

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **August 8-9, 2008** —  
Tryouts for Spring  
2009 Traveling Teams
- **August 12, 2008** —  
Fall Recreation  
Coaches Meeting
- **September 2, 2008** —  
First day of practice for  
fall recreation season
- **September 6, 2008** —  
First recreation game  
Saturday

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## Fall Registration Now Closed!

Online registration is now closed for the fall 2008 recreation and traveling leagues. Registration ran online from April 15 through June 30, 2008. If you failed to register during the online registration period, you can contact the RYSA office at 280-7584 to inquire about any potential openings on teams. Here's some info on RYSA's fall programs.

### Fall Recreation Soccer

Dates: September 2 – October 11, 2008

Ages: Grades 1-12

This league strives to promote and foster a fun and positive soccer experience for youth in grades 1-12. The format for fall for players in grades 1-6 is the same as the spring format. Each child plays at least half of each game, no matter their skill level. Scores and league standings are not kept, and the emphasis is on having fun and learning the game in a relaxed environment. The fall league runs for six weeks, with practices on evenings during the week and games on Saturdays.



*Photo courtesy of Paul Keller*

“Fall Soccer Info” Continues on Page 13.

## Register Now for 2009 Traveling Tryouts!

Registration is now open online for 2009 traveling tryouts. Tryouts for RYSA's 2009 Spring/Summer traveling teams will take place at the Watson Field Complex on Friday, August 8 and Saturday, August 9, 2008, with Sunday, August 10 scheduled as a rain date. The tryout schedule is posted on the traveling page of the RYSA website. To see a complete schedule and to register for tryouts, please visit the website at [www.rysa.org](http://www.rysa.org) and follow the instructions. Or contact RYSA at 280-7584 for more information.

Online pre-registration will run from July 1 through August 1, 2008. For those who register online during this period, tryouts will be free. Once online registration has closed, those wishing to participate in tryouts must register onsite and there will be a fee of \$20 for onsite registration.

# Coaches Center Circle

## Farewell

As you have probably heard by now I am leaving RYSA. I have accepted the position of Director of Technical Education with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. This was a very hard decision to make. I have made some great friends while being involved in RYSA. I have had the joy of seeing coaches and players develop over the many years. I would like to thank all of you for the best wishes you have sent me.

Looking back over the past seven years I have a variety of emotions to dwell upon. These emotions vary, but the strongest emotion is that of happiness and joy. What I mean by that is seeing the way we can have such an influence on players. I have seen ex-RYSA players come back and help teach our youth. As I write this we have six current and ex-RYSA players helping out with a recreation camp. Seeing the joy of these players coaching and the happiness of the players they are teaching is, well, brilliant!!!

Although the title of this article is farewell, I do not see it as such. I will still be residing in Rochester and hope to keep in touch with all past, current and future players and coaches. I will still be available for advice and hope that you would seek me out. My contact details will soon be on the MYSA website (as of July 28<sup>th</sup>).



**RYSA Coaching Director Neil Cassidy (right) and Player Development Director Chris Belcher (left) met former Middlesbrough and England national team manager Steve McClaren (middle) at the NSCAA conference in late-January.**

I have one final thing to say, THANK YOU. Thank you for making me a part of the RYSA family, thank you for coaching and thank you for playing. I wish you the best of luck in your future coaching and playing careers.

It is not farewell, but ...

*Neil Cassidy – RYSA Director of Coaching*

### RYSA Staff:

**Frank Spaeth – Director**  
**Diane Tloutan – Operations Director**  
**Neil Cassidy – Director of Coaching**  
**Chris Belcher – Director of Player Development**

### RYSA Contact Information:

**PO Box 6402**  
**Rochester, MN 55903**  
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**rysa@rysa.org**

### RYSA Board of Directors:

**Max Trenerry – President**  
**Jayne Bushman**  
**Anne Zimmerman**  
**Jeff Cabalka**

### RYSA Operations Committee:

**Frank Spaeth – Director**  
**Neil Cassidy – Director of Coaching**  
**Mark Paczosa – Club Treasurer**  
**VACANT – Recreation Chair**  
**John Poe – Traveling Chair**

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**Roscoe's offers a great menu to satisfy every soccer player in the family.**

**Sit outside on our patio and enjoy the beautiful weather this spring and summer.**

## Note from the Director

### Rookies

I attended my five-year-old daughter's first dance recital a few weeks ago. That meant it was also my first dance recital. At one point during the event, I went backstage. I thought I was supposed to pick my daughter up so she could watch more of the recital. I talked with someone backstage, who gave me approval to take my daughter to sit in the audience. But when I got back to the lobby, someone else told me I couldn't do that. Confused, I took my daughter backstage again and, on the third try, got some clarification as to what I was supposed to do.



Frank Spaeth

Many of you may be wondering, "What does a dance recital have to do with youth soccer?" Every year, we have many new folks involved in our programs. Those new people come with a lot of questions. Those of us who have been around RYSA for a little while or a long time can sometimes be guilty of assuming that everyone knows what we know. In reality, that is not true. For me, the dance recital was a not-so-subtle reminder of that!

Those of you who have finished up your first season with RYSA probably have some ideas on ways we can better inform you about how things in the association work. If so, please share them with me at [rysadirector@gmail.com](mailto:rysadirector@gmail.com).

### Thanks, Coach!

I wanted to thank all the coaches and assistant coaches who volunteered to help us this past season. I am working on a list of all the spring coaches, that I plan to include in the next RYSA newsletter and also send to the newspaper. In the meantime, please know how important you are to the existence of our organization!

### Partnerships

RYSA has recently started some preliminary discussions with the Minnesota Thunder, a professional soccer team based in the Twin Cities, on the possibility of forming some kind of partnership that would bring a Premier Development League (PDL) soccer team to Rochester. For those of you who don't know what this is, the PDL is the premier U23 soccer league in the United States. Players must be under 23 years of age to participate in the league, and some go on to play at an even higher level, such as the United Soccer Leagues Division 1 or 2 (the Thunder plays in USL 1), Major League Soccer or abroad. In many respects, it is very similar in scope to the Rochester Honkers baseball team. Look for more information on this opportunity in the future...

### Favorite Phone Calls

We get a lot of calls in the office, and I'd like to share one of my recent favorites. This one came into us the week that spring recreation soccer started. A gentleman called and asked about signing up his child for soccer. When informed that the grade and gender his child was in was full, we responded with, "Well, can't you just form another team?"

The reason that isn't possible is that we spend weeks between the time registration ends and the coaches meeting is held coordinating teams, practice fields and schedules, game fields and schedules, coaches, t-shirts, medals and a host other activities surrounding our spring season, for more than 2,500 youth. When that is taken into consideration, it becomes quite clear that forming another team the week the season is starting is simply not an option.

*"Those of us who have been around RYSA for a little while or a long time can sometimes be guilty of assuming that everyone knows what we know."*

*- Frank Spaeth  
RYSA Director*



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## RYSA Offering Exciting Summer Camps

RYSA is offering a number of different soccer camps this summer, including some position-specific camps throughout July. Registration for the camps is available online at [www.rysa.org](http://www.rysa.org).

### RYSA Midfielders Camp

**Date:** July 7-9, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Location:** Fuad Fields

**Cost:** \$35

**Ages:** U11 - U16

Solid midfield play is the key to a winning side. In this camp, participants will learn the different technical and tactical aspects of midfield play, focusing on both attacking and defending from the midfield position.



*Photo courtesy of Demis Foster*

### RYSA Strikers and Goalkeepers Camp

**Date:** July 14-16, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Location:** Fuad Fields

**Cost:** \$35

**Ages:** U11 - U16

Looking to improve your goal stopping or goal scoring abilities? Then look no further than the Rochester Youth Soccer Association's "Strikers and Goalkeepers Camp." Field players will learn ways to improve their goal scoring techniques, while goalkeepers will learn skills to help

them improve their goalkeeping abilities. At the beginning of each session, goalkeepers and goal scorers will work separately, and then come together toward the end of each session to put their training to the test.

### RYSA Defenders Camp

**Date:** July 21-23, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Location:** Fuad Fields

**Cost:** \$35

**Ages:** U11 - U16

If your team doesn't give up a goal, there is no way they can lose the game! All players need to know the principles of defending, no matter what position they play. So, if you're a player looking to improve your defensive skills, the "RYSA Defenders Camp" is for you. Through one versus one, two versus two and three versus three field experiences, this camp will help to develop and broaden participants' individual and small group defending tactics and techniques.

For more info on any of RYSA's summer soccer camp offerings, please contact Chris at 280-7584.



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# President's Message

## Why are we doing this?

You don't always know where this question will lead you. I recently had a conversation with one of our long-time RYSA volunteers, and asked her these questions, "Why are you doing this? Why are we doing this?" We covered a range of topics about our club including our traveling and recreation programs, and what it takes to run them. The questions seemed a little easier to answer concerning the traveling program, because you can always say "To compete with other clubs." Of course, we compete for competition and pride. But that gets to be a little thin because all soccer players compete with themselves and others whether they are in the recreation or traveling programs.

So, there's still the question, "Why are we doing this?" Here's a little of what our volunteers do. Our volunteers:

- put up nets and take them down,
- make sure we have buildings to store our equipment in,
- lay out fields (sounds simple, but they have to be organized to rest some turf and get the best use of space),
- sort and organize balls and equipment,
- hand out the right equipment and put it away when it is returned,
- find coaches for our children and organize game schedules for hundreds and thousands of kids,
- assign fields to traveling teams for game nights,
- connect our club with our state organization (MYSA) and give us a voice there,
- help organize our recreation and traveling programs from the grass up,
- coach our children (and bravely so, as some who coach their child's team have not kicked a soccer ball before).

And the list goes on. I'm sorry if I missed someone's role here.

My volunteer friend had an answer that I really liked. She said that our club "developed a sense of community." Maybe, without always realizing it, our volunteers build a sense of community that extends beyond one town. They coordinate soccer activities not just in Rochester, but in nearby communities. They give our kids a chance to play a beautiful game that is at once simple and complex. The game lets our kids make their own decisions, run and be healthy, belong to a group of teammates, make new friends, and relate to the rest of the world through play. And our volunteers make sure that this happens. Please notice the people that volunteer and give their time to our club.

Thank you, volunteers.

Max Trenerry  
 President, Rochester Youth Soccer Association  
 You can e-mail Max at [president@rysa.org](mailto:president@rysa.org)



Max Trenerry

PS.— Our Director, Mr. Spaeth, says I'm out of room. But there's more to do to increase our sense of "belonging" to "our club", and making sure that "our club" looks like and represents our "whole community." mt

## 2008 Fuad Mansour Scholarship Winners Selected

The Rochester Youth Soccer Association is pleased to announce that six Rochester-area graduating high school seniors have been selected to receive the association's Fuad Mansour Scholarships. Each year, RYSA provides as much as \$5,000 in scholarships. A recipient may receive as much as \$1,000, based on their volunteer service to the RYSA. Applicants for the scholarship must be outgoing high school seniors who demonstrate a high level of volunteerism with the RYSA. This year's winners are as follows:

**Erin Root** – Erin has been a long-time volunteer for RYSA. Her volunteer activities date back to the days of on-site soccer registration when she worked as a “runner” filing registration papers for the age group coordinators. She has also volunteered at numerous recreation league coaches meetings, hung nets and coached and assistant coached a number of recreation teams and a traveling team. She has already attained an E-level soccer coaching certificate. Erin graduated from Byron High School and she will attend the University of Wisconsin – River Falls starting in the fall, where she plans to pursue a degree in Elementary Education with a coaching minor.



**Mike Resman**

**Mike Resman** – Aside from helping as a coach, Mike also spent the past two years as the second grade girls' age group coordinator for RYSA's recreation soccer program. In this capacity, Mike was responsible for finding coaches for each team, team formation based on RYSA criteria and remaining in constant communication with the coaches and parents for this age group, answering questions or handling concerns they

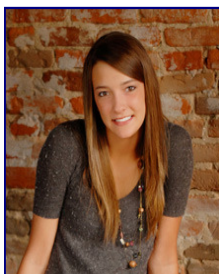
might have. Mike says his experiences have shown him that, “volunteerism is fundamental to the survival of RYSA and youth soccer programs in general.” Mike graduated from Lourdes High School, and is deciding between the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois – Urbana, or the University of California – Berkeley for his college career.

**Stacie Lee** – Stacie has been a volunteer coach for RYSA's recreation program since 2005, and a volunteer assistant for the traveling program since 2006. In addition,



**Stacie Lee**

she also has helped with arranging birth certificates for the traveling program and helped set up and take down nets for the past few soccer seasons. Stacie graduated from Century High School and plans to attend the University of New England to study Athletic Training and Physical Therapy.



**Katlyn Spohn**

**Katlyn Spohn** – Katlyn has coached in RYSA's recreation program since 2005 and the traveling program since 2006. She also has been involved with helping arrange birth certificates for the traveling program and helping set up and take down soccer nets. Katlyn says that soccer has taught her skills such as “responsibility, time management, leadership and how to deal with

both winning and losing.” Katlyn graduated from Century High School who plans to attend William Jewell College.

“Scholarships” Continues on Page 11.

## Grants for Goals

Last year, RYSA began a three-year process to retire some of our old goals. The plan calls for more than 30 goals to be purchased as replacement and supplemental goals for fields all around Rochester. This year, we have been helped in our efforts thanks to two grants. First, RYSA received a \$1,000 MYSA field/equipment grant from the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. Then we received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Rochester Area Foundation. “We’re extremely pleased to receive these grants to help us cover the costs of our new goals,” said Frank Spaeth, RYSA’s Director. “Working to acquire funding from sources like these allows us to stretch our budget and, ultimately, helps keep the cost of our programs lower.”

For more than 30 years, RYSA had provided goals to the soccer fields throughout the city as part of its mission to provide youth with opportunities to play soccer. These goals have been used not only by tens of thousands of RYSA participants, but also by other youth clubs, adult leagues and pick-up soccer games. We thank both MYSA and the Rochester Area Foundation for their support of our project and our mission.



*Photo courtesy of Paul Keller*

Good Luck,

Play Hard,

Have Fun!

**HOME  
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“Scholarships” from Page 9.



Jenna Sand

**Jenna Sand** – Jenna has helped volunteer with RYSA in a number of capacities over the years. She has served as a recreation league coach, most recently working with a team of fourth grade girls. She has also helped with net set up and takedown. Additionally, has been involved with RYSA’s annual tournament, helping choose t-shirt designs, labeling game cards and helping with scheduling, among other tasks. Jenna graduated from Lourdes High School and plans to attend Upper Iowa University.

**Jessica Sand** – Jessica’s volunteer experiences are very similar to those of her sister, Jenna. She has served as a recreation league coach, most recently working with a team of fourth grade girls. She has also helped with net set up and takedown, and helped with RYSA’s annual tournament. Jessica says, “I hope to continue my involvement with the program throughout the next four years.” Jessica graduated from Lourdes High School and plans to attend Upper Iowa University.



Jessica Sand

The scholarship committee was especially pleased with the quality of this year’s applicants. “This year’s group of applicants was one of the strongest in recent memory. We had a great number of applicants who have put a lot of hard work and dedication into helping RYSA share soccer with children in the Rochester area,” said RYSA Director Frank Spaeth. “Based on the criteria of the scholarships, we feel that the top candidates were recognized and awarded.”

The Fuad Mansour scholarship was started by the Rochester Youth Soccer Association to honor Mansour (who was known as “the Father of Rochester Soccer”) and his dedication to developing soccer in the Rochester area. Recipients are chosen for the award based on Mansour’s tenets of fun, participation, volunteerism and skill development. For more information on the scholarship, please visit the RYSA’s website at [www.rysa.org](http://www.rysa.org).

## Rochester Invitational Soccer Tournament Recap



Photo courtesy of Paul Keller

One of Rochester’s teams poses for pictures after last year’s tournament.

The 2008 Rochester Invitational Soccer Tournament took place from June 13-15, 2008, and RYSA hosted teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 125 teams participated in this year’s tournament, in age groups ranging from U9 all the way through U18.

The tournament was held at four locations throughout the city — the Fuad Mansour, Watson, Southern Woods and Withers (Zumbro) soccer fields. Games began Friday evening, ran all day Saturday and finished up on Sunday.

RYSA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the tournament a success. We would especially like to thank the tournament committee — Jane Coe, Kevin Norgard, Greg Opdahl, Tom Sand and Pat Reuvers.

# Thank You 2008 RYSA Sponsors!

RYSA is able to run a wide range of programs thanks, in large part, to the help of sponsors! We'd like to take some time and space here to thank all those who are sponsoring the Spring 2008 RYSA season!

We encourage you to support those businesses who support us by purchasing goods or services from them!

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## Sharing the Game with the World



A team in Mexico proudly displays their RYSA gear!

Ever wonder what happens to all RYSA's leftover shirts and old, worn soccer balls? At RYSA, we work with a number of people in our area to pass those items along to youth in other parts of the world who are in need of them.

Wayne Smith is one person in our area who passes these soccer supplies along. He has given shirts and soccer balls to youth in Chile and Mexico in the past. "This year Rochester Covenant Church will be going to Mexico and Honduras and I will be attempting to send as much there as possible," Smith says.

RYSA has also recently sent some of our more used equipment over to Kenya. Needless to say, the RYSA logo is really getting around!

### "Fall Soccer Info" from Page 1.

The RYSA's fall format for middle and high school-age players (grades 7-12) is "Street Soccer." With the "Street Soccer" format official teams are not formed, all players practice together once a week and then they show up at the same time on Saturdays. The teams are formed by the coach every week. The format is a small-sided (8 v 8) game with a center referee.

### Fall Traveling Soccer

Dates: Late August – October 19, 2008

Ages: (U9-U14)

Traveling team play allows players the chance to play in an environment where scores and league standings are kept. It also offers the opportunity for children to test their soccer skills against players and teams from outside the Rochester area. Players will need to purchase their own RYSA travel uniform if they don't already have one.

During the fall season, RYSA forms teams from U9-U14 to play 6 league games against other MYSA teams, primarily from southern Minnesota and the south metropolitan Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Practices are held twice a week starting in late-August, with games played on Saturday or Sunday. Three games are in Rochester and three are away. Teams can also choose to play in the Harvest Fest Tournament held MEA weekend. Teams are formed based on each player's experience and the number of players registering.



Photo courtesy of Paul Keller

Look for more information on our fall seasons as we get closer to the start date. The fall recreation coaches meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at Willow Creek Middle School.