



THE 56^{ER} STRIKER



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Madison 56ers
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Youth soccer got off to a good start this season thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who made the 2008 56er Fall Tournament such a success.



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Fall Tournament Another Fundraising Success

By Dean Groth, Tournament Director

The annual 56er tournament is the major fundraiser of our club, and the success of our tournament lies with those individuals and families who volunteered their talents and time. From our field marshals, kitchen servers, T-shirt sales people, clean up crews, registration helpers, awards presenters, team managers and tournament helpers, set-up crews, and anyone else that pitched in to help, thank you for making everything work.

A special thanks first goes to the 56er Board and their involvement in making sure we stayed on task and were successful. A special thanks to Sean Kinsey, our board liaison, who was instrumental in getting logistical issues completed, and to MJ White, our 56er administrator, who sets the tone for all of us: "Well, just makes sure everything gets done and is done right."

Some of the individuals you may not have seen, but who were vital in making sure the tournament ran smoothly, include Malain and Paul Flahaven, my mentors for their guidance and assistance in preparation. Dave Steiner, who will be our tournament director next year, helped throughout every phase of getting the tournament started and finished. He'll continue to keep the 56er tournament one of the best-run anywhere.

The kick-off committee of Kay Kaderbek and Sue Ellen Dolan kept a tradition in place -- our Friday night club dinner. They had help from Bill Stewart, Cheri Madsen, Jim Lizter, Karen Rizza, and Bette Kinderman. Again, thanks Kay and Sue Ellen to your help.

Extraordinary thanks go to Brad Zaugg and Fran Zaugg for all their time and work on putting the tournament program together. This is a major task that these two individuals undertook and completed again this year. Brad and Fran are both true examples of the 56er character this organization has developed.

The registration committee was headed by Norm Arendt. He was spectacular, especially when we had several teams stuck in Badger football game traffic that needed to be rushed through the registration process. Norm helped at the tournament all weekend. A special thanks to Mae Knowles, Glenis Benson, Wendy Donkle, Dana Jacobs, Pat Sweeney, Jill Goeres, Erin Mackesey, Janet Pruitt, Ann Slater, and Rob Flanigan. They made sure that the first impression guest clubs got of the 56ers was a good one, and they guaranteed a well-organized process for all.

The weekend of the tournament is always busy in Madison, with a major triathlon and a Badger football game, so coordination of housing for our guests is critical. Darsi Foss and Kris Koval organized the website and coordinated the hotels to help accommodate all those teams that stayed in Madison. Thank you Dana and Kris for your help with our guest teams' lodging.

Our T-shirt committee was chaired again this year by Paul Kinite. Paul handled all pre-orders and sales at the tournament with the help of these individuals: Andrew Hitchcock, Karen Nakasone, Sarah Canon, Terri Bresenham, Jody Femrite, Barbara Blodi, Laura Lenzen, and Riccardo Bambi. A special thanks to Karen Weisbrod, who initiated the design.



The 56er tournament requires a lot of hard work and determination on the field -- and behind the scenes.

The concessions committee was chaired by Lucie Arendt, my lifesaver in the kitchen. Lucie's team coordinated all the food, including meals for the referees. Ann Moser, Ann Wilson, Beth Walsh, Brad Wolbert, Cara Bostad, Janet Pruet, Doug Peaslee, Joan Hanson, Annamairie Wingke, Augustin Ndahoyo, Deb Wendoff, Julie Rich, Karen Hodgkiss, Kate Young and Sandy Dennis all served on the committee. This group is special and we all thank you for your hard work.

Our official scorer, Mook Welch, led the scoring committee at the tournament. This was done electronically with the watchful eyes of Mook, Dana Jacobs, Jim Ledin, and Karen Prudent. My sincere thanks to all of you for helping behind-the-scenes and making our tournament move smoothly on Saturday and Sunday.

Our trophy committee again this year was led by Maria Palmer, with help from Rileuw Bernurdinello, and Tom Steidmann. The task of this committee was to award participants with a remembrance of the great experience they had at our tournament. Our U-18 boys team assisted in the presentation of awards, and Mr. Bill Reddan was the master of ceremonies and honored representative of the 56er club. Many praises came from our visiting teams on the awards ceremony, from U-10 to U-18.

Lastly, many thanks to John Reddan, our coaching director, who I relied on for direction and decisions at the tournament. He continually lead our club and tournament with integrity, and this is why the 56er organization is so outstanding.

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Coach Danny van Mol Takes Boys Team to Spain

After a year of extensive planning, last year's U15 Boys White team along with several players from the red team, Regent SC, and MYSC traveled to Barcelona with Coach Danny van Mol to participate in the Copa Catalunya last July. With the team originally scheduled to play in the Holland Cup in Danny's homeland, families made a quick readjustment when that tournament was cancelled and settled on the Copa Catalunya on the Mediterranean coast of Spain. It seemed at first that players would vastly outnumber any accompanying adults and fans, but by the time of departure the numbers were almost even, with 17 players to 3 U18 and 11 adult American and European travel companions and fans.



Taking in café life is all part of the international competitive soccer experience.

The experience proved to be better than even anticipated. The tournament included approximately 160 teams from 20 countries, all of them spread out in hotels up and down the coast from Lloret de Mar, the tournament host site. Our group was housed in a hotel in the small seaside town of Pineda de Mar, a short walk from the beach and town center. For many of the guys, this was their first trip abroad and/or their first trip to Spain, so the plans combined soccer with several days of travel throughout the area, including visits to Barcelona (with a tour of Camp Nou Stadium), the medieval town of Girona, the northern coast with seaside cliff-town Tossa de Mar, and the mountains and monastery of Montserrat to the west. The tournament itself was a big hit — the team played six games (against two teams from Sweden, a Norwegian team, a Polish team, and two teams from France), and, in addition to official games, spent many afternoons playing street soccer (and basketball) in Pineda de Mar's central plaza.

The trip's highest highlights (there were many just plain highlights) were identified as: Barcelona — including especially Parc Guell and Camp Nou Stadium (complete with a locker room tour and photo-ops holding trophies), making noise at opening ceremonies, playing the orange team from Marseille, the beach, street soccer on the square, jump style at the disco, being identified as the hot basketball player by traveling Germans, the view from the top of Montserrat and riding the train to get there (for four-year-old Eric), and — unforgettably — the charming U17 girls team from Scotland. Consensus is that the trip's low point was hotel food.



The team's introduction to European soccer started with the basics — pick up soccer on the streets of Barcelona.

Now that everyone is safely back in town, with no injuries or illnesses and no lost players/ luggage/ ipods/ / cleats (all of it a potential concern), we feel relaxed enough to offer to share things we've learned over the course of the year with other teams who are considering going abroad. We were lucky to receive very generous corporate support for the team from Culvers, Jon Lancaster Toyota, Regent Soccer Club, Stephan's Soccer Supply, and Middleton Sports and Fitness, and had great success with several team fundraisers. These funds enabled us to provide partial scholarships for some players and to undertake the group excursions. We also have many thoughts about pre-trip organizing and the on-the-ground experience we'd be happy to share. Best contacts for any of that are Ken Felz and Marguerite Roulet. Overall, even though there were moments during the year when we wondered how and why we got ourselves into this, all would agree it was worth every moment spent collecting paperwork and sending emails and will surely be one of the guys' most memorable experiences.



Life's a beach in Barcelona.

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The Coaching Director's Corner

By John Reddan

4-4-2, 3-5-2, 4-3-3, 3-4-3, 4-5-1.

Why do coaches choose a particular system? What factors go into their choice? Should systems change during the season, during a game? Before discussing these questions let's back up: What the heck is a system of play and what are all those numbers about?

Generally speaking, a system of play refers to the number of defenders, midfielders and forwards a team uses in a game. The numbers go from the back to the front, so a 4-4-2 means four defenders, four midfielders and two forwards.

The history of systems or formations is a little too lengthy to go into here. However, system choices and the logic behind them is an ongoing discussion among coaches and soccer enthusiasts.

What dictates a coach's choice of system to play?

Most importantly, a coach reviews the personnel available to determine a system that she or he believes will work best for a particular group of players. There are three key considerations: Overall and individual skill level, athleticism, and speed. As those elements are broken down and assessed, a system that best fits the strengths and weaknesses of the team can then be chosen. The system is then tweaked further as coaches create "their" way of playing within a particular system. For example, in a 4-4-2, players in defense may be very skilled on the ball as well as good defenders, so the coach may ask those defenders to get into the attack quite a bit, overlapping their midfield teammates. Within the same system, the defenders may be good defenders, but with limited ball handling capability, so they are asked to "stay home" more often and play into those ahead of them to carry out the attack.

Another factor may be what the opposition brings to the table. If they are strong in the midfield, we may want to put five there. Do they have special players in certain areas we need to be aware of, and if so, do we need to adjust our system to counter those players — i.e. more defenders, more midfielders, deeper positioning in back, etc.? Are the opponents faster? Are they aggressive, or do they sit back and wait for us to make a mistake and counter attack? These are additional factors that may play a part in the coach's system decision.



Coaching Director John Reddan

What are additional factors dictating systems? How about weather for starters, with lots of wind in the face. Perhaps there should be an additional defender or one midfielder who hangs back a bit more. With the wind at our back, should we emphasize the attack with more forwards? What's the score of the game? Are we up a goal? Down a goal? How much time is left in the half? The game? Do we need a result to get promoted or to stave off relegation?

These are many of the questions that may play a part in what system a coach decides to utilize for a game. Most often, once a system is established, it is small adjustments within the system that may have a desired effect on a particular situation rather than wholesale changes. Big changes may bring about results in a particular game, but may also serve to confuse our teams' players if done too often. Some examples of small changes might include central defenders pushing higher toward midfield in order to cramp the space, especially if the other team is good at possession, or pushing one forward playing higher toward the other team's goal than the other forward because the opponent plays with a deep last defender, etc.

Of course, with every system there are weaknesses, and with every adjustment we may make there is the potential to create positives in one area while leaving ourselves vulnerable in others. It's these risk-reward factors and the assessment/placement of personnel that make the decision-making as a coach challenging and fun.

The game itself is pretty simple: ten outfield players and one goalkeeper. The players, regardless of the system, need to be able to run, pass, receive, shoot, cross, head, tackle, make saves and work as a unit if there is going to be any form of success. If players can't perform these basics, no system will transform them into a team that consistently wins games. A system takes the given talent and helps accentuate the positives while covering the weaknesses.

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Meet the Coaches - Julie Friesler

Name: Julie Friesler

Team(s) you are coaching: U13 Girls White

City where you live: Madison, Wisconsin

City where you grew up: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Q: What can you tell us about your soccer accomplishments?

I grew up playing with the Milwaukee Kickers SC (pre FC Milwaukee). I went to Whitefish Bay HS and as a freshman was the only one to make the varsity team. During my four years as a starter at WFB, I was all-conference and team captain. The details are a little fuzzy as this was a LONG time ago. I played four years of Division 1 ball at UW-Milwaukee under three different coaches. With a right knee that endured four surgeries, I spent as much time in the training room as on the pitch. I do recall senior day. We played cross-town rival Marquette and won the match 2 - nil. I was fortunate enough to tally both goals -- a great way to end my career at UWM.

Q: What is your earliest soccer memory?

I am not sure if this is my mom's memory or mine . . . The summer before third grade, my sister, mom and myself moved into our new home and neighborhood. While I was involved and loved all types of sports, I had never kicked a soccer ball and didn't know about the game. Our house faced the back of my elementary/middle school, which had a huge playground, tennis courts, football field and soccer pitch. I was looking out our picture window and watching a bunch of kids running around kicking a ball. I went up to my mom and said, "I think I'd like to go and try that out." She pointed at the man who seemed to be in charge and told me to go and ask him if I could play. The rest, as they say, is history. I came home a few hours later with grass-stained knees and a passion for a game called soccer. That man, an Englishmen named Jim Jolley, was my first soccer coach, my high school Spanish teacher and followed my soccer career through college. He would often sit at the end of our bench in high school or I would look up and see him in the stands at Engleman Field.

Q: What was your most embarrassing moment on the soccer field?

This actually happened just recently. I was playing in a match that my team was winning quite handily. Everything was clicking for us and the goals were coming very easily. My teammate sent a beautiful ball across our offensive goal mouth and all I had to do was lightly touch it and it would have gone in. Instead, as the ball came across, my eyes got huge and I took a big 'ol swing at it (something you should never do). Instead of making easy contact I decided to go for the side 1/2 volley. I missed the whole thing and the ball rolled out of bounds for a goal kick. My teammates and I were laughing so hard that we did not even realize the opposing team had taken their goal kick.

Q: What's your favorite food?

Either tofu squash curry (#26) from Lao Lang Xang or Coconut Encrusted Tofu from Dobhan, both on Atwood Avenue in Madison.

Q: What's your favorite vacation spot?

That's a tough one . . . so many places I have been, and so many places yet to see. I guess it is a tie between the Indonesian Island of Bali, beach camping on Kauai, and the Kalalau Trail.

Q: Who is your hero?

My sister.

Q: What's the best part of coaching children?

To watch their development and know that I may have had something to do with them achieving their goals. Also, helping them understand that team sports is about so much more than the sport itself.



When third-grader Julie Friesler first saw kids kicking a ball around the school soccer pitch behind her house, she went up to Englishman Jim Jolley -- the man in charge -- and asked to get into the game. "The rest, as they say, is history."

Q: What was your favorite class in grade school?

Gym, lunch and recess. Did I mention Gym?

Q: What's your dream job?

Being a professional photographer for either Sports Illustrated or National Geographic.

Q: What's your greatest accomplishment?

I don't know. I hope it hasn't happened yet . . . !



**Coach Friesler keeps perspective from the sidelines.
"Team sports is about so much more than the sport itself."**

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Meet the Coaches - Henry Aiyenero

Name: Henry Aiyenero

Team(s) you are coaching: U11 Boys Red and U11 Girls White

City where you live: Middleton, Wisconsin

City where you grew up: Lagos, Nigeria / Toronto, Canada

Family: Gretchen, Meredith, Margaret, Marius

Q: What can you tell us about your soccer accomplishments?

Member of the Canadian Under 21 National Team '93.

My U11 Boys Red Team winning the 2008 Ice Age Tournament.

My U11 Girls White beat MYSC (twice).

Playing for the local NPSL 56ers Team and the Madison United Major League Team.

Q: What is your earliest soccer memory?

Going to the Nigeria National Soccer Stadium to watch the National Team.

Q: What was your most embarrassing moment on the soccer field?

Lost 6-0 to another school my freshman year of high school.

Q: What's your favorite food?

Rice and meat.

Q: What's your favorite vacation spot?

Fortaleza, Brazil.

Q: Who's your hero, and why?

My Mom and Dad, because they always told me "Henry, the dictionary is the only place that success comes before work" and they lived by that motto.

Q: What is the best part of coaching youth players?

The opportunity to teach youth players the technical skills of soccer and be part of a creative, positive, and fun learning environment. Also, letting the game be the greatest teacher.

Q: What was your favorite class in grade school?

Physical Education.

Q: What's your dream job?

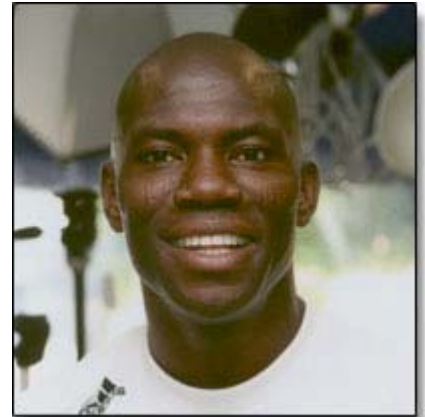
To play soccer, of course!

Q: What's your greatest accomplishment?

I am still waiting because the sky is the limit.

Q: What do you hope the 56ers Soccer Club will achieve in the next five years? 10 years?

I hope the 56ers will do the ordinary things extraordinarily well, and spend more time developing the youth program in the 56ers Soccer Club. I would like to see the youth program become the future of the club and have the 56ers be a national leader in development of youth soccer players.



Not only has Henry Aiyenero brought his love of soccer from Lagos, Nigeria and Toronto, Canada to coach. He brought his love of soccer to play, which he's done for the local NPSL 56ers adult team and for the Madison Union Major League Team.



Coach Aiyenero's motto for his teams, which include the U11 Boys Red:
"Remember! Train to better you. Keep fit and have fun."

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Your Gifts Support 56er Scholarships

By Michael Matty, Club President

Dear Families and Friends of the Madison 56ers,

It has been a tumultuous year for many of our player families. And while we are all concerned about the economic forecast ahead, we assure you that our Madison 56er teams and club are in good standing, with dedicated coaches and committed players from U11 to U18.

But to ensure that our coaches always have the chance to bring the area's best players to the soccer pitch, we encourage those of you who are able to contribute to our Madison 56er Scholarship Fund. Every measure of your support, large or small, will be greatly appreciated by players of all ages, whose opportunity to continue to play soccer competitively might not otherwise be realized. Your gift to our 501c (3) non-profit organization is also tax deductible, and we will send you a receipt for your records and a heartfelt thank-you.

Sending a gift to the Madison 56ers Scholarship Fund will help our club share your family's love of soccer with others who are equally as passionate about the greatest of team sports.

With much appreciation and on behalf of the entire Madison 56ers Soccer Club, its Coaches and Staff, as well as members of the Board of Directors, I thank you and wish you the very best for 2009.



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56er Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have ideas about how the Madison 56ers Soccer Club could make their 52-year-old organization even better? Our 501(c)3 non-profit is looking for active, energetic, and interested members to help us in many ways. We would especially appreciate hearing from anyone with formal skills or an informal interest in grant writing, marketing, database management, and fundraising. And don't be shy about forwarding this message to other team family members who you think might have the perfect skills to contribute to the betterment of the club.

We'd also like to encourage families who are newer to the club to get involved so that we can get to know one another.

Please contact your volunteer Board of Directors by e-mailing Madison56ers@gmail.org

We welcome any and all responses, and we appreciate your time and input!



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