

TOPSoccer Report NYSWYSA Annual General Meeting 2009

NYSWest is presently running a total of four TOPSoccer programs within our region. They are located in Amherst, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. All programs have had another successful year of steady growth.

Amherst TOPSoccer- began our first ever club run TOPSoccer program with great success. They had 30 players and 110 volunteers in their first session. They plan to run 3 programs per year at their facility in the Village Glen Tennis Center in Williamsville. The timing of their sessions are such that many of the players could play in both the Amherst program and the Buffalo program.

Binghamton TOPSoccer- we are looking for someone to lead this program.

Buffalo TOPSoccer- also had another successful year beginning with a spring session at Sahlen's Sports Park where we had 85 players, and 55 volunteers. We also were able to participate in the AIM tournament in May with a one day TOPSoccer Jamboree where 40 players and volunteers enjoyed the wonderful setting. Our summer session was enjoyed by all at the West Seneca Soccer complex. This summer session had 60 players (with 35 volunteers).

Rochester TOPSoccer- has had another very successful year under the coordination of Rob and Linda DiCenzo. This year Rochester had approximately 20 players in their spring session and 30 players in their summer session (each having 15 volunteers). This increase in participants proves that this program is doing well and is satisfying the needs of the Rochester special needs soccer community.

Niagara TOPSoccer- has folded, hopefully only a temporary setback, due to lack of participants and support. We are talking with the leader about how to run their program more successfully in the future.

Syracuse TOPSoccer- Tom Bonus runs a program at LeMoyne College once his college soccer season is complete. This first full year saw 20 players and 25 volunteers enjoy Tom's soccer knowledge and the energy of his college players.

Years Highlight- TopSoccer participated in the 'player parade' before the Rochester Rhinos vs. Miami game in September. 2 players and their families participated in the pre-game parade and they really enjoyed it. While we had hoped for more participation, it was very much value-added to the families that were there. We look to do this again next year with a larger turn out as families hear how much fun we had.

Future: Sessions generally run during the spring and summer, typically running for one to two hours once a week, for 6 to 8 weeks. All of our programs use dedicated volunteers as 'soccer buddies'. These soccer buddies can earn volunteer credit hours for school if they have this requirement. We also have continued to offer 1-day TOPSoccer Jamborees as a way to introduce TOPSoccer to any club or community.

I believe our volunteer base is filled with outstanding young adults that make our programs such a success, but we are always looking for more volunteers that want to help our young soccer players out.

The time has come where we need to train more coaches and coordinators to run TOPSoccer programs throughout our NYS West communities. These are people who run the day-to-day practices and coordinate schedules and facilities and give the TOPSoccer programs stability from year to year. We need to continue to look at offering TOPSoccer coaching clinics so clubs can run TOPSoccer programs with qualified and knowledgeable leaders.

I envision a steady continued growth in all the TOPSoccer programs

Respectfully

Scot C. Boniface

NYS West TOPSoccer Coordinator