



The Storm Watch

Special FYSA AGM Awards Edition



VOLUME III ISSUE I

AUGUST 14, 2015

Inside this issue

- Summer Camps.....2
- Armstrong UEFA A (cont.)2
- Lightning Safety Policy.....3
- AGM Awards (cont.)3
- Recreation Coaches4
- Girls Comp Coach.....5
- SCU Sponsors.....5
- TOPSoccer Buddy6

Board of Directors

- President: Mike McGonagle
- VP: Kevin Murtha
- Treasurer: Brian Lundy
- Secretary: Ann Fuller
- Directors:
 - Susan Eaton
 - Toby Gutierrez
 - Les Hatter
 - Susan Keldsen
 - Kevin Koegel
 - Gran Roe
 - Matt Shelton
 - Steve Snow
 - Lynn Spadaccini
 - Stephen Spira
 - Nick Walker

Staff

- Director of Coaching: Scott Armstrong
- Director of Academy: Rob Dinnie
- Junior NPL Director: Dean Flexton
- Administrator: Marisa Whisel

Space Coast Wins 5 FYSA Awards at AGM

Space Coast United Soccer Club was honored at the FYSA AGM Awards Banquet at the Disney Buena Vista Palace Hotel on Saturday, August 01 when three of our coaches and one of our members were recognized for excellence and contributions to youth soccer. Space Coast United received recognition as the FYSA Recreational Club of the Year based on our program goals, leadership, operation, training, and success.



L-R: Ben Plechaty, Alyssa Esposito, Ann Fuller (with photo of Tim Michaud), Kala Neighbor, and Rob Dinnie (representing SCU for Rec Club of the Year)

The second award announced at the ceremony was Alyssa Esposito for Girls' Comp Coach of the Year. She was followed immediately on the stage by Ben Plechaty who won Boys' Recreation Coach of the Year and then Ann Fuller, Club Secretary, who accepted Tim Michaud's award for Girls' Recreation Coach of the Year carrying a photo of him up to the podium.

By this time, there was an audible murmur throughout the crowd as three straight awards had gone to the same club. (cont. p, 3)

DOC, Scott Armstrong, Earns Prestigious UEFA A License

Our Director of Coaching, Scott Armstrong, was awarded a UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) A License following final assessment in Ireland in June. Club President, Mike McGonagle, congratulated Armstrong on his significant achievement adding, "Scott's leadership enables our club to pursue its mission of high quality programming by providing our members some of the most qualified staff available in youth soccer. Our community is extremely fortunate to have a Director of Coaching dedicated to continuing education and personal growth in the sport."



The UEFA A License is one of the most respected coaching badges in soccer and is a comprehensive qualification taken by relatively few every year. It is aimed at coaches who work with, or wish to progress to coaching soccer in a professional, semi-professional, or elite environment. After graduating from the course, Armstrong is eligible to coach at the professional level in Europe or as the head coach of a National team. He is entitled to progress to the UEFA Pro License course. (continued on page 2)



SCU Summer Camps Make a Splash This Year

Our Club hosted three camps in July, the first week at the Crespino Fields in Indian Harbour Beach and the other two weeks at Viera Regional Park. We treated our campers to a water slide break from the summer heat each Wednesday. A few lucky campers found themselves the victims of unsuspecting ice water showers as well.

Activities also included World Cup competition, soccer tennis, and 4 v 4 street soccer tournaments. Coaches and campers alike competed in daily challenges such as striking at a piñata with a soccer ball and keepers attempting saves blindfolded. Candy prizes and bragging rights were at stake. These incentives will surely improve striking and finishing skills!

We were fortunate to have several photographers present to capture the hard work and tons of fun. You can browse through a number of albums on the club's [Facebook page](#) and see plenty of determined and smiling young faces.

Coach Rob Liddell joined our staff for the camps this year. Rob is a Scottish Football Association UEFA B coach and coaches professional football back home in Scotland. He graciously coached the England team in our World Cup competition one week, but of course had to end his time here coaching Scotland.

Space Coast United will have more camp opportunities during the winter and spring breaks. Be sure to check our [website](#) for more details.



Coach Rob Liddell with an enthusiastic Scotland squad

Coach Armstrong's UEFA A License (cont. from page 1)

Coach Armstrong began his UEFA coaching license journey four years ago when he completed USSF (United States Soccer Federation) licensing. He said, "I did not feel I had achieved enough of a coaching education. I needed to broaden my knowledge base and challenge myself to the next level for the love of the game and the benefit of our club's members."

Space Coast United players have benefited greatly from Coach Armstrong's four year journey. Every year he was required to design, write, and implement a book of training exercises relative to the team, age bracket, and style of play. He has written four coaching training manuals that are implemented into the Space Coast United curriculum. His efforts have been rewarded with success as he coached the 96/97 Boys Travel Team to unprecedented back to back State Cup championship wins in 2014 and 2015.

The experience was "tough, time consuming, a personal investment, and incredible," says Coach Armstrong. "The UEFA Course taught me the true details, the tactical understanding of how to structure every practice so that it applies to what we do during games—how to plan, prepare, and develop a team in every position."

Safety Comes First at Space Coast United

The safety of our members, staff, volunteers, family, and friends is our primary concern. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States, and Central Florida has the added distinction of being called "Lightning Alley." Because of the frequency of electrical storms, our state leads the nation in fatalities and injuries caused by lightning. Space Coast United Soccer Club maintains a strict policy with respect to inclement weather concerns impacting our practices and games.

All individuals present at a Space Coast United location are required to evacuate the fields and obtain appropriate shelter upon the direction of a representative of the Club when a lightning hold has been deemed necessary. Lightning holds may be determined and communicated by a Coaching Director, Coach, member of staff, or member of the Board of Directors.

Lightning is considered an immediate threat when it is within five (5) miles, approximated by a 30 second difference in the "flash-to-bang" recognition. Club staff use Smart phone apps as well as visual and auditory assessment to determine strikes within 5 miles. **Note:** Staff at Viera Regional Park are required to evacuate the fields in the event the lightning detector at Viera High School sounds. However, they should not wait for the detector to verify a decision they made based on the criteria described above.

All individuals must maintain shelter in a car or sturdy structure with four walls and a roof while instructed to observe a lightning hold. Inside concession stand buildings constitutes acceptable shelter, while pavilions do not. We utilize the "thirty minute rule" before resuming activities as electrical charges can linger in clouds after a thunderstorm has passed. Club representatives may indicate it is safe to resume play when thirty minutes after the last strike have elapsed.

The Club respects our members' time and attempts to make weather-related decisions in a timely manner, communicating field closures via website home page, social media, and email. Additional notification may come from coaches and team managers via email, text, or phone call. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility when rapidly changing weather conditions prevent adequate notice.



FYSA AGM Awards (cont. from page 1)

However, Space Coast United was not quite done. The very next award was for Recreational Club of the Year. After winning both recreational coach awards it may not have been too much of a shock to hear the words "Space Coast" for a fourth time. Rob Dinnie, Director of YDP & Academy, accepted the award on behalf of the Club. His acceptance speech can be seen on our Facebook page.

The SCU table included Ben and Christi Plechaty, Rob and Erin Dinnie, Kala Neighbor with her father Kevin, Administrator Marisa Whisel, board members Ann Fuller and Susan Eaton, and Alyssa Esposito. Beginning to get a little self-conscious, the SCU table thought we might have a break for awhile. But next up on the program were the awards for TOPSoccer with the very first award for TOPSoccer Volunteer of the Year. Our very own Kala Neighbor trotted up to the stage to accept her award and the fifth in a row for Space Coast. A young man at a table next to ours threw up his hands in disbelief.

"A young man at a table next to ours threw up his hands in disbelief."



Space Coast United Soccer Club would like to congratulate our 2015 FYSA Award winners; Alyssa Esposito, Benjamin Plechaty, Timothy Michaud and Kala Neighbor. The nominations submitted for these individuals can be found throughout this newsletter.

The dedication and hard work of our members, staff, and volunteers has helped make SCUUSC the most decorated soccer club in Florida at the FYSA AGM for two years in a row. We are so proud and thankful.

Go Storm!

FYSA Girls Recreation Coach of the Year: Tim Michaud

NOMINATION: Coach Michaud has been a recreational coach for four years. Amazingly, he never played the game previously. While not yet licensed, he learns everything he can. He asks for regular feedback and never refuses help. He focuses on the players and will do anything to help them improve. He has learned to guide and motivate both 8 v 8 and 3 v 3 team teams. He progressed from a novice to being invited to join our competitive coaching staff in 2015-16.

Tim inspires the girls to compete hard on the pitch, but encourages them to take time to meet opponents after games. Consequently, the girls have made friends in the broader soccer community and look forward to seeing them at the next game or tournament. He insists on good sportsmanship expecting his players to demonstrate they are positive, strong, caring girls who can overcome anything.

He does not want the girls to focus on the outcome, but develop their individual and team skills cultivating a “play hard and never give up” attitude. He does not want them to finish a game thinking they could have played harder. Tim believes that when a team adopts this orientation results come, and results did indeed come this year. He has been fortunate to work with many of the same girls for several years and witness their improvement over time. Last year the team went 1-1-1 in the Phoenix Recreational Cup. This year they were 4-0, scoring 21 goals and conceding not a single one. His 3 v 3 team showed equally remarkable improvement. Last year they did not win any games at the Rachel Price Tournament. This year they were undefeated and outscored their opponents 38-6.

Tim said, “If the girls improve their confidence and ability to work as a team while creating long term friendships and memories that will last a life time while playing soccer, I can say I did my job as their coach and mentor.”

Parent, Teresa Huskisson, said, “Tim’s dedication, passion, and enthusiasm is so contagious. By the end of every season, not only the girls love soccer, but their families too. He motivates each girl to achieve what at the beginning seemed impossible. The parents love soccer because it is so much fun to see their daughters challenge themselves and succeed.” Coach Tim represents the best of what recreational soccer adds to a young girl’s life.



FYSA Boys Recreation Coach of the Year: Ben Plechaty

NOMINATION: Ben has coached U6 in our Youth Development Program for the past 2 seasons, supported our Minikicker program for 2 years prior to that, and coached U10 teams for multiple seasons prior to having his own children. He strives to make the experience fun for every child. He shifts their focus from the scoring component of the game to enjoyment of the activity. He reinforces this with parents and helps identify specific goals for their children to diminish the focus on scoring. He emphasizes positive interaction with opponents.

Ben uses game days as an opportunity to support all players within the league, whether they are on his team or an opponent’s. Ben wants his practices to be both fun and developmentally appropriate. Skill based goals are set for each child during practice and games in order to build personal strengths and reflect where the players have the greatest potential for development. Ben works to remove himself from scrimmages while encouraging players and parents to celebrate new accomplishments.

Players are pushed to challenge themselves beyond their current level of performance. Ben invites families and players to join pickup games with his family to allow for more fun play without “adult interference.” Ben takes advantage of opportunities at Space Coast United to learn more from coaches, trainers, and the YDP Director.

He draws upon his experience as an educator to differentiate and meet the needs of all players, regardless of the developmental level. Ben works to support the Space Coast United community by assisting our youth development coordinator as needed. He even uses his coaching experience to bring soccer into his 5th and 7th grade classroom activities and recesses.

YDP Director Rob Dinnie says, “Ben, an elementary school teacher, brings the dedication and experience of his day job to the soccer field. His calm and focused style is very popular with parents. The children love him as he gets down to their level and becomes a 5 year old when necessary. Ben is a dedicated member who consistently volunteers to the highest standards. His commitment to the Club and the children are second to none.” Our youngest members are fortunate to begin their soccer careers in his capable and caring hands.



Ben with wife,

FYSA Girls Competitive Coach of the Year: Alyssa Esposito

NOMINATION: Coach Esposito has played soccer since she was eight. She is a club alumna (two time state champion at U17 and U18) and played for Melbourne High and Florida Tech. Coach Esposito (D License) has been the Melbourne High JV coach for over seven years and is in her fourth consecutive undefeated season. She was a trainer and assistant coach at IHB Soccer for two years and our U14 Select White Girls head coach for the past two years.

They placed second in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 GCF. Their tournament record is impressive.

Labor Day Beaches Continental Champions
Adidas Cup Fall Classic Finalists
Savanah Cup Champions
Region B Cup Champions
President's Cup Finalists

Our DOC, Scott Armstrong, says "Alyssa is a young coach with much potential. She is quiet, yet players listen. It is rare for a coach to have early success with so many players wanting to return. When a team succeeds, the coach has formed the best relationships. We feel fortunate she is on our staff."

Alyssa consistently acts on her positive coaching philosophy as evident by these comments from the parents.

Susan and Scott Fleming: "Alyssa is an inspiration. When players make mistakes, she reinforces the positive and turns it into a learning experience. She has earned everyone's respect."

David and Susan Keldsen: "Alyssa reminds the girls to be humble after a win and models losing with dignity. After a tough loss she said, "I used to beat myself up after losing games like that. I realize it didn't do any good. Focus on developing a strength instead."

Scott and Debbie Nickle: "Besides her technical knowledge and experience, she understands the value of fostering a team bond on and off the field. Her approach to coaching girls' soccer is something many other coaches should consider implementing for their teams."

Mary and Billy Nemes: "Alyssa is such an inspiration. She has taught them that through hard work and perseverance you can accomplish anything. She has earned the respect of the girls and parents alike."

Pam and Jim Bress: "Alyssa's approachability encourages open communication. Her magical combination of demanding yet understanding, tough yet fair, serious yet fun, along with her professionalism makes her the perfect choice for Coach of the Year. She is an extraordinary role model to the girls fortunate to have her as coach."

Coach Esposito's coaching philosophy and results reflect well on youth soccer.



**Our Sponsors help make programming at Space Coast United a reality.
Their generosity is very much appreciated!**



FIVE GUYS
BURGERS and FRIES

URS



DEUK SPINE
INSTITUTE



P.O. Box 410301
Melbourne, FL 32941

Phone: 321-541-0445

Email: info@spacecoastsoccer.org

Website: www.spacecoastsoccer.org



follow us on

twitter



Established in 1984, Space Coast United Soccer Club is a non-profit run by volunteers dedicated to families who wish to enjoy the sport of soccer and to provide opportunities to play at all levels from ages three to eighteen with the highest quality of programs available in the State of Florida.

Our Programs

Micro/Mini-Kickers
Ages 3-5

Youth Development and Academy
Ages 4-11

Competitive: Select/NPL
Ages 9-19

Recreational
Ages 13-18

Goalkeeper Academy
Ages 9-19

TOPSoccer
Ages 4-19

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:

Space Coast United Soccer Club

Get started

amazon smile



It's not just for uniforms! Click through to Soccer.com's [Storm Gear store](#) to order spirit wear such as t-shirts, hats, and hoodies.

FYSA TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year: Kala Neighbor



Kala and her father Kevin

NOMINATION: Kala Neighbor has been involved in the Space Coast United TOPSoccer program for seven years, having begun as a volunteer in the sixth grade. She has always had a love for soccer. She began playing when quite young and played competitively for seven years. She wanted to share her love of the game by volunteering with TOPSoccer. She desired to play more and to better her skills by assisting children with disabilities.

Kala has progressed from being a buddy to both coaching participants and mentoring new buddies. As a buddy mentor she provided instructions for setting up the fields based upon the planned activities and games. Most importantly, she was responsible for ensuring every player had a buddy once they arrived at the fields. She made sure the volunteers and players were suited for one another as she understands some children need more experienced buddies or prefer to work with a certain gender. Each week she made sure all participants played consistently with one or two buddies.

Kala worked with the program's facilitators to bring the TOPSoccer program to the Families Exploring Down Syndrome of Brevard annual Buddy Walk on October 25, 2014. They brought soccer balls to the event and introduced the game and TOPSoccer program to families in our community who might not otherwise have heard of it. She is committed to promoting not only soccer, but the benefits of the physical activity and relationship building TOPSoccer programming can bring to participants and buddies alike.

Kala feels the program has been a very rewarding experience for her. Not only did it expose her to volunteer work, but when she turned 16 she took on the responsibility of babysitting a little girl in the program with Down Syndrome. Kala demonstrates leadership through school activities where she is a member of Spanish Club, National Honor Society and Interact Club and fulfills as many leadership positions in those clubs as she can. At work, she often takes shifts others cannot over or last minute call-ins. Besides TOPSoccer, Kala also volunteers with the Challenger program assisting handicapped players in baseball.

Two year buddy, Liam Fuller, said of Kala, "She is amazing. She is so organized and efficient, but also warm and patient. She gives me the reassurance I need that I am doing the right things with my players. She and her parents are the backbone of TOPSoccer at Space Coast United."