

# Kenmore Soccer News

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July 2015

## *Player Registration Open for 2015-2016 Season*

Although there are still nearly four weeks left in the current season, we have opened player registration for the 2015-2016 season, due to significant interest from new players looking to join travel soccer for the first time, and players looking to move from other soccer organizations.

Unlike many soccer clubs, there is no cost to register for Kenmore Soccer. Fees are not due until you accept a roster spot. However, early registration allows us to determine how many teams we will be forming, and allows us to align our staff. Once we have done that, we then issue rostering offers.



As in past years, you can request placement on a specific team. We do our best to honor those requests, but United States Youth Soccer does impose maximum roster sizes, so we cannot always meet everyone's request.

To register for the 2015-2016 season, simply log into your account and select the Register link next to your child's name. Travel and Travel/Academy for 2015-2016 should appear as an option to select.

New players to Kenmore Soccer will need to create an account before registering, by following the instructions under the Join Kenmore Soccer link on the landing page at [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com).

**Register for Summer Camp**

see page 7

**Register for Speed/Agility/Coerver Camp**

see page 7

## Update on Prior Uniform and Equipment Donations to Kawelle

Several years ago, when we changed uniform suppliers from Select to Nike, we collected old uniforms and equipment for shipment to a small school in Vumilia, a small village in remote Kenya. We wanted to give you an update on that school., which was founded by Kawelle, a non-profit organization focused on bringing education to that area of the world.

The school which is focused on Information Technology, just graduated it's first class of students. These students are now ready to join the work force, and help grow technology and the use of the internet in Kenya. In fact, those who are not attending the school can still use school resources to access the web.



Our thanks to everyone within Kenmore Soccer who participated in the collection and shipment of soccer items, which helped create sports opportunities and recreation for these students and the village, as we all work to grow the game of soccer, by building bridges with those less fortunate than us.

## Apparel Orders

We continue to offer on-line apparel ordering. Consolidated orders are placed with Inaria on the 1st and 15th of each month, so plan accordingly.

## Kenmore Soccer Under 16 Ambush Capture Odenbach Cup

Congratulations to the Under 16 Girls Kenmore Ambush on capturing the League Cup in the Under 16 Division at the Odenbach Tournament. The Cup ends with the Under 16 age group, so this represented the girls' final opportunity in the competition.

They began the single elimination competition with a 5-2 win over the Lakeshore Lightning, and followed that up with a hard fought 3-0 win over the Tritown Thunder, which placed them into the championship game versus the Alden Lady Eliminators.

The championship game was a 60 minute battle that ended 1-1, which meant that the title would be decided by penalty kicks. Gabi Gary made two stops in the shootout, and the girls took the title 4-3.



## Under 14 Girls Kenmore Ambush Stage Furious Comeback in Championship Game to Capture Wilson Tournament

What began as a leisurely stroll in the preliminary games, evolved into a major challenge in the finals of the Under 14 Girls Division at the Wilson Tournament. The Kenmore Ambush defeated Wilson Lake FX 4-0, and followed that with a 3-0 blanking of Lancaster-Depew, but the playoffs would prove to be a bigger challenge.

Those wins led to a semi-final match versus the Grand Island Warriors, and although they finally conceded some goals, the Ambush emerged with a 4-2 win. That led to a re-match with a Lancaster-Depew side that buried Akron 5-0 in the other semi-final.

A slow start, and some poor defensive spacing, resulted in a 3-1 lead for Lancaster-Depew at halftime. The Ambush adjusted by closing the gaps, and switching to a high pressure game to attempt to keep the ball in the offensive end of the pitch. A goal with 13 minutes remaining made the score 3-2, while continued pressing led to a tying goal with a little over 4 minutes to play. A shootout loomed, but the players decided to try and settle the match in regulation. With under one minute remaining, Inaya Queegly fought her way into the goal box, before getting off a sharp angle shot toward the far post, where Lauren Gwizdowski was able to tap the ball into the net for the 4-3 win.

After several 2nd place finishes in recent tournaments, all of the girls contributed to finally getting a 1st place win. Congratulations girls!



# Four Ways Youth Sports Can Help or Hurt a Child's Experience

by Ashley Fairbanks (of The Signal)

It is estimated that more than 21.5 million children between the ages of 6 and 17 play team sports. This data, collected by ESPN, also found that 60 percent of boys and 47 percent of girls are already on teams by age 6. ESPN's research also indicates the No. 1 reason a child quits a team sport is because he or she was not having fun. "I absolutely agree," regarding ESPN's research study, said Toi Chisom, recreation superintendent for the city of Santa Clarita. "For us in recreation, our number one goal is for the youth to have fun."

Why are these children not having fun? With obesity being a health epidemic in America, shouldn't adults be trying to ensure that the children are enjoying active participation in sporting programs? It's well-documented that parents can get out of hand at games, and anyone who has sat on the sideline of a game, whether recreational or competitive, can understand why many of these children are not having fun. Simply put: The adults are ruining it for the children. The actions of some parents and coaches are taking all the fun out of sports.

"Some athlete's parents have a huge influence on how they race (perform)," said Saugus senior Samantha Ortega, who is a three-time Foothill League Cross Country and three-time Signal Cross Country runner of the year. "At times it can take the fun out of the sport, making races all that more serious and critical and sometimes nerve-wrecking," she continued.

Below are four problems youth sports programs are facing.

## 1. Focus is on winning, not on having fun.

Many have lost perspective about why team sports were started. The U.S. Youth Soccer organization states its "mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth. Our job is also to make it fun, and instill in young players a lifelong passion for the sport." "We do recognize winning is a part of sports but not the main focus. Fun is our main goal in youth recreation," Chisom said. According to the Little League, which was established more than 75 years ago, "The outcome of a game will never outlive the pride of belonging, the experience of playing, the friends and the fun." These mission statements are the reason so many parents, coaches and volunteers decide to spend time with children engaging in sports activities. Somewhere in the process, many of these adults and children forget that having fun is more important than winning. The pressure to compete for athletic scholarships also plagues high school athletics. "It varies athlete to athlete," Ortega said. "Personally, my parents have never put pressure on me." "There has never been pressure to obtain a scholarship," Chisom said. "But there has been pressure to compete, to win. It's more important that they're moving and not sitting at the table. Parents need to allow kids to have their own experiences and also allow them to have fun," Chisom said. At the end of the day, only 1 in 6,000 players will make it to the NFL; 1 in 4,000 will make it to MLB; and 1 in 10,000 will make it to the NBA, according to Statistic Brain. The odds of a child's professional sports dreams are slim, so parents should spend more time helping him or her enjoy the game while he or she is young. "The only way to go professional in a sport is for the kids to enjoy what they're doing," Chisom said.

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## 2. Children's performance becomes more important than their health.

A June 2011 report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, warned that "stimulant-containing energy drinks have no place in the diets of children or adolescents." "For recreation the priority is placed on fun and healthy activities" said Chisom. Have you witnessed parents on the sidelines giving their young children these types of energy drinks, hoping to increase their performance? Are you guilty of providing your child with unhealthy options to boost his or her performance during a game? While the financial costs of youth sports continue to rise, the threat of injury and not properly taking care of these young bodies is a much bigger concern. What price are parents willing to pay for their child to excel at the sport of his or her choice? Is the time these children spend training excessive based on their age? Safekids.org reports that 1.24 million children were seen in emergency rooms for sports-related injuries. It also states that more than half those athletes injured continued to play in the game because they didn't want to let their coach down or were afraid they would be benched. We need to be more concerned about a child's lifelong health instead of his or her (or a parent's) temporary sports aspirations.

## 3. Specializing children too young.

According to a research brief prepared by John O. Spengler, "Sport specialization may be considered an intensive, year-round training in a single sport at the exclusion of other sports." Many youth sports programs begin training academies for children to develop their skills as early as 6 years old.

"At 6 years old, you really don't know much about anything; all you do know is you want to have fun," said Chisom. If children don't begin in these specialized training academies, parents worry their children will miss the opportunity to play competitive sports when the opportunity arises, many as early as age 9. Research done by Spengler for the Aspen Institute Project Play determines, "Early sport specialization does not enhance the opportunity for long-term athletic success in almost all sports and may increase the risk for overuse injury and burnout." Children are being forced to "specialize" or pick one sport before they are even preteens. They rarely get an opportunity to experience numerous sports because coaches expect undivided attention to the sport they are coaching. The time and money commitments make it almost impossible for children to play more than one sport. "Not every kid is going to be interested in one thing," Chisom said. "They don't know what they don't know — give them options." In an article published in the *New York Times*, Paul Sullivan writes, "With travel teams and indoor versions of outdoor sports now in full swing, some former top athletes and even the coaches who feed parents' obsessions are encouraging caution. The willingness to spend heavily — in money, time, emotion and a childhood — needs to be looked at more carefully, they say." "The best athlete is the well-rounded athlete," said Chisom. "The football quarterback might really be a star point guard; the pitcher might really be a great goalie, but they will never know if they are never given the option."

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4. Caring more about the game than the child.

"We try to keep the kids first," Chisom said. In an article written by John O' Sullivan, author of "Changing the Game," he suggests six questions parents should ask themselves about their child's sports experience:

1. Is my child having fun?
2. Does this game/league/event serve the needs of the children, or the needs of the adults?
3. Have youth sports become more important to me or my child?
4. Is there a way to get a similar experience in a less intrusive, less costly way?
5. What is my child learning from this experience, and does it match the values we are teaching at home?
6. Is our family keeping our priorities in order (family, church, school, vacations, sports, finances, commitments, etc.)?

O'Sullivan suggests to leave the child alone on the car ride home. If the child wants to talk about the game then let him or her bring it up. He suggests: "Many children indicated to me that parental actions and conversations after games made them feel as though their value and worth in their parents' eyes was tied to their athletic performance, and the wins and losses of their team."

"It's all about the kids. We have a coaching rating system, where coaches are rated based upon certain criteria, and if they do not meet those specific criteria they will be dismissed," said Chisom. "We have dismissed parents before too, if they do not follow our 'kidzone' rules."

Despite the pressure to do well, Sam Ortega said "at the end of the day, each athlete on our team finds some sort of joy in running. Kids look up to their parents and coaches. Parents and coaches can create a positive or negative experience – it's up to them," concluded Chisom.

## *Kenmore Soccer Expands Availability of Health Benefits to Pay Fees*

Kenmore Soccer is pleased to add the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Wellness Card program to our options for the payment of soccer fees. Similar to the Independent Health Flexfit and personalBest! Programs, payment is made on-line through the Kenmore Soccer web site, by entering the card data as through it was a Visa card.



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of Western New York**

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Health.**

## 2015 Summer Camp Registration is Open

Plans are well underway for our annual Summer Soccer Camp. As in past years, the camp will function through the Community Education office of the Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District. This year's camp will be held from Monday July 6th through Friday July 10th, from 9:00am to Noon each day. The camp is open to all players ages 7 through 13 (born after 7/31/2001 and before 8/1/2008).

We had a record number of campers last year, and we are looking forward to this year's session. The camp will be led by Nick DeMarsh, the Director of Coaching for Kenmore Soccer and head Women's Soccer Coach at Buffalo State College. The staff will include Prisco Houndanon, the Director of the Kenmore Soccer Academy; Brian Knapp, Assistant Women's Coach at Buffalo State College and a former Division 1 player at the University of Buffalo; Tom Karanas, Assistant Men's coach at Buffalo State College; and several local college and amateur players.

Registration is now open through the Club website at [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com). To register, simply login to your account and select Summer Camp after clicking on the "New Programs" link for your child. Independent Health Flexfit and personalbest! can be used by those with those programs. We have also added the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Wellness card program which can be used. Others can pay on-line with their credit card, or can mail a check.

Registration can also be done through the Community Education office, through the instructions in the Spring/Summer catalog.

Based on last year's camp, and the growth of our programs, we are expecting to have another record number of campers. We encourage you to register as soon as possible so we can adequately plan, and ensure our camp continues to be the best in our community.



## 2015 Speed, Agility, and Coerver Camp Registration is Open

Kenmore Soccer is pleased to offer a Speed, Agility, and Coerver Camp this summer, to be held at Parker Field from 9:00-11:00am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from July 13th through August 7th. The 12 two hour sessions will focus on running form, first step quickness, and skill development. The cost is \$45, and players can register and pay through their on-line Kenmore Soccer account at [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com).

Participants will need sneakers, soccer cleats, shin guards, a soccer ball, and water at every session. The camp will be led by Shane Magaris, a New York State certified track coach, a licensed soccer coach, and the track coach at Kenmore East High School for the past 15 years. Shane has coached multiple sectional and state champions in the 100 and 200 meter sprints. In addition, he has 10 years experience as a national level college soccer referee.

We will be limiting the camp to the first 50 registrations, so register early if you are interested. For those who will be attending our Summer Soccer Camp during the week of July 6th, you can begin this camp the following week and we will rebate a portion of your fee.



Dear Kenmore Soccer Club:

Thank you for all the soccer balls, jerseys and cleats. All the Jordanian kids loved everything. It was amazing because some kids walked into the soccer camp with no shoes and ripped shirts. They all loved everything you gave them. Thank you for everything.

From,  
Colton Christian



Thank you soooooo much for allowing Kenmore Soccer Club to collect soccer gear for Colton's trip to Jordan. Above is a picture of the 80 Syrian Refugee Boys that attended a soccer camp that Colton and his dad were involved in while they were in Jordan last month. Colton had an incredible time! During the camp they were able to hand out shoes to kids who came barefoot every day to play (they had no shoes) and then to the boys who only owned flip flops. Each child was able to get a shirt (most boys only had ripped shirts). Colton said when they handed out all the soccer gear they were wide eyed and big smiles! They ran from the camp and told everyone. It was an incredible blessing to these boys. The balls will be used for future soccer camps for these kids...along with some of the gear that was left over.

### Trivia Question

(answer on page 10)

What country will host the 2019 Women's World Cup?

## The World Cup Experience

Having played soccer in the 1960s, when few people knew the rules, and even your parents wouldn't come to the games, it is wonderful to see how far the game has come. Women in the United States has few opportunities to play competitive sports until the early 1980s, but even then, the United States was in the forefront of creating opportunities for female players, most notably through the enactment of Title IX. Other nations did not begin competitive soccer for women until the past 20 years.

As someone who grew in that environment, what an amazing sight to sit in BC Place in Vancouver with over 52,000 other spectators to see the United States Women's national team play Nigeria on June 16th. The 1-0 victory by the U.S. team was exciting to watch, but the atmosphere and fan support was truly amazing.

You will probably never find me in the picture below, but we had seats that were roughly 10 rows below the main Nigerian cheering section. Replete with a band, their fans never stopped drumming and chanting in support of their team for the full 90 minutes of the match. Many traveled over 8000 miles to be there. What a difference from the days that parents didn't even go to see their children play and what an amazing statement for the growth of women's sports in the past 30 years.

Ken Voght



*Trivia Answer* - from page 8

France is currently scheduled to host the 2019 Women's World Cup.



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youth soccer teams

*Submissions Anyone ??????????????*

We want this to be your newsletter. We also want you to be a part of the Club web site. So, we are looking for your ongoing input—articles, pictures, match highlights, team and player recognition, etc. Each team should consider having a designee that can channel information to the Club for inclusion in the newsletter or web site.

Send your submissions to us at [voght@msn.com](mailto:voght@msn.com). Pictures are welcome, but should be in a jpg or gif format.

## Kenmore Soccer Club Goals

- To be the best soccer club in our community
- To recruit and retain the finest youth soccer coaches in Western New York
- To continually evaluate and revise our coaching curriculum to insure that all of our players are participating in practice sessions that are challenging, interesting, and fun
- To encourage our players to develop healthy and responsible goals of their own

The Kenmore Soccer Club belongs to all of us, and we encourage you to bring your contributions and expertise to the club. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please speak to your child's coach or contact us directly at your convenience.

## Fund Raising

The Kenmore Soccer Club is able to conduct fund-raising, but each activity needs to be approved by our Board of Directors.

If your team wants to conduct any fund-raising, just e-mail us at [voght@msn.com](mailto:voght@msn.com) with the details of what you propose, and the eventual use of the funds raised. We will get back to you promptly.

## Contacting Us

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