



## Oregon TOPSoccer

### Oregon City TOPSoccer Program begins with a BANG

2/15/07

Several interesting items were learned from Oregon City Soccer Club who began a new TOPSoccer program in the fall of 2006. Their efforts really worked and are shared in hopes of offering suggestions or creating ideas for each of us to enhance our programs. This new program began with 30 participants in an area without a prior TOPSoccer program. They became the newest and the largest TOPSoccer program in Oregon all at the same time.

Beside using the resources of OYSA and attending the Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium in 2006, the Group at Oregon City:

#### Set up Organization

- 1 Visited other TOP SOCCER programs already in progress
- 2 Made a plan for their program
- 3 Visited Challenger Baseball
  - a Asked to promote TOPSoccer to their registered player.
  - b In turn they offered to promote Challenger Baseball to TOPSoccer players
  - c Made a deal not to overlap onto each others seasons
- 4 Spoke with the special needs teachers at local schools and passed out TOPSoccer flyers
- 5 Attended club Fall player registration
  - a Had a TOPSoccer table next to the club registration booth during fall season registration.
  - b Provided information about TOPSoccer and answered questions about the program
- 6 Advertised
  - a Posted TOPSoccer program information on the club web site.
  - b OYSA posted contact information under the TOPSoccer Tab on their web site.
  - c Placed brochures in schools, doctors and physical therapists offices.
- 7 Obtained the use of two school gymnasiums for practices
- 8 Obtained field time at a local Indoor facility for games
  - a Asked to have TOPSoccer information posted on the indoor club's web site
  - b Placed brochures about the program at the indoor center
- 9 Invited potential participants and parents to a meeting where they handed out specific information, answered questions and asked everyone to spread the word about the program
  - a Set the rules for Buddies and helping out by parents

#### Buddies/ Help

- 1 They wanted the kids to try and do as much as they could on there own
  - a With soccer being new to them, they wanted the kids to feel comfortable.
- 2 Each family was instructed to provide a Buddy for their child with a disability
  - a The feeling being that the participants would relate better to someone they already knew
  - b These same Buddies would likely be there each session
    - i They would also know how to work with the player

- 3 They enlisted the help of parents/grandparents
  - a The adults assisted in practices and on game day
  - b This provided them the confidence and skills to hold practices or games if the coaches were unable to be there for any reason

### **Equipment needs**

- 1 OYSA met most of the equipment needs, providing forms, flyers, brochures, goals, balls, cones, equipment bags and T-shirts

### **How they ran the program**

- 1 Held practices and game days just like Recreational teams
- 2 Evaluated players at the first practice
  - a Divided the players according to skill and aggressive or non aggressive behaviors
- 3 Held practices on Friday nights at two different school gyms
  - a Aggressive players going to one location the non-aggressive players going to the other
- 4 Scheduled the program to run the same number of weeks as the regular fall soccer season
- 5 Parents signed up to bring snacks for practices and game days
- 6 Worked on fundamentals and played games at each practice
- 7 Used the indoor soccer center on Sunday afternoons for game day
  - a They split the field with the non-aggressive kids played side to side on one end using two pop up goals
- 8 The more aggressive players played lengthwise, using about 2/3 of the floor space
  - a They mostly played against regular outdoor youth soccer teams
  - b The TOPSoccer players shot at the large indoor field goal
  - c Their opponent shot at a pop-up goal at midfield
- 9 The parents and siblings lined the space between the fields to keep the ball in play

There were no another large TOP Soccer programs in the area these kids could play, which is why they played against recreational soccer teams. The more aggressive players played against a U11 boy's team and the less-aggressive kids played against a U6 team on game day. The program was a huge success. Now several recreational teams want to play against the TOPSoccer players.

- 1 The couple who are coaching this program have an autistic child.
- 2 They have insights into how the programs for children with disabilities work.
- 3 They knew of contacts that the rest of us have to yet find.
- 4 They have a means for getting TOPSoccer info distributed to the small groups within a school that need this program, where we have difficulty accessing them through the school district office
- 5 This couple has an enthusiasm and an interest that is contagious and creates momentum. They are Oregon's version of Sandy Castillo from Cal South