



RVSC KICKER

MAY 2006

River Valley Soccer Club, Parkersburg, WV

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In this Issue

- News and Tournaments
- World cup News
- Coach's Corner

Fundraiser Updates:

Our first fundraiser of the season was a huge success. Teams took orders for Schwan frozen food items. Thanks to all for your support.

Star Quote:

If you're attacking, you don't get as tired as when you're chasing.

Kyle Rote Jr. (world class soccer star & sports agent)

The goalkeeper is the jewel in the crown and getting at him should be almost impossible. It's the biggest sin in football to make him do any work.

George Graham, 1997 (70's soccer player and club manager)

Volunteer Corner:

RVSC is run by volunteers. Without volunteers we would not be able to operate. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Lori Butler at 304.863.5156.

Upcoming Tournaments and Club News



RVSC 93 - Jammers, participated in the Louisville Cup, in Louisville Kentucky, April 22/23. Playing in the U-12 White Division, posting a record of 2-2 and finishing as runner-up in a close championship game with a final score of 3-1. In the weekend the Jammers scored 11 goals and allowed 8. In a division with 5 other teams it was a very strong showing for the girls and positive start for the spring season.

Jammers upcoming Tournaments: Beckley 5/13 & 14, Marietta 5/20 & 21,

RVSC 95 - Gators, participated in the Cincinnati Mid American Soccer Classic (MASC) this April. The team's record of one draw and two losses did not do justice to the efforts that the boys put into their games. Goal scorers were Nicholas Payne, Matthew Powney and Hunter Hill, but it was the strong defense and good goalkeeping that held the goal difference down to -2. The teams played in the U10B Gold Division with Mason Fury, Gahanna FC Arsenal and Michigan Athletic.

Coaches, if you have any news you would like placed in future newsletters, please let us know.

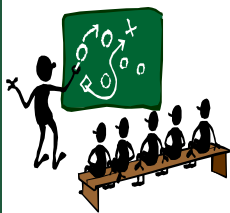
World Cup 2006



The world cup will be played in Germany starting in early June, the USA will be in Group E with Italy, Ghana and the Czech Republic. There are 32 teams playing in 8 different groups with the finals in Berlin on 7/9/06. Lets all wish for a safe and successful tournament for all teams involved.

Here is a link to the Official site for updates:
<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/splash.html>

Coach's Corner - Serving Balls Early



By Lawrence Fine

Serving an early ball simply means that, instead of getting the ball out wide, then taking it all the way to the end line before crossing it back out, the ball is sent out wide and served much sooner, so it is served behind the defenders instead of playing in front of them.

The reason serving balls early is an effective method of attack is that the attacking players are receiving the ball with their momentum going toward the goal. Even if a defender gets to the ball first, he or she also would be receiving the ball while facing the goal they are defending. This presents the defender with a difficult set of choices and challenges: receive the ball, then turn it (probably while under pressure), kick the ball over the end line or play the ball back to the keeper while under pressure. In each case, it puts the defending team under a great deal of pressure.

Another advantage to the early serve is that it forces the keeper have to make a quick decision as to whether or not to come off of his or her line to try to win the ball. If the decision is made to come off of the line, the keeper now has to fight both the opponent and his or her teammate for the ball, since this would have to be a quick decision that frequently isn't made in time for the defenders to get out of the way.

The only negative to serving the early ball is that it's somewhat of a hit or miss situation. If it works, it creates a great scoring opportunity. If it doesn't, it causes a loss of possession and can lead to frustration. An example of this is if the early-served ball is hit too high and hard. The ball then sails over the goal and people start yelling "get your hips turned" and other nonsense. What they may not realize is that this might have been the correct ball to play, but it simply was poorly struck. As long as the server is willing to take a chance and also deal with the consequences, this can be an extremely effective ball to play.

Editor's Note: Lawrence Fine produces FineSoccer.com, an online resource for a variety of tips, ideas and newsletters related to soccer coaching. A member of the NSCAA Website Development Committee, Fine also serves as volunteer assistant coach for an NCAA Division I men's team.

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