

State Youth Soccer recognizes Rochester Volunteers

Neil Fisher inducted into Hall of Fame, Gina Alger named "Buddy of the Year"

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

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Corning, NY. November 16, 2009. Thirty-year veteran coach Neil Fisher was inducted into the New York State West Youth Soccer Association's Hall of Fame at the annual Awards Dinner on November 14th. Also, Gina Alger was named the first New York State West Youth Soccer Association "Buddy of the Year" for her efforts as a TOPSoccer (soccer for children with disabilities) volunteer.

Neil's involvement with youth soccer includes decades of coaching and administration duties as a board member and officer at both the club and league level. As a coach Neil enjoys a lifetime winning percentage of 75% (over more than 900 games). In 1992 he was named the State's Boy's Coach of the year.

Neil is a retired schoolteacher from the West Irondequoit School District where he not only coached soccer, but also baseball, basketball, softball and track and field at the Junior/Senior High School. He currently resides in Pittsford.

Past Rochester District Youth Soccer League president and 2007 NYSWYSA Hall of Fame Inductee, Ken Bliss said, "Neil has served with dedication and integrity as a coach, mentor and administrator." Roger Best, the Rochester District Commissioner, said this of Neil, "I have known and worked with Neil for many years and everything that he did was always in the best interests of the players.

Gina Alger's son Riley participated in TOPSoccer for three years. This year his mom, Gina joined him on the field as a volunteer. In addition, Gina also took on registration and administration duties. Gina is one of the biggest recruiter's for the program, extolling its benefits to other parents with special needs kids. The TOPSoccer program is growing in the Rochester area thanks to Gina's efforts. Her all-around contributions to the program make her a fitting "Buddy of the Year."

New York State West Youth Soccer Association is the largest non-profit organization organizing both recreational and competitive (travel) soccer in western New York. NYSWYSA has over 70,000 registered players and adult volunteers. NYSWYSA is a member of US Youth Soccer Association and the US Soccer Federation.