

Placer United Soccer Club - News Archive - Apr/May/June 2004

★ Placer Introduces our New Director of Coaching!

Part VI: Nathan Williams' Message to the Coaches

In his new position as Placer's Director of Coaching, Nathan Williams sees some areas for change. Two related issues he plans to focus on with the coaches are professionalism and licenses. He shared some of his ideas for the coaches.

One of Williams' main goals is to raise the level of professionalism among our coaches and build a supportive environment with less focus on individual coaches and more emphasis on the club as a whole. He said he sees things moving in the right direction already. "I think the coaches are starting to develop a pretty good relationship amongst each other. There are a lot more coaches at each other's sessions," he shared. "We are talking at our sessions now, about things that went well, things that didn't go well. But at the same time not trying to step on each other's toes."



Williams also wants to see coaches find ways to better utilize the time that they give the kids and to develop coaching styles that include less talking and more hands-on coaching. "There are some guys who are extremely organized and get the maximum productivity from the kids. There are other coaches who don't. That's a huge goal for me."

Coaches should also be aware that Williams plans to strongly encourage them to continue working on their licenses. "One thing I am insisting on this year is that they take the next step with their license. If they fail, it doesn't matter. Knowing that they have entered the class and gained the knowledge is the most vital part...to go and get the knowledge and sit in the classroom and get the on-field stuff is fantastic."

As examples, Williams pointed to Jason Gantt and Leo Marin, who recently returned from training in Florida. "Just their whole coaching demeanor is totally different. They present themselves so much better now than they did 2 months ago. They have a little more exposure to what it is like at the next level as a coach."

The rapid rate of change in the sport of soccer and a desire to see our club keep pace professionally are the main reasons Williams is placing such a strong emphasis on training and licensure. He thinks that too many coaches draw on what they learned as a player, which he feels is good, but only to a certain degree. "The game is 15 years ahead and moving fast. So we have got to know what is going on in the coaching and the national organization. We have U14 that are breaking through to the U21 national team. That just shows how fast the game is changing."

— Next: Williams' message to Placer parents and players. —

★ **San Francisco Cup meets Placer Girls!** The Placer Prestige '92 Girls put forth a determined effort and made a respectable showing in their first tournament of the 2004-05 season, earning one loss, one tie, and one win in the San Francisco Cup tournament over Memorial Day weekend.

Weather conditions were nearly ideal on Saturday morning as the Prestige took the field against the Mustang Earthquakes, who as a U-11 team won the 2004 State Cup Championship. It is a rebuilding year for the '92 Prestige girls, and at times the lack of experience as a team was all too evident, especially against the more poised and experienced Earthquakes. The Prestige struggled to mount an attack in the first half, but surrendered only one goal. Physically stronger than the Earthquakes, the Prestige slowly turned the tide in the second half, scoring a goal in the final minutes to earn the 1-1 tie.



Later that afternoon, the Prestige faced their biggest challenge of the tournament when they met the California Northstars, one of the premier U-12 girls teams in Northern California in 2003-04. Throughout the game the Northstars demonstrated strong, fundamentally sound soccer with crisp passing, superior spacing, and overall solid defense. The Prestige never quit, but were only able to put in one goal against five by the NorthStars. As in earlier scrimmage games, the Prestige were witness to the standard of play they must achieve in order to be truly competitive this season.

On Sunday morning the opponent was the Walnut Creek Rumble. The Prestige came out hard in the first half of play, scoring twice and for the most part controlling the field. The team appeared to flatten out in the second half, however, showing less of the hunger and intensity that had earned them the lead. The defense nevertheless kept the Rumble out of the goal, and the team departed with a 2-0 win.

There is definitely much room for improvement, but throughout the tournament the Prestige demonstrated that they have the talent necessary to compete with the many quality teams they will face throughout the season. Energy, effort, and Practice Practice Practice will be key to turning these talented individuals into a superior Class I team.

★ **Placer United Foothill Cup 2004 Tournament T-shirt Now Available for Ordering!** - Order your tournament T-shirt now for the upcoming boys tournament to be held June 26-27, 2004 at Maidu and Oakmont Fields in Roseville, California. [Complete the order form](#) (requires Adobe Reader) and fax to Dawn Carrington at (916)652-7567. Or, you may email the information contained on the form directly to her at dawn.carrington@starstream.net. All pre-orders will be paid for and picked up at the Tournament. You may pick up your order during check-in between 6:00-9:00 pm on Friday, June 25th at the Oxford Suites Hotel or at the main field, Maidu, on Saturday or Sunday. Please make checks payable to Logotrends. Support the club by ordering some for the entire team or family today. Go Placer!



★ **Game Day Coaching** - Synopsis of an article from Insight/Football Association of England, Spring 2004.

The most important statement from the article is "The weekend football (soccer) game at the junior level (7-10 year olds) should be viewed as the second or third coaching session of the week, not as an independent entity. It is a wonderful opportunity to observe how effective our training sessions have been up to that point." I would extend that to include 11-13 year olds and in some measure all players.

Often within the "frenzied" excitement of winning and losing the coach, and parents lose sight of the true value and purpose of the Saturday game for players of this developing age. Game day is an exciting experience for everyone concerned, but it is about the children! Parents should have simple, but an important role to play; they should constantly encourage and cheer for their team. Their role is to support not coach the players. Pat McCarry, Director of Professional development, UK Elite Soccer goes on to say in the article "This should be made clear from the start of the season otherwise children are exposed to too much conflicting, subjective and varied instruction."

The article goes on to list what characteristics exist for the most effective youth coaches during Game Day:

- Remain Positive
- Guide Players (During warm ups and pre game instructions)
- Have a substitution policy (The club has one for U10's see website under Policies)
- Speak to substituted players whilst on the bench. Have them tally completed passes etc.
- Coach only players without the ball. If we constantly tell players what" to do, what does that tell us of what they have learned?
- Respect opponents
- Accept referee decisions calmly
- Enjoy themselves
- Keep things in perspective

The complete article by Pat McCarry (submitted by Joseph Breault) can viewed at www.thefa.com

★ **Hey Placer United - Get Ready!** - The 2004 Fireworks Booth is the "Largest Club Fundraiser" of the year. Start planning to sell Scrip and work with your team chairperson on filling your team requirements for working the booth.

- When: June 28th through July 4, 2004
- Who: All PUSC members
- Where: Bel Air Shopping Center (West Roseville), 4008 Foothill Blvd., corner of Foothills & Baseline



- ★ **Logo Wear Now Available** - Placer Logo Wear is now available from Logotrends! [See the complete product offering](#) and get your [individual order form here](#). Teams will collect individual orders and submit one [order form for the team](#). One check per team will be collected when the goods are delivered (approximately 4 - 6 weeks after the order date). The next team order date will be June 9th at the Manager's meeting. Subsequent orders may be placed throughout the season. For more information, please contact our own [Dawn Carrington](#).
- ★ **Placer Web site receives its 2nd award for excellence** - Recently our Web site received another award for excellence in design. This time it was the [2004 Horizon Interactive Awards](#) competition. Placer's Web site received a Bronze Award in the international competition which recognizes outstanding interactive media solutions. Last month Placer's Web site was a Finalist in the [Dottie Awards](#), which recognize design excellence in Northern California. Congratulations PUSC and [DM WebWorks](#).
- ★ **Email to Placer Board of Directors from Elk Grove Director of Coaching** - *I'm writing this letter to let your board know how proud you should be. Your coaching staff did a great job at putting together the most professional try outs this last weekend. The all weather fields really add something to the try-outs (over grass). From the start to the finish Placer has set the standard for Professionalism, Coaching Staff, Unity and the ability to put the kids at the top of the pyramid. Your display of drills to see the whole picture of what try-outs should be about and evaluating players were by far something Dist VI should copy.*

I am very impressed with the direction the club is going. I truly believe Placer will be Sacramento's premier club in a few years. Great Job!!

Danny Cruz
Director of Coaching, Elk Grove United Soccer Club

CC: Glen Cole, Dist 6 Commissioner

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