



## Emerald Coast United Newsletter

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Hello All and Happy Thanksgiving!



I know it has been a while since we published our last newsletter, but we are back on track with bringing you up to date on what has been happening and giving you a peek into the future! This first letter is a bit long and I promise they will not contain so much information as we move forward. We are just trying to catch everyone up on current and future events.

### **T-Shirt Logo Contest for Emerald Coast Cup**

First we have our “time sensitive” deadline; our T-Shirt Logo Contest. We have had two fabulous logos selected for our most recent tournaments and we want to continue the tradition. Please encourage your kids to come up with a colorful soccer related logo for our next tournament, the **Emerald Coast Cup**, scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2010. All entries need to be submitted to Dawn Walker; [girlsregistrar@emeraldcoastunited.org](mailto:girlsregistrar@emeraldcoastunited.org) by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We will select a logo at the next Board Meeting to be held around the middle of December, so it really is a drop dead date for entries.

Past winners can be found on our web site.....have you checked out our new web site! It's fantastic and user friendly. Take a peek at [emeraldcoastunited.org](http://emeraldcoastunited.org)

### **Christmas Parade**

Some have been asking about whether we are going to be in the local Christmas parades. The answer is yes, we are putting in our applications now and have to wait and see if we are accepted; however I don't feel it will be a problem. If you would like to help organize this event your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our Jim Gregoire at [pr@emeraldcoastunited.org](mailto:pr@emeraldcoastunited.org) if you can help.

### **Winter Camps/Clinics**

I know some of you are already missing soccer, and want to put your foot on the ball. Well here is a great opportunity! Go on line to our web site and check out the two winter camps being offered by our Director of Coaching through his PALS programs. He has invited 2 guest coaches to each of his winter camps and is giving ECU members a discount on their registration fee. One of his guest coaches, Heidi Mueller, played against Mia Hamm and has represented the USA in competition in Asia. The other guest coach is Brianna Oeser. Brianna is a graduate of Niceville High School who played Division 1 soccer at UWF and is currently playing on a women's pro team in Europe. Bring your friends, bring your team, or come by yourself to sharpen your skills for the spring. It will also help you to work off some of that pumpkin pie! Download the camp flyer and registration form on the ECU web site.

### **Spring Tryouts**

Yes, it's that time of year again! We will be holding Spring tryouts on January 23, details are still being worked out, but all will be

posted on the web site so keep checking for further information. You are not required to come to tryouts in the Spring if you are already on a team; however, we encourage everyone to come out so those trying out will be better able to show off their talents. It also help the coaches make more informed decisions on new players. Your coaches and team managers will be in touch as the date draws near, but please mark your calendars so you can keep that date available.

### **Account Balances**

This is purely informational so everyone can understand our new process on keeping everyone current on their accounts. We have two positions in ECU that help track our financial information. Both are volunteer positions as are all of our Board Positions with the exception of the DOC.

The position of Treasurer, (Milly Low) is very time consuming, so we added a new position last year to assist. This position is the Team Budget and Player Account position, (April Autrey). You may receive emails from either of these Board Members based on the information being requested.

We are working to streamline their functions so it's easy for both of them to share the financial information in real time. Currently the information has to pass from one to the other after normal working hours because they both have full time jobs and families.

We have asked April to send out monthly emails giving you up to date information on your balance (if you have one); this function is in response to requests by the parents to receive monthly statements. It also helps us as a Club to know where we are financially, but also helps you in case your payment has been lost or overlooked.

If you receive a reminder for payment and have already sent your payment **please give her the benefit of the doubt** that she either has not received the payment yet or has not yet received the updated information from the treasurer.

April is very good about including a disclaimer on the email asking you to ignore the payment reminder if you have already sent it in. It is important for all of us to be respectful of one another; we don't want to run off our volunteers due to angry and unnecessary email retorts.

In the future, if you have sent in a payment and receive a balance due statement; simply respond that you have already sent in payment. Then ask if she still has not received your payment in the next few days to please let you know. It may have gotten lost in the mail or the update information could be in transit. Our online payment system is complete and you can now make credit card payments through our website.

### **Pay Your Dues Online**

We've always had the ability to accept dues via credit card, but you had to call the Treasurer to do so. You can now pay online by first logging into our web site and then clicking on the Pay Dues link. At the bottom of the Fees page enter the name of the player whose dues you wish to pay and press "Proceed to Secure Checkout." At the end of the process, you and our Treasurer will receive a confirmation email, to keep everyone up to date.

### **Olympic Development Program; aka ODP**

Some of you attended the most recent ODP training day in Tallahassee and others are signed up to attend the next ODP training day in Pensacola. Others are already on ODP teams, and others don't have any idea what ODP is....

Players have an opportunity if they are interested in taking their soccer skills to the next level through the ODP program. ODP is available to players once they have reached a certain age group. We sent out emails last month to the players/teams who were eligible to attend ODP training sessions.

There are ODP scouts at both the Tallahassee and Pensacola training dates, and there were ODP scouts at the Blue Angel tournament event a few weeks back. Those the scouts feel are ready for the next level of training with ODP will be contacted by FYSA and invited to an ODP tryout. The information about the tryout will be included in the email. If you make it through the tryout and are selected for a team, you will be notified. You may also be invited to local training camps, regional camps, or you may be invited to attend Regional tryouts. If you are selected for a Regional team you may be invited to a National ODP tryout and so on. If you still have questions, please read on...

Good news! Mike Strickler with FYSA who is in charge of Florida ODP events will be coming to Emerald Coast United and holding an “informational meeting” for ALL who want to come and ask questions about ODP. He will then meet with our coaches and select teams/players that are age eligible for a training session. We will be up dating you periodically as more details are nailed down. WE DO KNOW that it will be in the month of April so keep your eyes and ears open for further information. We will pass it along as we receive it.

That is all for now, if you have something you would like to include in the monthly news letter please email Renee Ramirez at [gm@emeraldcoastunited.org](mailto:gm@emeraldcoastunited.org). It might be a funny story, results of challenging tournament or enlightening information... we will do our best to include it.