

From: Your Friends At Grand Rapids Crew Juniors [bjorn@quickstepsports.com]
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Grand Rapids Crew Juniors e-News

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Cultivating Optimal

Issue: II

August/2007

Dear GR Crew Juniors Player and Parent,

Welcome to the second installment of our bi-monthly newsletter. You are receiving this because you are a member of a club that we believe to be the best soccer club in West Michigan. We will, along with our website (www.grcrewjuniors.com), use this newsletter to keep our membership (you) informed of various happenings within the club and keep you posted on trends in the soccer community outside the club.

We would like to thank you for joining GR Crew Juniors in the inaugural season under the new name. You made our first try-out an incredible success and the club a soccer powerhouse in West Michigan from the first whistle. Your continued help is needed, however, as we continue to build our club. There will always be a need for volunteers and, as two non-profit 501c3 organizations, we will continuously be looking for sponsorship that can give our club a competitive edge or, more importantly, a chance for more kids to play the game we all love.

So, scroll down to see what our GM has to say. Read the featured article in the left column about Parent-Coaching interaction, update yourself on the latest tournaments for the Select side and, if you have time, take a look at the MVP Fieldhouse game schedule to see if you can make it out to support one of your fellow Crew Juniors teams.

Have a great Labor Day Weekend, see you on the pitch and please look for our first installment of the Academy e-News next month.

Message From The GM

GR Crew Juniors Players and Parents

Soccer in the West Michigan area has grown and changed drastically over the past few years. There have been new clubs formed and old

Parent-Coach Relationships

The following article was written for Soccer America and published earlier this month



By David Jacobson

"What is the optimal parent-coach relationship?"

That's what Positive Coaching Alliance trainers address during the Double-Goal Coach and Second-Goal Parent workshops we conduct throughout the country. The answer appears in the very names of the workshops.

A Double-Goal Coach has two goals. The first goal is winning, and the second, more-important goal is teaching life lessons through sports.

A Second-Goal Parent focuses on that more important goal - life lessons - leaving coaches and players to pursue winning. In my community, the backs of the coaches' shirts remind parents and spectators on the sidelines: "I coach, they play, you cheer."

Rita Boule - the soccer coach at Silver Spring John F. Kennedy High School in Maryland, who won a PCA Double-Goal Coach Award at our 2006 National Youth Sports Awards ceremony - told the story of a player she moved from left forward in the first half to right forward in the second half. That way the player could not hear her intimidating, meddling, distracting father. She was free to focus on the game, so she could excel, rather than on her father's

clubs dissolved, there have been new faces joining clubs and old faces leaving and there has even been new leagues formed in our area. There have been numerous opportunities brought about with all of these changes in the soccer world, some of which appear to be really benefiting the numerous soccer players in West Michigan.

As the General Manager of the CREW Juniors I just want to thank you for your continuing support of us as a club. As a parent or a player there are various soccer options out there for you to choose from and I am thrilled and excited that you have chosen to play for a CREW Juniors team and join our soccer family. I sincerely hope that you have had and will continue to have a very positive experience with us both on and off the field and that you feel it was an experience you benefited from.

As the General Manager I want you to know that I am doing my best to stay on top of the many new developments in the soccer world and also in making sure that we as a club continue to move in the right direction. I am going to continue to improve our already strong coaching staff, as player development is our number one goal as a soccer club. I am going to continue to analyze and critique our tryout process to make sure we are doing things the right way. Some other priority items are: reviewing our uniform situation, analyzing which tournaments we are sending teams to, creating alternative training programs for the players in our club, developing ways to make our website more enjoyable and informative, etc. As the soccer world continues to evolve I will do my best to stay on top of it and educate you as best I can.

Going forward as a club I want you to know that I realize that all of our decisions and actions are not going to be perfect and that we will make mistakes. I want to encourage you to come to me with any problems, questions or criticisms you may have so that we can continue to improve our club. My e-mail address is jsheldon7@juno.com and my cell phone number is 616-821-3187 and I would love to get feedback from you as to how you feel we are doing as a club and on ways we can improve ourselves.

Again, thanks for choosing to be a part of our club. We hope that we can provide an educational and enjoyable experience for your child and that you will continue on in your soccer experience with us.

Thanks,

Josh Sheldon
General Manager
GR Crew Juniors

Crew Juniors Wear Now Available At Studs Up

demands for whatever he considered excellence.

Ironically, the louder, more insistent and more urgent a parent's "instruction," the less likely it is to produce the desired result. Players become confused by contradictions between parents and coaches and sometimes so embarrassed by their parents' behavior that the soccer field is the last place they want to be. An overbearing parent also distracts the other players and undermines the coach's authority and ability to implement strategy.

Here are a few tips to cultivate optimal parent-coach relationships:

* Preseason meetings. At a meeting among all team members, parents, coaches and players should understand ground rules for the team's culture. By "culture" we simply mean the way we do things here.

For example, the coach might say, "The way we do things here is that if you have issues or ideas on playing time, positions or strategies, please phone or e-mail me. Unless your child is ill or injured, please do not approach me with advice or complaints immediately before, during or after a game." (PCA offers a Parent Pledge downloadable from the Use Our Resources section of www.PositiveCoach.org.)

If coaches do not call preseason meetings, parents should make early, positive contact with the coaches. Parents should offer the coaches whatever help they may need and explain they hope for the best possible experience for their children and the team as a whole. That way, parents who have an issue later in the season, won't be presenting themselves to the coaches for the first time ... just to issue a complaint.



Studs Up, in East Grand Rapids, is now fully stocked with GRCJ club wear. Fun new items include flannel sleep pants, blankets, caps, knit hats, sweatpants, drawstring backpacks, tote bags, as well as the popular hoodies and zip up hoodies, all emblazoned with the GRCJ logo (car decals and water bottles arriving soon!). Many items can be personalized and special ordering is available if you can't find your size (just ask the staff for a form)! 100% of Crew wear profits come back to your club (thank you, Studs Up!), so please join us in supporting GRCJ in this important fundraiser (cash or checks only, please)!

In the future Gazelle Sports will also have a limited selection of items.

The following are news specific to each division within our club. We have chosen to divide it up so you know who it pertains to.

Premier News



I would like to thank all the parents for their patience with our new credit card system. We plan on streamlining our system even more next year to reduce your time waiting in line at registration, and your input on what you'd like to see has been valuable.

For those of you who opted to make payments, here is the payment plan structure:

Premier Age Group	PREMIER PAYMENT PLAN OPTION					
	At Registration	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Feb. 1
U13- U14	\$400	\$400		\$400	\$375	\$375
U15 - U19 Girls	\$400	\$400	\$325	\$325		
U15 - U19 Boys	\$400	\$400			\$325	\$325

As a reminder, if you opted to pay by check: if your check is not received within 5 days of the due date, your credit card or account you left on file will be charged at that time.

* Identify a culture keeper. At the preseason meeting, the coaches and parents may appoint a "culture keeper," whose job is to remind others - in the heat of the game - to observe the previously established ground rules. Often, this is achieved non-verbally, perhaps through just a hand motion to "keep it down." The ideal culture keeper supports the coach and is generally personable and well-respected among the other parents.

* Live up to your preseason promises. Coaches must remain open and responsive to parents who approach them within the ground rules. They must remain firm in maintaining those ground rules when parents encroach. Likewise, it is incumbent on parents to take coaches up on their offers to hear advice at certain times and to deliver the help they originally offered the coach.

Note that all these tips are not just directed at keeping a peaceful sideline. They all contribute to an environment where players can concentrate on playing and coaches can focus on coaching. All other things being equal, that environment cultivates winning and the possibility of that second, more-important goal.

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All payments should be made out to: GVPSC, and mailed to: c/o Lori Hawkins, Treasurer, 2031 Waterbury Dr. SE., Kentwood, MI 49508.

*If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (616) 644-4582.
Have a great soccer season with the Crew Juniors!*

Lori Hawkins
GR Crew Juniors Premier Treasurer

Select News



Tournament Selections Fall 2007

Boys Teams

U8 (coed) Dragons (Hoebeke)
U8 (coed) Black (Kribs)
U9 Gold (Hughes)
U9 Black (Ralph)
U10 Gold (Strawser)
U10 Black (Fraungruber)
U11 Dragons (Hoebeke)
U11 Black (Rowe)
U12 Gold (Hayat)
U12 Black (Madge)
U13 Gold (Bonga)
U14 Gold (Van Airsdale)
U14 Black (Evans)
U14 Thornapple (Kiel)

Tournament

Kalamazoo Kingdom Invitational

MILD Cup
Kalamazoo Kingdom Invitational
Capitol Area Classic

Petoskey
MILD Cup

Girls Teams

U9 Gold (Tamke)
U9 Black (Tamke)
U9 Daisies (Hoebeke)
U10 Gold (Lundblad)
U10 Black (Ostrander/Tamke)
U10 White (Guanga)
U11/12 Red (Carrasco)

U11 Black (Mellin)
U11 White (Netjes)

Tournament

Kalamazoo Kingdom Invitational
MILD Cup

Kalamazoo Kingdom Invitational,
Libertyville Octoberfest
MILD Cup, Traverse City, River City
Classic

U12/13 Grey (Brown)	NSR, Best of the Midwest (Chicago)
U12/13 Red (J. Hall)	
U12 Gold (Zender)	
U12 Black (I. Hall)	
U13 Gold (Jackson)	MILD Cup
U13 Black (Cusack)	
U13 Thornapple (Strumberger)	
U14 Gold (Pobocik)	
U17 Gold (Weadock)	
U18 Skilling	
U18 Tamke	

Thank you for your interest and look for future installments of the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors e-News. If you need more information right away go to:

www.grcrewjuniors.com

Sincerely,

Your Friends At Grand Rapids Crew Juniors

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