ever quit, just keep playing!”





## Bill of Rights for Young Athletes

1. Right to participate in sports.
2. Right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's maturity and ability.
3. Right to have qualified adult leadership.
4. Right to play as a child and not as an adult.
5. Right to share in the leadership and decision-making of sport participation.
6. Right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
7. Right to proper preparation for participation in sports.
8. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success.
9. Right to be treated with dignity.
10. Right to have fun in sports.

~ National Association for Sport and Physical Education

# Alumni News

## Laurendi Signed By USL PRO Austin Aztex

Goalkeeper [Cody Laurendi](#) is an experienced professional soccer player. He spent three years in Belgium playing for Montegnée then returned to the U.S. to play with NASL's Puerto Rico Islanders. He joined the Fort Lauderdale Strikers in 2013, but was quickly picked up by USL PRO's LA Galaxy II where he totaled 19 appearances last year, including one in our backyard against Orlando City. The Austin Aztex signed him in January for two years, where he has already appeared in three pre-season games against DC United, Columbus, and Houston.

Space Coast United was the first youth club Cody ever played for. He began at the age of 4 or 5 on a U6 team. Cody has tons of great memories including his uncle as his first coach and league matches during pouring rainstorms. He says, "falling in love with the game of soccer happened on the Space Coast United soccer fields."

Space Coast U14 keeper, Colin Fuller, had the opportunity to work out with Cody for two months while Laurendi was home in Melbourne for the holidays. Colin said that training with Cody was, "a great experience that helped me grow as a player and gain confidence in myself."



Cody offers some great advice for aspiring professional players. He encourages them to "never think you are too good to be coached and keep a mindset of 'what I want now vs. what I want most' when it comes to soccer." He understands the drive for success, but also advises young players to "enjoy the process of growing in the game and don't get frustrated if it doesn't happen overnight. Stay positive and work hard!"

## Bathelt Training with Top Argentinian Club

Jesse Bathelt, a four year Space Coast player under Coach Dean Flexton and Coach Scott Armstrong, is currently in Argentina training with [Club Atletico Banfield](#). Jesse trained with us over the last month to make sure he was in great shape for his trip. He was originally slated to play with their U19 squad, but instead has been assigned to the Reserves!

Club Atlético Banfield is located in the city of Banfield, Buenos Aires. It was founded in 1896 by town residents of British origin, mostly from England and some from Scotland and Ireland. The club was promoted in 2013 to the Primera División, the first division of the Argentine football league system.



**¡Buena suerte Jesse!**



**Monday, March 16**  
**5:00—9:00 p.m.**  
**Viera Regional park**

You can learn more about each of the candidates on this [Page](#) of the website.

**Rules Of The Game**

At one point during a soccer game, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is how we play together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes.

"So," the coach continued, "when offside is called, or a handball is not called, you don't argue or curse or attack the referee. Do you understand all that?" Again the little boy nodded.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

## Soccer on The Bookshelf

Whether you were introduced to the game for the first time through your child's involvement and want to learn what it is all about or have been a lifelong fan, there are some great soccer (football) books covering the sport from just about every angle you can imagine. Here are just a few we can recommend. All are available on Amazon and some from your local library.

**Soccer for Dummies** by Thomas Dunmore and Scott Murray: Yes, it really does exist and it is a good way to get a handle on soccer rules and regulations, basic moves and plays, positions, and much more.

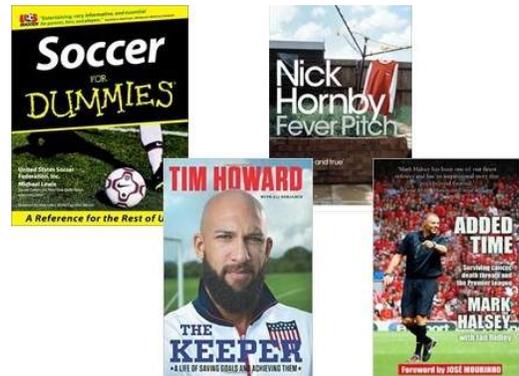
**The World's Game: A History of Soccer** by Bill Murray: Originally published in 1998, this is a great read for both those who love the game and those fascinated by history.

**The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer** by David Goldblatt: Another one for the history buffs, this is the definitive book about soccer. It does not get any more comprehensive than this!

Just about every well-known player has a biography or ghost-written autobiography, including Lionel Messi, Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo, etc. Tim Howard recently released **The Keeper: A Life of Saving Goals and Achieving Them** about U.S. National Team goalkeeper, Diagnosed with Tourette's in the fifth grade, he addresses the psychological and professional challenges he has faced and the faith that sustains him. Another motivational book from a surprising source, which includes insights on the English professional game, is **Added Time: Surviving Cancer, Death Threats and the Premier League** by Mark Halsey, an English Premier League referee for 14 years.

From a fan perspective, two highly enjoyable books are the classic **Fever Pitch** by Nick Hornby and **Bloody Confused!: A Clueless American Sportswriter Seeks Solace in English Soccer** by Chuck Culpepper. In the former, Hornby's award-winning memoir covers his relationship with Arsenal Football Club. In the latter, Culpepper moves to London in 2006 and pledges his loyalty to Portsmouth, describing the experience as "childhood with beer".

Have you got a favorite book about soccer? Tell us about it on our [Facebook page!](#)





Established in 1984, Space Coast United Soccer Club is a non-profit run by volunteers dedicated to families who wish to enjoy the sport of soccer and to provide opportunities to play at all levels from ages three to eighteen with the highest quality of programs available in the State of Florida.

### Our Programs

Micro/Mini-Kickers  
Ages 3-5

Youth Development and Academy  
Ages 4-11

Competitive: Select/NPL  
Ages 9-19

Recreational  
Ages 13-18

Goalkeeper Academy  
Ages 9-19

TOPSoccer  
Ages 4-19

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Website: [www.spacecoastsoccer.org](http://www.spacecoastsoccer.org)

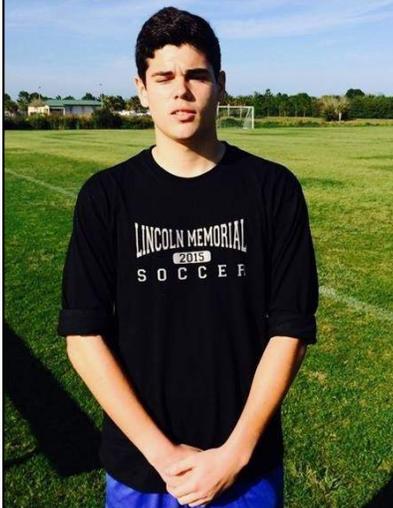


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## Jesse Della Porta



Lincoln Memorial University  
Harrogate, TN

## Megan O'Reilly



Concord University  
Athens, West Virginia

## College Signing News Continues to Roll In

We are so excited for Megan and Jesse and share their families' pride in their accomplishments.

We wish them continued success in their academic and soccer careers.

Best of luck and keep playing!



It's not just for uniforms! Click through to Soccer.com's [Storm Gear store](#) to order spirit wear such as t-shirts, hats, and hoodies.

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