

# Kenmore Soccer News

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## Back to Play

We are thrilled to be back playing soccer, and following a week of training, to be able to schedule friendly matches with other clubs in the area. Hamburg, Clarence, Amherst, Lancaster, Grand Island, NWAA, Lockport, West Seneca, and Delaware have all participated with us in this return to play. The focus for all of us has been simply to get the kids playing and back to having some fun.

Many "high risk" sports remain shut down, including youth football. As a result, we will have continued usage of Kenney Field for August. In addition, we have worked closely with the Town of Tonawanda Youth, Parks, and Recreation Department to have additional small-sided fields set up that we will be able to continue using into the fall for our younger teams.

The Town of Tonawanda Board and the Youth, Parks, and Recreation Department have been incredibly supportive of our efforts, and our thanks to them and their staffs for their work.

## Returning Players Need to Re-Register Now

Don't forget that all of our current players who intend to return for the 2020-2021 season must re-register through the web site. You should do this as soon as possible, as we have over 30 new players who have already joined for next season, and we continue to welcome those who have been at other clubs but are looking for a change.

It is especially important for our younger players, as we must re-insure them by August 31st in order for them to continue into fall play. If you have questions about the registration process, please contact Operations Manager Ken Voght at [voght@msn.com](mailto:voght@msn.com).

## Kenmore Sting 19 and Under Boys Wrap Up Summer Play



With many of the boys headed off to college shortly, the 19 and Under Kenmore Sting boys wrapped up play on Wednesday July 29th with a match versus the Amherst 19 Boys. It was great to see the boys be able to return and play 3 matches in the abbreviated season.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its affect on the soccer season, U.S. Soccer has granted an additional year of eligibility for players born in 2001, That means that those players will still be allowed to play in the 19 and Under bracket for the 2020-2021 season. We hope to see many of the boys return, but for those who don't, we are glad they were able to get a few final games in their soccer career.

## A Use for Gently Used Uniforms and Equipment

Due to the current health concerns and limitations involving International travel, the mission trip to Africa led by Evans Christian from our 15U Kenmore Blue Devils team was rescheduled to 2021.

If you have gently used uniforms or equipment, and are willing to hold them, we will commence collection next winter, and will publicize dates, times, and locations at that time.

### Contacting Us

Web Site — [www.kenmoresoccer.com](http://www.kenmoresoccer.com)

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## Is "Pay to Play" Really About Developing Players?

by Edwin Reller (The Guardian)

It's the time of the year when we are all inundated with flyers and e-mails touting the "pay to play" clubs in our area. We don't need to name them, you can tell who they are by their \$5000 fee and their willingness to "develop" your child, even if it is on the "B" team, or "Red" team, or "pre-XXX" team, or whatever name they choose. They are adept at making it appear that your child will get great coaching which is focused on player development, when the reality is that their staff is simply making their living off of the seemingly endless supply of parents who believe this is the route to a college scholarship.

The simple fact is that we need to take a step back and look at the direction of youth soccer. The problem isn't with today's kids. It's with the adults who have turned youth sports into a \$17 billion national industry that targets the wealthiest families at the expense of middle and low-income families. They are trying to make youth soccer a pay-to-play machine, and it exists primarily for the club owners and coaches to make a living.

According to a national survey conducted in March by The Harris Poll on behalf of TD Ameritrade, one in four families with children playing youth sports spends \$6000 or more per year on their kid's athletics, and one in 10 spends more than \$12,000 per year. In order to pay for their child's sports expenses, 36% of parents are taking fewer vacations and 19% are working a second job. Those parents are falsely led to believe that their investment will pay off in the form of an athletic scholarship that will substantially reduce — or eliminate altogether — their college tuition expenses.

The fact remains that only about 2% of high school athletes win sports scholarships at NCAA colleges and universities. The great majority of those scholarships are split with other team members and don't come close to covering the costs of tuition and room and board.

If you are wondering about the benefit of your child joining one of the pay-to-play organizations, just remember that the best interest of children generally comes last, and the profit of the club usually comes first.



Kenmore Soccer continues to be the leader in the community in providing playing opportunities for all levels of play. We have recently had 5 teams accepted into the National Premier League for the 2020-2021 season:

- > 12 and Under Kenmore Spurs Boys
- > 14 and Under Kenmore Niagara Girls
- > 14 and Under Kenmore Spurs Boys
- > 15 and Under Kenmore Spartans United Boys
- > 17 and Under Kenmore Niagara Girls

These teams will play against top clubs from western New York, western Pennsylvania, and northeast Ohio, with division winners facing off in playdowns for national championships.

## Summer Camp Wraps Up

The week of July 20th saw 51 players attend our annual Summer Soccer Camp. This year's camp was a step back from what we had planned, as the Celtic FC Academy staff from Glasgow, Scotland was unable to make their annual trip for our camp. However, we have already booked our week with them for next year's summer camp when we hope life is back to normal and international travel once again exists.

Camp consisted of daily topics on dribbling, passing, and shooting, and ended with a World Cup competition. Our thanks to our staff and campers for making the week successful.

We did have one unexpected participant who had not registered, but attended a morning session as an observer. He is pictured below, sitting on a crossbar on Kenney Field 1, trying to pick up some tips on passing, or perhaps watching for an unattended lunch.



## Trivia Question (answer on page 6)

Manchester United took 14 penalty kicks this season to lead the English Premier League. What team had the fewest penalty kick opportunities?

## Kenmore Soccer Joins the Social Media World

Kenmore Soccer has joined the social media experience by creating sites within Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Links to all of the platforms are on the left hand side of our web site landing page.

Teams (or parents for that matter), can post information on these sites by following these instructions:

### Instagram:

If someone posts a picture to their account and wants to tag Kenmore Soccer or include us in a comment, tag our account by using @kenmoresoccerclub

### Twitter:

Anyone can tweet to the Kenmore Soccer page or include us in a post by tagging us using @KenmoreSoccer

### Facebook:

Anyone can post to the wall on the Kenmore page, write a comment on posts, or post a picture/video to the page.

If someone wants to tag Kenmore Soccer Club in a post or picture, they need to type @kenmoresoccerclub

All other photos/videos can be sent to [kenmoresoccerclub@gmail.com](mailto:kenmoresoccerclub@gmail.com).

We have a number of followers on these sites, and you might notice that it includes Celtic FC who has posted information. There are also photos from the Buffalo State Futsal Tournaments, featuring a number of our Kenmore Soccer teams. Most importantly, we have uploaded video of several individual training sessions.

Join in by following Kenmore Soccer, and by submitting information to post and share with the world!

## Follow Us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook!!!

## Answer to Trivia Question

(from page 4)

Newcastle, Everton, and Sheffield United were each awarded just one penalty kick, with Newcastle being the only league team that failed to score a penalty kick goal.

## Submissions Anyone ??????????????

We want this to be your newsletter. We also want you to be a part of the Club web site. So, we are looking for your ongoing input—articles, pictures, match highlights, team and player recognition, etc. Each team should consider having a designee that can channel information to the Club for inclusion in the newsletter or web site.

Send your submissions to us at [doc@kenmoresoccer.com](mailto:doc@kenmoresoccer.com). Pictures are welcome, but should be in a jpg or gif format.



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## Fund Raising

The Kenmore Soccer Club is registered with the New York State Attorney General to conduct fund-raising, as is required by law, but each activity needs to be approved by our Board of Directors.

If your team wants to conduct any fund-raising, just e-mail us at [doc@kenmoresoccer.com](mailto:doc@kenmoresoccer.com) with the details of what you propose, and the eventual use of the funds raised. We will get back to you promptly.