

Placer United Soccer Club - News Archive Jan/Feb/Mar 2005

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- ★ **Winter Skills Camp a Success – A message from Nathan Williams** - Our First Winter Skills Camp this past December held at Oakmont High School on the artificial turf field was a huge success. Forty-five players from our U11s thru U14s participated in the camp. The quality of the players in camp this year was tremendous. Having worked with each group myself, it was clear to see that we as a club are doing a wonderful job of developing our young players. We made the camp very challenging for the players as we wanted to put them in an environment where they are still continuing their education in game whilst still enjoying every part of the experience on camp.
MLS Soccer player Taylor Graham stopped by to say hello, so we put him under pressure by having some of our players ask some pretty interesting questions. Taylor plays for the Kansas City Wizards, so be sure to look out for him the next time you are watching an MLS game on Fox Sports World. Placer United Soccer Club would like to thank Taylor for taking time out of his holiday break to share some of his experiences with our players.
I would also like to thank the players and parents for a very enjoyable week of soccer. I look forward to seeing you all in camp in the spring.
- Nathan
- ★ **Congratulations to our U11B (gold) and our U11B (black)** who took 1st and 2nd (respectively) at the Cap Valley Warm up tournament January 15-16, 2005. It was a great match between the 2 teams with a final score of 2-1. The two coaches handled the final game in impressive fashion. Before the game started, Josh Fitzgerald and Bart Morefield gathered both teams in a huddle and yelled a cheer out for Placer. It was wonderful to see that although these teams came out to play a competitive game of soccer, there was a sense of unity amongst the players, coaches and parents. Congratulations to the Prestige '95 gold and black teams for representing Placer United with dignity and respect for each other!!



★ **Meet Our 2005/2006 U11 Girls' Coach - Local Soccer Star Emmy Barr Returns to Coach at Placer United** - Placer United is excited to have Emmy Barr, former professional soccer player, join our talented coaching staff. Emmy will coach the Placer U11 girl's team in 2005. She has an impressive soccer credentials. After graduating from Oakmont High School, she began an outstanding college career at national powerhouse Santa Clara University. Playing as a defender, she was voted rookie of the year as a freshman and was a key contributor to the success of Santa Clara's team including finishing as the third ranked team in the NCAA. During high school and college she played on USA Regional and National teams including the USA Youth Regional Teams U-17, U- 19; USA Youth National Team U-20; and the USA National Team Pool in 1998.

When the Women's United Soccer Association was formed, the Washington Freedom selected her. She played for three years and was a key member of the 2003 Championship team.

Emmy also has an excellent coaching background. When the professional club suspended operations, she returned to the Sacramento area and began her college coaching career as an assistant with the Sierra College Woman's team. The Sierra ballclub is a perennial playoff team with a great shot at winning the State championship. Prior to the move to the college level, she coached several youth teams at the premier and competitive levels in both Virginia and Northern California. She helped take her California team to the Far West Regionals.

Emmy has her USSF Coaching “C” license and teaches soccer skills at camps and clinics including the Freedom Soccer Academy. She is committed to developing young girls and contributing to the success of women’s soccer in our area. Her coaching emphasis is on passing, ball control, and advancing the soccer skills for each player on her team.

She is very happy to return to the Roseville area and is looking forward to being a part of Placer United’s continued rise as a top-notch soccer club.



Meet Our 2005/2006 U11 Boys' Coach - Coach Gregg Thompson Brings a Wealth of Experience to Placer United - Gregg Thompson has an extensive soccer background that contributes greatly to his coaching success at Placer United Soccer Club. Last year his Placer U11 Boys Gold Team went undefeated and took first place in District Six league play. They also won 5 out of the 7 tournaments they entered. They were consistently ranked in the top 3 in northern California. This year his U12 team is playing up a year in the U13 bracket and is again contending for a first place finish.

Gregg’s coaching success parallels his personal achievements in college, professional, and international play. Because Gregg’s high school did not have a soccer team, Gregg played football throughout his high school years. He continued to play club soccer in the winter, spring & summer. By his senior year, he was a highly successful football player (running back) and received numerous football scholarship offers from colleges around the country.

His first love was soccer and wanted to continue with his soccer career; however, he would not be able to afford to give up the football scholarships being offered. He was about to accept a scholarship from the University of

Wisconsin or University of Colorado to play football when at the last moment; Indiana University offered him a scholarship to play soccer at their program. He accepted their offer and played 4 years of soccer for Indiana. He was recently named to Indiana’s All-Time “Best 11” Team.

During his college career, Indiana twice reached the NCAA championship game, only to lose in the final; however, during Gregg’s senior year, Gregg Thompson, team captain, won the NCAA Division 1 National Championship. Gregg scored both goals in the 2-1 victory over Duke University. Gregg was named MVP for the tournament and named ESPN Player of the Year.

After his college career, Gregg was the #1 draft pick of the professional league. He was drafted by the Tampa Bay Rowdies...one of the top teams in the NASL professional league. He played 2 years for the Rowdies and then was traded to the Minnesota Strikers in the MISL indoor league.

During his professional career, Gregg played for the U.S. Olympic Team, starting all the games in the 1984 Olympics. He also played for the U.S. National Team, representing the U.S. in the qualifying rounds of the 1986 World Cup. Altogether, Gregg accumulated 12 international appearances “caps” for the U.S. National “A” Team.

After his professional playing days were over, Gregg stopped playing soccer just long enough to get married and start a family. He got into coaching when the first of his four children were old enough to play organized soccer. He has his USSF National “B” License and has coached at the Recreational, Select, and Competitive levels. Gregg has set up his own company of soccer schools and camps, which he runs in the states of California and Minnesota (information can be found at www.gtsoccer.com) Gregg has also set up a free web site for coaches just starting to get involved with soccer. The site is animated with a lot of outstanding animated drills. (www.joesoccer.com)

Next year, Gregg is looking forward to coaching the U11 Boys Gold Team. Placer United is excited to have Gregg on our coaching staff and we look forward to having many U11 players from the area competing to make the team. Gregg believes the upcoming U11 Placer United team may be one of the most talented groups of players he has ever seen and can't wait for next season!

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