

# Montclair Soccer Pitch

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## Message From the President

Welcome to our last issue of the year! We plan to take a break over the holidays, and our next issue will come out in February. By then we should have information about the start of our Spring soccer season.

This past Saturday there were some unusual happenings on the Merritt College fields. There were soccer games as normal, but the players weren't moving with the speed and agility we expect when we watch our kids play. That's probably because the average age of these competitors was about four or five times what we usually see during the season. But, I'll tell you, these players were playing their hearts out. Who were these dedicated soccer enthusiasts who woke up early to play in the first frost of the Winter? They were our Jack London league coaches and referees playing in the annual JLYSSL Coaches Tournament. There were teams there from Alameda, Bay Oaks, Montclair, Oakland, and Rockridge. Like most clubs, Montclair Soccer fielded two teams, one competitive and one "just for fun." The competitive teams play to see which club gets to

take home the "Champions" trophy. Its list of winners goes all the way back to 1993, and this year the Oakland team was victorious on the pitch.

Speaking of coaches, those of you who haven't obtained a license yet should plan on getting one soon. Starting in the Fall of 2008, all head coaches of teams U10 and above must be licensed. Our league has instituted this new rule in order to improve the training and qualifications of the individuals taking on this important role. An exception is being made for first year U10 coaches. We encourage, but do not require, U8 coaches moving up to U10 to get their license as soon as they are able. I am not sure if there will be any coaching clinics in the Spring, but we will definitely have some before the Fall season begins.

I am looking forward to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner this Monday night. It is a wonderful opportunity to get together with our many great volunteers to express my gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Thanks to all of them for making the Montclair Soccer Club a fantastic organization.

Peter Costantinidis  
[president@montclairsoccer.org](mailto:president@montclairsoccer.org)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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Jan. 14	MSC Monthly Meeting
Jan. 26	CYSA Soccer Expo in Oakland
March 2008	Fall registration (tentative)

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## Congratulations to the 2007 Montclair Soccer Club Award Winners

Leo Eisler Award -Lifetime Contributions	Winston Tulloch	Under 16 Coach of the Year	Joel Parrott, Montclair Zoo
President's Award	Tony Plotkin	Under 19 Coach of the Year	Connie de la Vega, Dust Mites
John Murphy Referees Award	Csaba Peto		
Bjornstad/Cooper Volunteer Award	Leslie Kraitchman	Class IV Girls Assistant Coach of the Year	Troy Bally
Bill Muller Coaches Award	Kimberley Guillen	Class IV Boys Assistant Coach of the Year	Jeff Altmann
Outstanding Team Performance	U16G - Gregg Morris's "The Team"	Class 3 Girls Coach of the Year	Rich Parkins
	Steve Depetris	Class 3 Boys Coach of the Year	Renee Schoepflin
2007 Lifetime Dedication Award		Distinguished Service Award	Andy Kleiber
Under 6 Coach of the Year	Dewayne Walton, Blue Penguins	Distinguished Service Award	Robert Davis
	Doug Brien	Special Recognition Award	Joe Cristofalo and Kathleen Kline
Under 8 Girls Coach of the Year	Noel Hansen, Wildcats	Special Recognition Award	Jackie Leung
Under 8 Boys Coach of the Year	Michael Woitalla, Tigers	Special Recognition Award	Monica Yu
Under 10 Girls Coach of the Year	Dean Abt, Dragons	Under 8 Program Award	Kevin Hillesland
Under 10 Boys Coach of the Year	Diane Santas, Bombsquad	Youth Referee Award	Klein Lieu
Under 12 Girls Coach of the Year	Bob Montgomery, Griffins	Biggest Team Volunteer Contribution	Rolling Stones, Ken Frank's U10 Girls
Under 12 Boys Coach of the Year	Thomas Dewitt	Biggest Team Referee Contribution	Dust Mites, De la Vega/Turner's U19 Boys
Under 14 Girls Coach of the Year	Stewart Bailey, Screaming Eagles		
Under 14 Boys Coach of the Year			

### "The Team," an MSC U16 Girls Team

"The Team," MSC's original East Oakland outreach team, played its fifth season together in 2007, competing in the District under-16 girls division 4 gold flight. The Team just completed a dream season, facing the other undefeated team in the flight in the final game of the season (lucky scheduling courtesy of Dave Mader). The Walnut Creek team struck first, but "The Team" from Montclair equalized on a converted corner just before the half, then pulled ahead in the second half, prevailing 3 – 1 in a hard-fought match. We ended the season with eight wins and a plus-25 score differential, never scoring fewer than three goals in a game. More than half of the girls scored goals during the year, indicative of the balance and teamwork the girls have achieved. We look forward to trying

our luck at the Founders Cup in March. "The Team" is the poster child for diversity, and the unique experience this has produced has benefited all of the girls.

While all but one of the girls is California born, team parents come from as far away as Latin America, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and as close as exotic Oakland. We span ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic divides, but we have come together as a team, and enjoy the friendships and athletic prowess the girls have developed, not to mention some interesting and varied potluck fare. "The Team" loves representing Montclair Soccer Club. We hope we have done so proudly.

Gregg Morris, Coach of U16 Girls "The Team"



## Old Uniforms Gain New Life

This year the Montclair Soccer Club decided to upgrade the uniforms our kids play in, a move that made us all look good on the fields of play. It also left us with lots of old uniforms that were no longer needed. We didn't have to work very hard to figure out ways to make valuable use of these old uniforms, because our community is full of people already engaged in good works overseas. The old uniforms were divided into three lots, all destined for existing, effective programs in Africa.

The first lot went to Tanzania, via a neighbor of MSC equipment coordinator Kathleen Kline, who writes: "My neighbor has been traveling to Tanzania for years. She single-handedly organized relief aid for a small village, took about 40 children under her wing as orphans, and finally, after a few year's effort, was joined by others. She is the only white woman allowed in this village. They have built her a house, which she lives in probably 3 months out of the year. Each year, she has been putting together a crate, which she pays for herself and takes to Africa and distributes—in person, of course."

The second lot went to Ghana, supporting an ongoing program that one of my team families has been engaged in since dad Lewis Bundy was a grad student. Sierra Bundy, one of my U16 players, writes: "The Mau-Mau Soccer Club is a boy's soccer team in Accra, Ghana. These boys, ages 6 through 16, are some of the most amazing young soccer players in the world today. However, the 50 players in this club have nothing;

no gear or equipment. Their field is just a dirt lot, filled with sticks and stones. My father and I have been sending over cleats, shin guards, balls, shorts, jerseys, and anything else that might benefit them in their playing and training for the past couple of years. We are very grateful to Montclair Soccer Club for their donation to the Mau-Mau Soccer Club."

The third lot went to Malawi, supporting a program that Cal professor and native Malawian Sam Mchombo has been engaged in over the past several years, supporting kids in a poor country ravaged by AIDS. Sam works with local community organizations to organize teams that motivate needy youth. The kids have to pledge to behave and work hard in school in order to participate on the teams. In the past he has organized the Malawi version of the Big Game, with a Cal-outfitted team playing a Stanford-outfitted team. In 2008 we will have soccer teams wearing the red and white of MSC in the rift valley region of East Africa, and in the lush forests of West Africa.

All of these programs are appreciative to MSC, which, after all, had a disposal problem to cope with. With only a little extra effort we were able to not only provide for the continued valuable use of our equipment within the soccer context, we were able to save space in the Altamont landfill. And you thought soccer couldn't produce a win-win outcome.

Gregg Morris, MSC Outreach Coordinator

## Shepherd Canyon Field Work

Next week, Oakland Parks and Rec will be aerating and seeding the fields at Shepherd Canyon. They are planning on erecting a temporary fence to keep people off the field.

Please refrain from using the field - our club does not have a permit to use the field through the winter. You should also refrain from 'informal' use of the field.

OPR is also seeding Spunkmire, Oakport and Caldecot. Similar discretion should be used at these fields.

Andy Kleiber  
Field Coordinator  
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*Diane Santas playing in the "just for fun" game at the December 1 Coaches Tournament*

## Clipper Teams End Successful Season

The Clippers program grew from 11 teams last year to 17 teams this year, adding 3 Girls teams and 3 Boys teams. All of our teams were competitive in their flights. Most of the Clipper teams were in contention for the top of their flights going into the final matches of the season. Our Clipper coaches did a great job directing our teams! In addition, the 24-7uksocceracademy trainers contributed greatly to the success of all the Clipper teams. Thank you Andy Hulbert and all the 24-7 trainers!

Last year the Clippers did not have a single first place team. This year three Clipper teams finished first in their flights: U11 Girls, Rich Parkins, U12 Boys, John Schwartz, and U19 Girls, Doug Kreiss.

The U10 Girls, Kimberly Guillen finished in second place by one point in Gold Flight! Four teams finished 3rd in their flights: the U10 Boys, Rene Schoepflin, U12 Girls (Gold Flight), Gavin Keith, U12 Boys, Ken Boese, and U16 Boys, Don Levine. The U14 Girls, Jeff Wood, finished 4th place in a very competitive Gold Flight. The U19 Boys, Jose Corona, finished in 4th place having been near the top of the flight all year. The achievements of these teams is a marked improvement over last year!

Thank you to all the Clipper coaches for their time and work! Congratulations to all the Clipper teams for a very successful year!

Doug Kreiss, Clipper Coordinator

## Smithereens Complete Undefeated Season

The Class III U-11 girls Clippers Red team completed an undefeated season and finished in first with the highest total points, even though they played only nine games while the other teams played ten.

The team, the Smithereens, led the league in number of wins, number of shutouts, and fewest goals scored against. Against the top four teams in their league, the Smithereens had a 6-1 goal differential.

The Smithereens played in three preseason tournaments, losing just three of twelve games. They finished second once (losing the championship on tie breaker penalty kicks) and third twice even though they played two games short one player.

Coach Rich Parkins, in his first year as coach, made having fun the first priority for the girls. The girls enjoyed every moment of the season including practices, hated to see the season end, and look forward to another undefeated season next year.

Go Smithereens!

## Serious Problem Reports Work

We would like to report an example where our disciplinary process worked really well for one of our coaches. As the coach was driving away after his game, his rear window was broken by a thrown rock. It was very clear the rock was thrown by a player who was probably upset for having received a red card.

Our coach filed a *Serious Problem Report* using the form on the JLYSSL web site. He also contacted the league Disciplinary Chair, Winston Tulloch. The other team was scheduled to play another game the next day, Sunday. Winston went to the field before that game and pulled the player's pass. A couple of days later, the other soccer club contacted the coach to let him know that they would reimburse him for his insurance claims deductible.

Why do we relate this story? The system can work to support parents, coaches, and players. We need to believe in it and work it. We do not need to tolerate violent or disrespectful behavior. By working together we are a stronger soccer community!



*From left to right, Top Row: Asst. Coach Dave McAneny, Tess Karls, Madison Oakley, Bella Scharff, Soshana Merriman, Tatum Harrison, Asst. Coach Barbara Cosentino. Middle Row: Coach Rich Parkins, Camille Ayanruoh, Maddy Parkins, Katie Cummins, Charlotte Van Remortel, Shelton Rogers, Monica Branch. Bottom row: Madison Wilcox, Annie McAneny, Jenna Nuti, Kendall Powers.*

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The *Montclair Soccer Pitch* is a once-a-month newsletter for members of the Montclair Soccer Club community. This newsletter is our primary communication mechanism for information and announcements. However, we will continue to use email to disseminate time-critical information.

The newsletter will include such content as open volunteer positions, recruiting coaches or players, upcoming events, referee news and information, tournament results, and general interest local soccer news.

Submit news items and announcements by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month to [newsletter@montclairsoccer.org](mailto:newsletter@montclairsoccer.org). Items should be as complete as possible and include appropriate contact information. Most articles should be limited to a couple of paragraphs.

### *About Our Organization...*

We generally meet on the second Monday of each month. Meeting changes are always reflected in our online calendar.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. They are a good opportunity to find ways to help make a difference within our Club.

Our meetings take place at Bishop O'Dowd in the Dominican Hall Board Room. Bishop O'Dowd is at 9500 Stearns Ave (I580 to Golf Links Rd exit; continue on 98th Ave up the hill to Stearns Ave; right to campus entrance). The Dominican Hall Board Room is the first building inside the gate on the left just past the chapel. There will signs directing you to the meeting room on the first floor. Park anywhere.

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*“Submit newsletter items by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.”*

## Volunteers Keep Us Going

Volunteerism is a key element of the Montclair Soccer Club philosophy. Your volunteerism is a positive example for children and it can show your commitment to them. The club is an all-volunteer organization that elects its officers and selects volunteers to coordinate all areas of responsibility. Volunteers are always needed to fill these positions plus crucial coaching and referee jobs. Without your volunteer efforts, the club will not function and your children will not be able to play.