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Community league soccer needs you

The distinguishing feature of the North American male is that, given a ball at his feet, he is conditioned at birth to bend down, pick it up and throw it, instead of kicking it like males from the rest of the world! Despite this peculiar backdrop, soccer makes good headway in Alberta, quantity-wise, at least, and there has been quite a lot of activity in the Indoor Soccer League by sides from the University this winter.

As this is written, Golden Bears are playing a match which, if they win, virtually assures them of the championship in Division I. Less exalted contributions have been made in Division II by Bear Cats and Bristol Newts; and by at least three teams in Division III, including Chinese Social Recreation Club which won last year's Intramurals, with varying degrees of success.

As summer approaches the University's soccer elite will be thinking of Golden Bear Trials, and others less ambitious will be sharpening their cleats for the Intramurals (Referees, please note!) and a lot of kids all over Edmonton will be wondering

whether their Community League Soccer Clubs will be able to find enough coaches and referees for them to play this year.

Our large intake of students from all over the soccer world must make U of A one of the biggest storehouses of ordinary levels of soccer skills and experience in North America. This is in a City where the Community Leagues have each season to seek desperately for enough organizers with even the slightest knowledge of soccer - and sometimes without even that but with enough goodwill to try to take on teams of boys whose tremendous enthusiasm for "kick it" in a "pick it up and throw it" society is sometimes the only soccer skill they have the opportunity to acquire.

Here is one aspect of City life in which our involvement, individually and as a University, could if we are willing, give something of value not otherwise available to the community; to say nothing of the impact on the standards of play of enough coaches to whom soccer is a natural game and referees with sufficient

knowledge of the game to state and enforce the rules at Boys' League level.

Can You Help?

The summer soccer scene in Edmonton is fragmented, but the following list should provide contacts for anyone interested in its organization at Community level. We will upgrade it through the summer as information reaches in in "Portrait".

Applications for teams to participate in the Edmonton and District Soccer League this summer can be accepted for a few days yet. The League will operate in 3 Divisions: League Would-be players can also be introduced individually to clubs of appropriate strength for trials if they wish.

Coaching.

The Community League teams are desperately short of coaches: last season some kids' teams were unable to play because of lack of coaches and managers, others had to be operated by parents who had no previous exposure to the game.

Upgrading and instruction courses for coaches at all levels are planned for Edmonton during the next few years, starting at "Preliminary" level and progressively through the grades to internationally recognized National Coach qualification. But you don't need to be a superstar to give a lot to a group of boys who are starting out in the game: just some knowledge of the basic techniques and willingness and a little time to share them goes a wonderfully long way at this level.

Information contacts:

Courses: Mr. Peter Usher,
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