## DYSA CHRONICLES




THE PASSING OF LEW ATKINSON
DYSA MOURNS THE LOSS OF DR. LEWIS L. ATKINSON III. LEW SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF COACHIG FOR DYSA FOR OVER 20 YEARS. HE COACHED BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS TEAMS AT MANY OF OUR CLUBS. HE WAS A MENTOR, COACH AND EDUCATOR TO MANY OF OUR COACHES AND WILL BE TRULY MISSED.

LEW WAS INDUCTED INTO THE DYSA HALL OF FAME IN 2020 AND RECEIVED MANY OTHER ACCOLADE THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER.

IN THIS ISSUE

## LEW ATKINSON PASSING

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## CLUB NEWS

 THIS DIFFICULT TIME.
## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DYSA MEMBERS,
WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY happy holiday and happy new year. Enjoy your HOLIDAY SEASON.

Chad reed
CHAD REED
DYSA PRESIDENT

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING STATEWIDE:

DEC. 27-29, 2023 WINTER SKILL BUILDER, KIRKWOOD SPORTS COMPLEX DEC. 27-28, 2023 ODP MINI CAMP, CHASE FIELDHOUSE, WILM., DE
DEC. 30,2023 HOLIDAY INDOOR TURF CUP, CHASE FIELDHOUSE, WILM., DE JAN. 10-14, 2024 UNITED SOCCER COACHES CONVENTION, ANAHEIM, CA JAN/FEB, 2024 DYSA ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION - TBD FEB. 9-11, 2024 BEST OF THE BEST TOURNAMENT, CHASE FIELDHOUSE, WILM., DE

US YOUTH SOCCER REVEALS 2023-24 EVENT LOCATIONS AHEAD OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## US Youth soccer (USYS) is thrilled to kick off its year-Long celebration of its 50th anniversary by

 revealing the full slate of major events for the 2023-24 SEASon.THE EVENT SCHEDULE, WHICH FEATURES COMPETITION IN FIVE U.S. TIME ZONES, INCLUDES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES, PRESIDENTS CUP AND NATIONAL LEAGUE EVENTS, PLUS USYS OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP) TEAMS
PLAYING IN ESTABLISHED TOURNAMENTS AGAINST CLUB AND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS FOR THE SECOND-STRAIGHT YEAR
headlining the list is a return to the stryker sports complex in wichita, kan., for national presidents cu ND THE ESPN WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS COMPLEX IN ORLANDO, FLA., FOR NATIONALS TO CLOSE DOWN OUR AND THE ESPN WIDE WOR
CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON.
each site was carefully picked to ensure it truly enhances the experience for those involved, setting th Stage for a year to remember.

## 2023.

national league conference playoffs: espn wide world of sports complex in orlando, fla., from december 1-4, 2023, AND DECEMBER 8-11, 2023,
olympic development program (odp) interregionals: championsgate sports complex in orlando, fla., from JANUARY 18-22, 2024 (GIRLS), AND JANUARY 24-28, 2024 (BOYS).
national league elite 64 playoffs: austin tindall sports complex and championsgate sports complex in Greater orlando, fla., from january 19-23, 2024, and January 26-30, 2024,
national league p.r.o.: tournament sportsplex of tampa bay in tampa, fla., from february $23-27,2024$
dallas cup (ODP): MULTIPLE facilities in the dallas-fort worth metroplex, from march 23-31, 2024. easter international cup (OdP): Multiple facilities in greater orlando, fla., from march 27-30, 2024. national league p.r.o.: socal sports complex in oceanside, calif., from may 3-7, 2024.
eastern presidents cup: shawnee sports complex in charleston, w.va., and the barboursville soccer COMPLEX IN BARbOURSVILLE, W.VA., FROM JUNE 14-18, 2024.
midwest presidents cup: yankton trail park in sioux falls, S.D., from june 14-18, 2024.
Southern presidents cup: russell creek park in plano, texas, from june 14-18, 2024.
far west presidents cup: regional athletic complex in salt lake city, utah, from june 14-18, 2024.
Midwest regional championships: garmin olathe soccer complex in olathe, kan., and schools overland park soccer complex in overland park, kan., from june 21-26, 2024.
SOUTHERN regional championships: tournament sportsplex of tampa bay in tampa, fla, and the lake myrtle SOCCER COMPLEX in Auburndale, fla., from june 21-27, 2024.

2024 . 2024.
eastern regional championships: shawnee sports complex in charleston, w.va., and the barboursville SOCCER COMPLEX in barboursville, w.VA., from June 27 - JULY 3, 2024.
national presidents cup: stryker sports complex in wichita, kan., from july 12-16, 2024.
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: ESPN WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS COMPLEX IN ORLANDO, FLA., FROM JULY 23-28, 2024
THERE WILL BE MUCH TO RECOGNIZE IN 2024, WHETHER IT BE THE NEWLY-CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF PRESIDENTS CUP AND OUR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS OR USYS' ANNIVERSARY. AS THE CALENDAR GETS READY TO FLIP, US YOUTH SOCCER REVEALING NEW, BRANDED MARKS FOR THE LANDMARK.
the 50th anniversary marks include primarily blue and primarily red versions of the shield logo, as well AS ONE WHERE THE " 50 " IS GOLD IN A NOD TO THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

US YOUTH SOCCER WAS FOUNDED IN 1974 and features 2.5 MILLION PLAYERS Participating annually. its mission is "TO Provide world-class support, resources, and leadership, helping every member fulfill their goals on
and off the field of play."

USys also unveiled a campaign slogan "it starts with us | youth soccer," where the "us" serves as a double entendre, representing both the word "us" and the united states portion of the organizational name. video reveal of new campaign slogan and 50 th-anniversary mark can be found here.
"We are proud to celebrate our 50th anniversary and thank the millions of players who have donned the USYS Shield over the last five decades," said us youth soccer ceo skip gilbert.
"We recognize those who founded our wonderful organization and the executives at our national office AND THE STATE ASSOCIATIONS WHO MADE - AND CONTINUE TO MAKE - US YOUTH SOCCER WHAT IT IS TODAY, MOST, WE
WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS, COACHES, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS, COACHES, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE the lifeblood of our organization.

## fawcett, gregg, and laraba selected into us youth soccer hall of fame

US Youth soccer (USYS) IS Pleased to announce that three new members have been SELECTED INTO ITS HALL OF FAME. FORMER UNITED STATES WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM STAR JOY FAWCETT, STORIED COACH DR. LAUREN GREGG, AND LONG-TIME WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVE LARABA MAKE UP THIS YEAR'S CLASS. THE THREEMEMBER GROUP WILL BE ENSHRINED DURING US YOUTH SOCCER'S ANNUAL AWARDS GALA IN anaheim, California, next month, Celebrating a lifetime of dedication to the sport.

FAWCETT'S LEGENDARY CAREER BEGAN IN HER EARLY TEENAGE YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER CLUB. SHE QUICKLY STOOD OUT AMONGST HER PEERS, AND AT JUST 14 YEARS OLD, FAWCETT WAS SELECTED TO BOTH THE OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THE UNITED STATES YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM. HAVING CONTINUED TO MAKE A NAME FOR HERSELF AGAINST THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE COUNTRY, FAWCETT HAD HER PICK OF COLLEGES WHEN IT CAME TIME TO DECIDE WHERE SHE WANTED TO FURTHER HER CAREER. FAWCETT CHOSE TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME, ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, AND WENT ON TO HAVE AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER FOR THE GOLDEN BEARS. DURING HER FOUR YEARS IN BERKELEY, FAWCETT WAS A TWO-TIME NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR, THREETIME FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICAN, AND STILL HOLDS THE PROGRAM RECORD FOR MOST GOALS IN A SINGLE SEASON (23). FAWCETT GRADUATED FROM UC BERKELEY IN 1989 AND BEGAN HER PROFESSIONAL CAREER WITH AJAX, THE MANHATTAN BEACH CLUB'S TEAM. TWO SHORT YEARS LATER, FAWCETT HAD REACHED THE PINNACLE OF THE SPORT AS A WORLD CUP WINNER IN THE FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT. THROUGHOUT THE NEXT DECADE PLUS OF HER CAREER, FAWCETT, WHO APPEARED IN A TOTAL OF 239 GAMES FOR HER COUNTRY, WENT ON TO WIN TWO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS AND A SECOND WORLD CUP. FAWCETT CEMENTED AN OFF-FIELD LEGACY TO GO ALONG WITH HER RECORD-SETTING CAREER AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION IN 2001, JUST THREE YEARS BEFORE SHE HUNG UP HER CLEATS FOR GOOD.

DR. LAUREN GREGG ENTERS THE US YOUTH SOCCER HALL OF FAME HAVING BEEN A TRAILBLAZER HER WHOLE CAREER. FROM HER EARLY DAYS AS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE MASSACHUSETTS AND NORTH CAROLINA OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, OR WHEN SHE WAS NAMED AN ALL-AMERICAN WITH WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL, GREGG WAS PAVING THE WAY FOR YOUNGER GENERATIONS. SHE STARTED HER COLLEGE CAREER AT LEHIGH UNIVERSITY - ON THE MEN'S JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM. GREGG SPENT TWO YEARS WITH THE MOUNTAIN HAWKS BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE NAMED A FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICAN IN 1981. GREGG THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, WHERE SHE WON AN AIAW CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE FIRST-EVER NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1982. ONCE GREGG'S PLAYING DAYS WERE OVER, SHE QUICKLY TRANSITIONED TO THE NEXT PHASE OF HER CAREER - COACHING. SHE RETURNED TO BOTH NORTH CAROLINA AND HARVARD AS AN ASSISTANT COACH AND WENT ON TO WIN ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH THE TAR HEELS ONE YEAR AFTER Graduating. Gregg also coached the virginia cavaliers for nearly a DECADE, EARNING NUMEROUS COACHING ACCOLADES AND LEADING THEM TO THE FIRST FINAL FOUR IN PROGRAM HISTORY ALONG THE WAY. IN ADDITION TO GREGG'S COLLEGIATE-LEVEL COACHING CAREER, SHE HAS LONG BEEN A COACH AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL. GREGG WAS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM STAFF DURING TWO WORLD CUP WINNING CAMPAIGNS (1991 AND 1996) AND AN OLYMPIC TRIUMPH (1996), AND WAS MOST RECENTLY AN ASSISTANT FOR THE NIGERIAN WOMEN'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM THAT MADE A STORYBOOK RUN IN THE 2023 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP. GREGG'S INSPIRING CAREER HAS SEEN HER APPOINTED TO NUMEROUS COMMITTEES, EARN MULTIPLE AWARDS, AND EVEN RECEIVE INDUCTION INTO THE UNITED STATES SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME.

FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES, DAVE LARABA HAS TRANSFORMED THE SPORT OF SOCCER IN HIS STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA. LARABA HAS ALWAYS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE GAME AS A MEMBER OF NUMEROUS U.S. SOCCER, US YOUTH SOCCER, AND WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES/COUNCILS. LARABA IS A CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING COACH, TOO, HAVING WON THREE REGION I CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH THE NOW-WEST VIRGINIA RAPIDS, A CLUB HE FOUNDED, AS WELL THREE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH THE PARK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN ONLY FIVE YEARS ON THE SCHOOL'S SIDELINES. FROM HIS FIRST DAY AS THE PRESIDENT OF BECKLEY RALEIGH COUNTY YMCA SOCCER ASSOCIATION TO NOW, MORE THAN THREE DECADES IN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION, THE MOUNTAIN STATE AND US YOUTH SOCCER OWE MANY THANKS TO LARABA FOR HIS CONTINUED EFFORTS IN GROWING THE GAME. THE US YOUTH SOCCER HALL OF FAME WAS CREATED IN 2008, LED BY DONALD GREER, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF USYS. IN THE 15 YEARS SINCE, 46 MEMBERS - FAWCETT, GREGG, AND LARABA AMONG THEM - HAVE BEEN INDUCTED.

## US YOUTH SOCCER TO OFFER U.S. SOCCER 'B' LICENSE EDUCATION

US Youth Soccer (USYS) and its State Associations are set to host U.S. Soccer 'B' coach licensing courses for the first time in 2024. Twenty-three 'B' courses were approved by U.S. Soccer and will be held in person by multiple State Associations across four U.S. time zones throughout the year, beginning in March.

The U.S. Soccer 'B' License is part of the Pro Pathway of U.S. Soccer's coach licensing system, with the courses' purpose to prepare coaches to work with youth or senior teams in a performance environment. Some course objectives include the implementation and optimization of designed training sessions to facilitate player learning, preparing an age-appropriate game plan aligned to the game model, and creating a positive and safe environment that encourages respect, inclusivity and belonging.
"We are thrilled for our State Associations to host these 'B' courses next year," said US Youth Soccer Director of Sport Development Tom Condone. "This is a monumental step in continuing the effort from our State Technical Directors as they work to deliver courses at all levels and provide continued development opportunities for coaches. We are thankful to U.S. Soccer for allowing us to provide these courses to our membership."

Below are the courses that will be held during the first half of the year.

| Host | City, State | Class \#1 | Class \#2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Colorado Soccer Association | Commerce City, CO | March 14-17 | May 2-5 |
| Florida Youth Soccer Association | Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, FL | March 4-7 | May 13-16 |
| Illinois Youth Soccer | Loves Park, IL | March 4-7 | May 6-9 |
| Illinois Youth Soccer \& Chicago Fire FC | Chicago, IL | March 11-14 | May 13-16 |
| Massachusetts Youth Soccer | Lancaster, MA | March 15-18 | May 6-8 |
| North Carolina Youth Soccer Association | Charlotte, NC | March 11-14 | May 13-16 |
| Ohio Soccer Association | Columbus, OH | March 14-17 | May 7-10 |
| Tennessee State Soccer Association | Murfreesboro, TN | March 7-10 | May 3-6 |

MULTIPLE 'B' COURSES WILL ALSO BE OFFERED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COURSES VISIT HTTPS://WWW.USYOUTHSOCCER.ORG/NEWS/2023/11/15/US-YOUTH-SOCCER-TO-OFFER-U-S-SOCCER-B-LICENSE-EDUCATION /

## DYSA CHRONICLES CLUB NEWS



## WHAT IS TOPSOCCER?

US YOUTH SOCCER TOPSOCCER (THE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SOCCER) IS A COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ALL ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL emotional, and or physical disabilities. The program strives to provide soccer OPPORTUNITIES (THE OPPORTUNITY OF SOCCER) FOR PLAYERS TO DEVELOP AT THEIR OWN PACE IN A SAFE, FUN, AND SUPPORTIVE/INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT.

TOPSOCCER WAS STARTED IN 1991 TO PROVIDE YOUNG PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES AN ENVIRONMENT FILLED WITH MEANINGFUL LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL AND PHYSICAL Participation opportunities through the game of soccer. the volunteer TOPSOCCER COMMITTEE, REPRESENTING THE 54 STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WORKS TO HELP PLAYERS DEVELOP, COMPETE, AND ACHIEVE SUCCESS YOURSELF, A WHOLE NEW WORLD AWAITS THESE CHILDREN. REACH OUT TO BRING THEM into our soccer family. every tops athlete has a soccer buddy that enables THEM TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL ON THE PITCH

OCTOBER 1 KICKS OFF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH. MANY OF THE TOPS ATHLETES HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTED DURING THIS TIME. MANY TOPS PLAYERS FIND TRUE SUCCESS IN THE WORKFORCE BY BEING PART OF A PROGRAM THAT HELPS THEM DEVELOP AT THEIR OWN PACE. HAVE A TOPS ATHLETE THAT IS A TRUE LEADER ON HIS TEAM AND IN HIS COMMUNITY? SEND DYSA HIS INFORMATION SO THAT WE CAN SUBMIT HIM/HER TO OUR NATIONAL OFFICE FOR RECOGNITION.

DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER HAS FIVE (3) TOPS PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE (TWO IN NEW CASTLE AND ONE IN SUSSEX COUNTY). IF YOU HAVE A CHILD INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A GREAT ORGANIZATION (CLICK HERE) FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION. We require that each player register through their club at no cost to the

All tops athletes are required to register to be part of this program, there IS NO FEE FOR REGISTRATION, BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE TO HAVE THEM REGISTER TO bE INSURED UNDER OUR INSURANCE POLICY.

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT INK

WITH THE SEASON GETTING UNDERWAY, REMEMBER THAT DICK'S SPORTING GOODS IS THERE FOR YOU AND YOUR PLAYERS WITH MONEY SAVINGS DISCOUNTS ALL YEAR LONG! BELOW IS YOUR LINK TO MONEY SAVINGS COUPONS! REMEMBER EVERY SEASON STARTS AT DICK'S!

CLICK HERE FOR DICK'S SPORTING GOODS COUPON

## DELAWARE FUTBOL ACADEMY ACCOLADES . . .

DELAWARE FUTBOL ACADEMY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL of our all-conference and all-state boys soccer players on THEIR AWARDS TO THIS SEASON.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RJ DINA, KYLE WHEATLEY AND MAC SMITH WHO LED THE SUSSEX ACADEMY SEAHAWKS TO THE BOYS D2 STATE TITLE.


We would also like to highlight our staff ru dina, henlopen CONFERENCE BOYS SOCCER COACH OF THE YEAR AND ZACH HEARN, HENLOPEN conference boys soccer small schools assistant coach of the year on THEIR AWARDS. JOB WELL DONE!


DYSA IS PLEASED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THESE SPONSORS FOR THE 23/24 SOCCER SEASON:


Good luck this season!

usyouth SOCCER

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR OR PARTNERING WITH DYSA?


AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER (DYSA) IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT CORPORATION SO SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS ARE 100\% TAX DEDUCTIBLE. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CHILDREN BECOME SUCCESSFUL IN DEVELOPING THEIR SOCCER SKILLS BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HELPING THEM LEARN TEAMWORK, HARD WORK, AND SPORTSMANSHIP.

ALSO, IT ALLOWS US TO IMPROVE OUR SOCCER PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WORTHY PLAYERS AND OFFSET THE COST OF PARTICIPATION. SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP FOR BUSINESSES ARE EXPOSURE TO A BROAD CUSTOMER BASE, COMPANY AND PRODUCT EXPOSURE; AND, SHOWING COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

AS A SPONSOR YOUR LOGO WILL BE INCLUDED ON OUR WEBSITE. DYSA HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU OR YOUR COMPANY TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR YOUTH PLAYERS FROM SCHOLARSHIPS, TO BUSINESS LISTINGS, OR INTERESTED IN CREATING YOUR OWN GIVING LEVEL, DYSA IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR PARTNER WITH DYSA, PLEASE CONTACT TREED@DYSA.ORG

