



SkoMor Soccer Club

Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood and Surrounding Communities



Volume 1, Issue 2

CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 2010

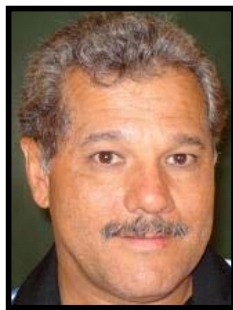
Spotlight on SkoMor S.C.

Interview with The President

SkoMor S.C. sits down with Club President, Paul Rojas to discuss the club's history and what the future holds.

How did SkoMor SC start?

Just over 20 years ago, I was surprised not to have seen a soccer feeder program in our School District 219. I thought that if our soccer players knew the game before walking on to the high school field our two high schools would be able to compete with other schools, mainly in the Central Suburban League. The soccer programs, already in our community, were a terrific introduction to the game of soccer, but if we wanted to compete at the high school level we needed more. SkoMor Soccer Club started in 1989, the year I knew that my son and his friends needed that extra push.



Did you start with many teams?

We started with only one team that first year and after a few seasons, the idea we had about preparing a player to compete at the high school level caught on in our community. We grew to where a Board was needed and volunteers to help with what goes on in bringing a game to the field. SkoMor can not exist unless we have the parents with us, sharing our goal of getting our kids to play at that next level.

What were/are the objectives of the club?

The goal we had in place when we began, preparing our incoming freshmen class to play at the high school level, changed in the years to come. We realized that we needed to offer more. If a young adult wanted to coach or officiate, an integral part of soccer, SkoMor SC needed to train them and get them certified through the Illinois Youth Soccer Association. Many of our coaches and referees today are working with those certificates and giving back to their communities.

How would you describe the club?

SkoMor SC is a Family. Our Players, Coaches, Families, and Board Members, we all strived to build soccer and are all committed to this project to develop players and providing travel soccer at a reasonable expense (Continue on Page 4).

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'Gives Back During the Holidays'

SkoMor SC invites all current Players, Future Stars, AFS International Students, Family and Friends to join our club in celebrating the conclusion of the 2010 Fall Season. The celebration embraces the **First Annual 'Gives Back During the Holidays'** event at Niles North High School Field House. The night will include playing soccer games, raffle prizes, and much more. All Parents and Family members are encouraged to participate and play soccer!



Niles Township Food Pantry

- Entry into the event is one non-perishable food item (canned or boxed) per person.
- All donated food will be distributed to the Niles Township Food Pantry just in time for the holiday season.

Raffle Tickets:

Tickets may be purchased for \$1 per ticket For each 5 non-perishable food items, receive one Raffle Ticket.



Key Information:

- **Location:** Niles North High School Field House; 9800 North Lawler St., Skokie, IL 60076 (Enter Door 12).
- **Date:** Friday, November 19th, 2010
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Who:** Open to Current SkoMor SC Players, Future Stars, AFS International Students, Family and Friends
- **What to Bring:** Gym Shoes, Shin Guards, Soccer Ball, Water Bottle (No cleats will be allowed).

Important Dates

- 11/19 – Fri **First Annual 'Gives Back During the Holidays'**, (NNHS); 6 - 8 p.m.
- 12/18 - Sat **Holiday Kick-off** (Current Players and Future Stars), (NNHS); 3 - 4 p.m.
- 12/22 – Wed **U-14 Girls Tryout**, (NNHS); 3-4 p.m.
- 12/22 – Wed **Winter Break 'Bring a Friend' Soccer**; (NNHS); 3 - 4 p.m.
- 12/23 – Thur **Winter Break 'Bring a Friend' Soccer**; (NNHS); 3 - 4 p.m.
- 12/29 – Wed **Winter Break 'Bring a Friend' Soccer**; (NNHS); 3 - 4 p.m.
- 12/30 – Thur **Winter Break 'Bring a Friend' Soccer**; (NNHS); 3 - 4 p.m.
- 1/14 – Friday **Development Academy** – Spring Registration Date

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SkoMor S.C. is Expanding! Introducing the Development Academy

With our continued mission of expanding the number of players and teams representing SkoMor S.C., the club will be setting up the **Development Academy** for 5-8 year olds to commence in the Spring. Teams in the Academy will practice (training sessions) once a week and play once a week in the IWSL or YSSL league, with our professional coaches continuing to teach our Academy players the fundamentals of the game.

Key Information:

- **Academy Cost:** \$175 per season
- **Dates:** Spring Season: April to June; Fall: September to November
- **Training/Practices:** One per week for 60 minutes during spring and fall seasons
- **Teams:** Roster size: Max 14 Players, games are played with 7 vs. 7
- **Leagues/Games:** YSSL or IWSL U-8 divisions, 2x30 min games, Spring 8 games; Fall 10 games



Academy

Signup and Registration has already begun with high interest shown in the program. If any child is interested in registering for the Academy, please contact the Director of Coaching, Jamie Lyons at skomorsoccer@yahoo.com.

U-15 to U-19 - Tryouts

SkoMor SC invites Boys in ages groups U-15 to U-19 to tryout for the Winter/ Spring 2011 season teams. Tryouts take place on Thursday November 4th. Tryouts are free of charge, with no pre-registration required.

Tryout Information:

- **Location:** Niles North High School Stadium Field, 9800 North Lawler St. Skokie, IL 60077
- **Date:** Thursday, November 4th
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **What to Bring:** ID, copy of birth certificate, soccer ball and water.
- **Team Fee: \$750 Includes:**
 - **Winter**
 - **Weekly Indoor Training** (Old Orchard Junior High and/or Niles North Field House)
 - **Indoor League** (starts January at Soccer City, Palatine),
 - **Spring**
 - **Weekly Spring Training** – Twice a week
 - **Outdoor League** – YSSL - 8 games
 - **Outdoor Tournament** (more added as needed)
 - **Uniforms:** Home Jersey, Away Jersey, Training Shirt, Home Shorts, Away Shorts, Socks



Niles Township Soccer



Congratulations to the **Niles North** and **Niles West High Schools** soccer teams on recently completed seasons.

The 2010 season produced a best ever 16-3-4 record and a Regional Championship for Niles West H.S. The cross town Vikings endured a difficult season, finishing at 5-12-4, although they did produce a 2-1 win over Chicago Taft in the Regional.

Niles North H.S. Head coach, Dan Edminster was very proud of his team. He said, "The best moment I would say is the way the boys came at the end of the season and playing their best soccer. The last four games or so, they showed great progress and this is where we wanted to be going into the playoffs. The boys played the system very well and we were getting good looks on our opponents net. We started to finish, which for us we lacked in the beginning of the season. All in all the boys had a good season and we can only hope that they continue their success in the future."

Adult Men's Team!

As well as the Development Academies, the club will also be establishing a **Men's Team** starting with the Indoor Season.

The men's team will be an extension of the programs already established in the club and an opportunity for adults some of us to dust off our cleats and get back to playing some soccer!



It is planned the team will play an Outdoor Season in the Premier Soccer League First Division. The addition of the Men's Team will create the opportunity for children through adults to play, coach, and referee in a fully integrated pyramid. The team will first play during the indoor season at Soccer City in Palatine.

Any adults (must be 17) who are interested in playing on the SkoMor SC Men's team, please contact the Director of Coaching, Jamie Lyons.

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Director of Coaching

A Message from Jamie Lyons

As our travel teams finish their fall seasons, along with our Fall Future Stars program winding down, it has been great to see all the players representing SkoMor every week. The club is heading in an exciting direction with the introduction of new programs and teams and we would not be able to do this without your continued support to the SkoMor family. Well done to everyone who has been involved over the fall and we all look forward to getting the winter season underway.

Please checkout all the winter soccer and training information, including the technical training sessions. Go SkoMor! – Thank you, Jamie



Future Stars Training Program A Growing Success!

Overseen and by the Director of Coaching, Jamie Lyons, the Fall edition of the Future Stars Program has proved again to be an absolute success. This introductory program to the beautiful game has 24 children participating in at least one of the seven sessions, with most participating in all seven fall sessions.

Players have been introduced to soccer through fun games and learning the fundamentals of the game and are thoroughly enjoying it.

With the high demand to increase program dates, SkoMor S.C. had added 15 dates running during the Winter session.



Winter Break 'Bring a Friend' Soccer

Join SkoMor S.C. during the winter break for a little 'footie'. The 'Bring a Friend' soccer sessions are for all Current SkoMor SC Players, Future Stars, any new or potential players, family and friends. 'Bring a Friend' soccer is **free** and open to the public.

- **Location:** Niles North High School Field House, 9800 North Lawler St. Skokie, IL 60077 (Enter Door 12)
- **Dates:** 12/22, 12/23, 12/29, 12/30
- **Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day
- **What to Bring:** Gym Shoes, Shin Guards, Soccer Ball, Water Bottle (No cleats will be allowed).

SkoMor Soccer Club – Future Stars – Winter 2011

The Winter 2011 program starts on Tuesday, January 4th running until Sunday, February 27th, on non-consecutive Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Three options are available.

- The fees are: Option A \$50; Option B \$60 or Option C all fifteen for \$100 (\$20 savings).
- Receive a **Free SkoMor SC Training t-shirt** if you register for Option A, B, or C.

Option A: Seven Week Session - \$50 for all seven weeks or \$8 per session

Location: Old Orchard Junior High; 9310 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076

Time: 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Dates: Tuesday 1/4; Thursday 1/13; Tuesday 1/18; Thursday 1/27; Tuesday 2/1; Tuesday 2/15**; Thursday 2/17**

Option B: Eight Week Session - \$60 for all eight weeks or \$8 per session

Location: Niles North High School field house; 9800 North Lawler St., Skokie, IL 60076

Time: 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Dates: Sundays: January 9; January 16; January 23; January 30; February 6; February 13; February 20**; February 27**

Option C: Both Option A & Option B - \$100 for all fifteen weeks or \$8 per session

Winter Training Information

Indoor winter team training has been scheduled for Fridays at Old Orchard Junior High; 9310 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076 (Enter northside of gym) from 5:30 - 9:00 pm.

- U10s will train 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- U12s will train 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
- U14s will train 8:00 p.m. to 9:00pm.

One hour **Technical training** sessions will also be introduced on non-consecutive Tuesdays and Thursday. All information on dates and times will be sent to club members during the month of November.

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SkoMor Soccer Club

SkoMor SC is a not-for-profit, tax exempt community based organization offering young boys and girls the opportunity to play travel soccer. We offer an array of teams from the U-8 age group through U-19 for children, and a Men's team for adults. Our Future Stars Program is for Kindergarten through third grade.

Coaching Staff

Our coaches are licensed, paid staff members of the club. Each team is assigned a head coach, while several coaches assist in training sessions, with clinics, camps and the Future Stars program.

Jamie Lyons – DOC

Margaret Blum

Chuck Bransford

Jason Bohrer,

Vladimir Borun

Board Members

Our board members are volunteers, serving one year terms who receive no payment from the club of any form. Any person may join the board if an opening is available.

Paul Rojas (President)

Erik Swanson

Joe Rodrigues

Irene Valerio-Vargas,

Peter Ryding

Traci Lee

Ethan C. Bontly,

Maurette Lopez

Domie Babayan

(Cont.) Spotlight on SkoMor S.C.:

What is the most unforgettable memory you had over the years?

Back in 1994, during the World Cup, SkoMor SC hosted a soccer high school youth team from Germany. At that time, Skomor had a lot of kids from New Trier area. Who did not make the Trevians Soccer Club. They needed a club to play with so we made room for this group, and called them TT's- Trevian Throwaways.

All the SkoMor parents from the club, New Trier and Niles Township areas, came together to provide home stays for the German kids for a few days, receiving a real lesson in Euro culture. The only concern at that time was the acceptance of each other because of German/ Jewish backgrounds. As you can imagine, the kids got together without a problem and families joined in and soon became one. We made the newspapers and of course, played soccer game.

I forgot the score over the years or even who won that game, but it was a regular game with someone volunteering to referee. I also remember a small kid who was told by his old coaches he could never play goalkeeper because he was too small. He played in goal for us, and had a very good game.

The Germans walked away from the game knowing they left a mark, and the TT's along with their Skomor brothers also walked away knowing what European soccer was all about. Believe it or not, Skomor was the only SC in the area feeding 219 in '94.

What types of certification does SkoMor SC offer their members?

Skomor coaches and referees are licensed by the IYSA and USSF and continue their development every year by hosting clinics, or signing up for clinics throughout the state. Every coach on our staff is certified in AED and First aid.

We hold two practices for each team during the week and we usually have one game per week during each season. We ask that if you participate in our club, that you attend your practices and make arrangements to be at each game 30 minutes before starting time.

What has been the biggest challenge over the years?

The biggest challenge has been to compete with the soccer clubs that have sprouted all around the northern part of our state. These clubs do come with a program that is geared for the upper level player and attracts these players from all over the northern state.

SkoMor needs to continue to stay focused as a community club that attracts its own residents that are part of the Niles Township School District. The level of player that we attract should not be how we are looked at by outsiders, but how we are willing to work with the child that is part of our community.

Where do you see the club going in the future?

The club should still be part of the 219 School District. For the most part, the player that is still going into our high schools has not been part of a soccer program that plays at a competitive level. Most come in with soccer skills at the very basic level if anything at all. This puts the high school coaching staff to shift their goals from staying competitive in their Central Suburban League to teaching fundamentals of the sport, something that each player should have when entering any high school sport.

These players need to be part of a club, such as SkoMor, that can give the experience they will need to enter a high school program that focuses on developing each player to be part of a team that can compete and succeed at the highest level of high school soccer.

What advice do you have for kids getting started in soccer?

If anyone wants to play this sport, just play the game. Be part of a program if possible. If not, go to the parks and see if there is a pick up. If not, just start kicking the ball by yourself and develop into the player you want to be on your own.

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SkoMor S.C.

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