

LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

FALL NEWSLETTER

Lower Merion Soccer Club, Box 469, Gladwyne, PA 19035

With the 1991 fall season heading into the home stretch, we'd like to take some time to let everyone know what is happening with our program.

The 1991 season is our largest season ever with over 700 boys and girls ages 5-11 participating in the intramural program and another 350 playing on our 23 travel teams. The program has nearly doubled in size in the past three years.

TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM

LMSC fields 16 boys teams in the Delco League (ages Under 9 through Under 16) and seven girls teams in the Tri-County League (ages Under 9 through Under 19). In the boys program, we have at least two teams in age groups Under 9 through Under 14. The top teams compete in Delco League's First Division while the other teams compete in either the Second or Third Divisions.

Several of our boys teams and girls teams will be qualifying for the post season league playoffs which will start in late November.

Leading the way are our new Under 9 boys team, named the Lunatics, who are currently 9-0-0, having out scored their opponents 36-3 so far. The Lunatics are led by team captains Ryan Gutzler, Noah Chesbrough and Adam Chesbrough along with Richard Zeller, Bernard Horshaw and Drew Delaney.

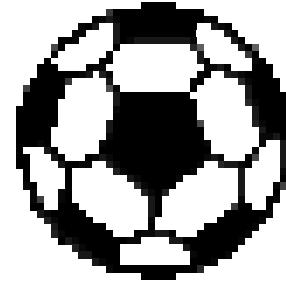
Also going strong as always are the boys Under 13 LMSC Dragons who won the State Championship two years ago. The Dragons are led by State Select players Mike Tiedeman and Trevor Walker along with goalkeeper Michael Keating and defender Andrew Wilmot. The Dragons are taking aim at not only the Delco League championship, but also on regaining the State Championship this spring.

The Girls travel team program is making it's finest showing ever thanks to the efforts of program director Bruno Ceccarelli. Having great success as always are the Under 11 girls led by coach Jo Grech. Our younger girls teams are getting stronger with each team as our Under 10 and Under 9 teams are both having fine seasons.

In the winter, many of our travel teams will be playing in different indoor tournaments at Woodhaven Sports Centre which has a professional indoor soccer field utilizing an astroturf surface and ice hockey like dasher boards.

In the spring time, several of our teams will be competing in the State Cup playoffs, a single elimination tournament to determine the top team in the state at each age group.

In the past three years, LMSC has won a very impressive three State Championships, most recently in 1990 when the LMSC Gorillas boys team (1977 birth) captured the "double" by winning both the Indoor and Outdoor State Championships in the same year to go along with their Delco League Championship. Many of the players from that team are refereeing in the intramural program.



SPRING TOURNAMENTS

In the spring time, several of our travel teams will be competing in various weekend soccer tournaments. Most of the teams will play in tournaments which are in state while a few teams will be traveling out of state to meet the top teams from other state associations.

TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the LMSC travel teams are held each spring. All eligible boys and girls in the intramural program will be sent notices about the tryouts. Each age group will have two or more tryout dates. Players wishing to tryout are expected to be at all tryout dates.

Towards the end of each fall season, LMSC has tryouts for a 'developmental' Under 8 travel team for both boys and girls. The players are pooled from the most talented intramural players playing in the fall season.

The boys team competes in 5 tournaments during the late fall and winter while both the boys team and girls team have several practices during the winter to help prepare for the following travel team season.

This years Under 8 boys team has just finished their tryouts. The team will be coached by Brian Kammersgaard, the assistant coach at U. Penn and a former professional player and national team player from Denmark. The following players made this years U-8 boys team:

Jeffrey Addis	Jeffrey Kivitz	Adam Rose
Josh Allison	Jeffrey Levick	Josh Rosenfeldt
Tyler Fink	Trevor Lord	Josef Schneider
Mike Greenspoon	Daniel McAlaine	Clay Stabert
Tucker Hecksher	Tim McCulloch	Josh Wasserman
Steve Iannocone	Ted Oberwager	Denis Whelan
Tom Jakobowski	Jordon Pryor	Evan Woods

The Under 8 girls teams will be holding tryouts soon. Players wishing more information about the tryouts should call Bruno Ceccarelli at 649-5410.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM FORMAT

Some of you new to our soccer program probably want to know a bit more about how everything is set up. Hopefully this will give you an overview of the intramural program.

Our intramural program runs from ages 5-11 for both boys and girls. It's purpose is to give youngsters a fun filled soccer experience and at the same time provide a stepping stone for the more talented and competitive youngsters to move up to the travel team program.

Currently we have eight different age divisions in the intramural program as follows:

Atoms Division: for 5 year old boys (currently the 1986 births). They play games of 5 versus 5 or 6 versus 6 to keep the boys more 'involved' with the play and use a smaller size 3 soccer ball. Players are NOT put on permanent teams in order to keep the overly enthusiastic parents from making the games too competitive. Coaching is kept to a minimum to allow the children learn the game through small sided games.

Bantams Division: for 6 year old boys (1985 birth). Same philosophy as the Atoms Division.

Junior Division: for beginning and less athletic 7 and 8 year old boys (1984 and 1983 births). Players are put on set teams for the season and play 7 versus 7 games. Each team plays a nine game schedule and has one practice a week.

Intermediate Division: for advanced 7 and 8 year old boys (1984 and 1983 births), same format as the Junior Division.

Senior Division: For 9, 10 and 11 year old boys who are not playing in the travel team program. Players play in regulation 11 versus 11 games. At this division, standings are kept and playoffs are held to determine a champion for the season.

Neutrons Division: For 5 and 6 year old girls (1986 and 1985 births). Same philosophy as the boys Atoms Division.

Protons Division: For 7 and 8 year old girls (1984 and 1983 births). Small sided games are played to maximize player participation.

Electrons Division: For 9, 10 and 11 year old girls not in the travel team program. Players play on set teams for the season.

THE 1991 INTRAMURAL SEASON

A sincere thanks to Craig Stretch for his usual excellent job in running the senior division. Also, thank you to Glenn Brooks who has been doing an excellent job with the young Atoms Division. Their leadership and time has been greatly appreciated.

Along with the tremendous growth we've had in the intramural program comes the usual growing pains. To give you an idea of what we're dealing with, we have 130 boys born in 1984 alone. We have over 100 boys with birth years 1985 and 1986.

Unfortunately we have not had a corresponding increase in the number of coaches. In order to correct this imbalance, LMSC will be sponsoring a United States Soccer Federation coaching clinic in late March. It will be held on three weeknights, each three hours long and lead each candidate to receive his USSF 'F' level coaching license. LMSC will cover the cost of the course to any person who coaches or will be coaching in the program.

Hopefully several of the parents of players will take the course and use the knowledge gained in the course as a coach next season. The course is designed for people with little or no knowledge of soccer as well as people who understand soccer but have no coaching experience.

Again, we need more coaching volunteers to continue the success of the program. Hopefully more parents will volunteer after they have completed the coaching course. LMSC also provides reading materials for their intramural coaches. We also have finished putting together a coaching video which we will be making copies of for our coaches.

Parents interested in getting more information about the coaching course are encouraged to write us at our address listed above.

1991 SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

Once again in May and June, we will be running our spring intramural program for 5 and 6 year old boys and girls. The program will run on Greenfield Avenue Field in Ardmore, near the old Kidde City location. All youngsters of the proper age will receive notice of this in the spring.

LMSC SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

This summer, LMSC will be sponsoring a local one week soccer camp. It will be run under the direction of Mr. Bob Davidson who has been coaching at Lower Merion High School for over 15 years. LMSC will send out information about this program in the spring.

LMSC ALUM ON THE NATIONAL TEAM

Congratulations to former LMSC soccer star Will Kohler on representing the United States this summer as a member of the USA National Under 17 team. Will and his teammates were in Italy this summer competing in the prestigious Under 17 World Cup where the USA defeated Italy, Argentina and China before losing in the quarterfinals.

Will's father was a long time coach and director in the program, coaching Will for many seasons. Will is currently a junior at Lower Merion High where he was voted the top player in the Central League.

Another former LMSC player, Richard Wilmot is a junior at Harriton High School and was voted the top player in the Del-Val League for the second straight season.

Several other LMSC players dominated the high school scene this fall. Several LMSC players made it to their schools varsity this season as 9TH GRADERS, including Jon Hanks who was honorable mention all league at LM and Hans Davies who has started all year at Haverford School Other ninth grader varsity players include Adrian Cox, Josh Pincus, Jon Conway, Nick Harmelin and Jay Getto.

LMSC CATALOG

Enclosed with this letter is the LMSC catalog for those of you who wish to purchase any of the various soccer items that we carry. Many of you have seen the soccer balls that we are selling. Since we are able to get these balls at a huge quantity discount directly from the manufacturer, we are able to pass along these balls at a price much lower than any you would find at a store.

We must receive your order by November 30 in order for us to get your items in the fall delivery. Orders received after November 30 will be put on our spring order.

THE LMSC DIRECTORS

For anyone who has questions that need to be answered concerning the LMSC program, we'll leave you with the names and phone numbers of the directors.

Bruno Ceccarelli, President / Girls Program Director
649-5410

Joe Hopkins, Vice President / Boys Travel Team Director
525-0700

Biff Sturla, Vice President / Intramural Program Director
964-9024

A special thank you to all the coaches who have given their time this season. The volunteering of your time has been greatly appreciated!