



# MENTOR SOCCER CLUB

A CLUB, A COMMUNITY, A FAMILY

March 2014

## The DOC Is In - with Jim Buchan

Dear Mentor Family,

Well the indoor season is coming to a close and our focus is on the upcoming outdoor season. The indoor season has many benefits to it, it helps our players keep their touches on the ball, it allows our teams to gel with each other and also it challenges us when we play other teams, the same age or older.

The indoor tournament is around the corner and is a tremendous way to finish the season and to start the outdoor practices. The kids have a great time playing and the excitement it generates is awesome. I, for one, cannot wait for it. This tournament is for the betterment of our FAMILY, the MENTOR FAMILY. What we make at this tournament is invested back into our club.

The fields are going to be under duress after all this snow and inclement conditions. We as parents, players and coaches must take the utmost care of our fields. It only takes one training session on a waterlogged field to destroy it and leave us with a surface that only hurts our player's ability to play. So please take this into consideration at our training sessions and games. We only have these fields and must show common sense.

My last paragraph will revolve around how far we have come in the last two years. We have increased our numbers in the WAVE, we are producing some nice players and have some excellent young coaches that love to coach here at Mentor. I also must congratulate Amy Meyers, Amy Freeman and the crew of the Rec coaches. They sacrifice so much for little recognition well, I for one, recognize their hard-work, so take a bow folks.

Again see you on the field or at the counter at Heisley

Jim  
DOC Mentor Soccer



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**Brazil battles Italy in the Rec U13/14  
Indoor World Cup...more to come.**

## MSC 4v4 Indoor Soccer Festival

When: March 28-30, 2014

Where: Heisley Indoor Soccer Center

Questions or to sign your team up: Contact Melissa

Read at [soccer22mom22@yahoo.com](mailto:soccer22mom22@yahoo.com)

Cost: \$150 per team

Mentor Soccer Club will be hosting their Third Annual 4v4 Indoor Soccer Festival again in March of 2014. This is a fun filled, fast paced small sided soccer festival for all teams age U8 and up. Game format is 4v4 with 12 minute games. There will be MSC and Wave apparel for sale, a Chinese auction and a giant prize board. Winning teams are awarded trophies and all teams get at least 3 games.

Even if your team is not playing, come to the festival to take a chance at winning some of the big board prizes such as a large screen TV, a tablet or a lawn mower!

We are currently taking sponsorship donations for the Festival. If you or your company would like to donate a prize for the Prize Board, contact Melissa Read at [soccer22mom22@yahoo.com](mailto:soccer22mom22@yahoo.com)

## Spring Break Camp

Spring Break is just around the corner and we have a cure for your cabin fever if you are looking for something to do. For the first time we will be holding an Indoor Soccer Camp at Heisley Soccer Center! Why sit at home when you can come out and kick a ball around?! The camp will run from Monday-Thursday March 17-20 for any players in Rec or Wave as follows:

U7 - U9 : 9:30am - 11:00am

U10-U13 : 11:00am - 12:30pm

The cost is only \$50 and will be run by our Wave Coaches. They will have skills and drills followed by a scrimmage each day. Indoor soccer shoes or tennis shoes are allowed, NO cleats though! Registration is now open on our website and space is limited so sign up now.

Any questions or registrations problems can be sent to me at [wave@mentorsoccerclub.com](mailto:wave@mentorsoccerclub.com)

## Rec Spring Registration Now Open

For those that did not sign up for the Fall season of Rec Soccer, you can still sign up to play in the Spring season. Registration for the Spring season opened on January 1, 2014. There are limited spots open in some age groups and waiting list in others. To register, go to [www.mentorsoccerclub.com](http://www.mentorsoccerclub.com).

## World Cup 2014

This summer, the World's greatest sports tournament will take place in Brazil, World Cup 2014. 32 of the best soccer teams from around the world will come together to crown a champion. Over the next few months, we will give a summary of the teams involved and some other interesting information, such as, did you know that to play for a country in the World Cup you have to be a naturalized citizen of that country? Depending on citizenship rules of the country you might be able to get it from your mother/father or grandparent, you may also be able to get it if you were living there for a certain number of years. Now a look at the teams in groups A and B.

### Group A:

#### BRAZIL

#### **How do they play?**

**Style & formation:** The flicks and tricks remain second nature, but this Brazil side is also resilient and well organized, molded by the pragmatism of 2002-World Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

They press the opposition high up the pitch, while midfielder Luiz Gustavo acts as an auxiliary third centre back - allowing the full-backs and the likes of centre-back David Luiz to venture forward.

Brazil usually adopt a 4-2-3-1 formation and are not afraid to be direct, often seeking out the flamboyant Neymar on the left with long balls from the back.

**Strengths:** Take your pick. Coach Scolari has the required major tournament know-how, the players are talented and well-drilled, a passionate home crowd will surely inspire the team again, as they did at the Confederations Cup in the summer, and even the iconic yellow jerseys can intimidate the opposition.

**Weaknesses:** There aren't many, but the paucity of centre forward options is a potential concern. First-choice Fred has been injured this season and Diego Costa has opted to represent Spain, so Robinho was recalled last month after a two-year absence to operate as a 'false nine'.

## **Key player**

Believe the hype; Neymar is pivotal to Brazil. Full of energy and deft touches, and able to dribble at incredible speed, he is the player most capable of changing a game for Scolari's side.

## **One to watch**

Scolari says that 20-year-old Bernard "has joy in his legs". Direct, quick, and a bundle of energy, the 5ft 5in winger made his full debut for Brazil in September and scored his first goal last month against Honduras. Once considered too small for professional football, Shakhtar Donetsk paid £21.5m for him this summer.

## **How they qualified**

As hosts.

## **World Cup record**

Brazil are the only nation to have played at every World Cup, winning the competition a record five times, latterly in 2002.

**Fifa ranking:** 10

## **CROATIA**

### **Prospects**

Croatia lack the depth of talent associated with their golden generation of the late 1990s but they remain capable of bloodying the nose of most sides.

### **Key player**

Mario Mandzukic, 27, has averaged better than a goal every other game in 2013, helping Bayern Munich win a historic treble and top scoring for Croatia with four goals in qualifying.

Munich coach Pep Guardiola says "there is no one better in the air in the world" than the striker, but his red card for a studs-up lunge in the play-off win over Iceland could limit his World Cup involvement.

### **How they qualified**

Croatia were level on points with group leaders Belgium after earning five wins and a draw from six matches, but they only managed one point from the remaining four fixtures before beating Iceland in a play-off.

### **World Cup record**

Croatia memorably finished third on their World Cup debut in 1998 but they failed to progress from the group stage in 2002 and 2006.

**Fifa ranking:** 16

## **MEXICO**

### **Prospects**

Mexico used 47 players and four coaches in a turbulent qualifying campaign which left a host of questions unanswered.

There is undoubtedly talent within their playing pool, but the 2012 Olympic gold medalists have little time left to find a winning formula.

## **Key player**

Predicting their line-up is pure guesswork at this early stage, but Oribe Peralta top scored in qualifying with 10 goals, including five in the play-off against New Zealand. The Santos Laguna striker was an overage player at the 2012 Olympics and scored both goals as Mexico beat Brazil to win gold.

## **How they qualified**

By the skin of their teeth. Only a late comeback from the USA against Panama saved El Tri from elimination in the final round of Concacaf qualifiers.

That set-up a two-legged tie against New Zealand which they won 9-3 on aggregate.

## **World Cup record**

This will be their 15th appearance - a tally bettered only by Argentina, Brazil, Germany and Italy.

Quarter-finalists on home soil in 1970 and 1986, they have bowed out at the last-16 stage in the last five tournaments.

**Fifa ranking:** 20

## **CAMEROON**

### **Prospects**

It is a long time since Cameroon lived up to their nickname of Indomitable Lions.

They have failed to qualify for the last two Africa Cup of Nations amid player friction and discontent with Cameroon's football federation, which was briefly suspended by Fifa in July because of government interference.

The national side is top heavy with defensive midfielders but lacking in creativity, to the extent that Barcelona's Alex Song has been deployed in an unfamiliar role as playmaker.

### **Key player**

Samuel Eto'o is the captain and a four-time African Footballer of the Year but it is off the field that his influence could be most telling.

The Chelsea forward, 32, briefly retired from international football in September in the wake of a dispute with coach Volker Finke, and in the latest fallout with team-mates he then claimed there was a "plot" among them not to pass him the ball in the World Cup play-off against Tunisia.

### **How they qualified**

They received a World Cup lifeline in June when Fifa awarded them a 3-0 win v Togo, who had fielded a suspended player. Cameroon had lost the match 2-0 but

the ruling put them top of their group. They then beat Tunisia 4-1 in their play-off.

### **World Cup record**

Brazil will be their seventh World Cup - an African record - but Cameroon have only won one match in four editions since reaching the quarter-finals in 1990.

The nadir came in 2010 when they lost all three group matches for the first time.

**Fifa ranking:** 51

## **Group B:**

### **SPAIN**

#### **How do they play?**

**Style & formation:** Spain's possession game, coupled with their determination to quickly win the ball when they don't have it, has been wearing down the opposition for over seven years.

Spain typically play 4-3-3, with full-backs Jordi Alba and Alvaro Arbeloa attacking like wingers and centre backs Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique often joining in play beyond the halfway line. Strikers only tend to enter the box at the last minute for the element of surprise.

**Strengths:** Spain have a seemingly inexhaustible supply of talented midfielders: Xavi, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Cesc Fabregas, Xabi Alonso, Juan Mata, David Silva, Javi Martinez, Santi Cazorla, not to mention European Under-21 winners Isco, Asier Illarramendi and Thiago Alcantara.

A revitalized Pedro has added extra penetration and goals.

**Weaknesses:** Goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas has barely played for Real Madrid in 2013, while there is a lack of quality cover at centre back.

Then there's the issue of who plays as a striker - none of the candidates have excelled in their auditions so far.

#### **Key player**

Playing at centre back in a team bristling with stars can result in getting overlooked but Spain would truly miss enterprising yet robust defender Sergio Ramos. Capped 115 times at the age of 27, he has started 18 of their last 19 tournament matches and was ever-present during qualifying. However, he has reportedly fallen out with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez and coach Carlo Ancelotti.

#### **One to watch**

Striker Diego Costa has chosen adopted nation Spain over Brazil, the country of his birth, and can expect a hostile reception next summer if selected. The 25-year-old played twice for Brazil in March but could switch allegiance as neither were competitive fixtures.

### **How they qualified**

The holders emerged unbeaten over their eight matches, with back-to-back home draws against Finland and France a mere blip. They did not trail at any stage of qualification.

### **World Cup record**

Spain finally shuck off their bridesmaid's tag in winning the last World Cup; their previous best had been fourth in Brazil in 1950.

**Fifa ranking:** 1

## **NETHERLANDS**

### **Prospects**

As ever with the Dutch at a major tournament, it is difficult to predict how they will fare. The 2010 World Cup finalists have finished unbeaten this year, scoring goals for fun, but that achievement is less impressive when you look at who they have faced. Is a front four of Arjen Robben, Robin van Persie, Wesley Sneijder and Rafael van Der Vaart at its peak or a fading force?

### **Key player**

Arjen Robben gave a series of coruscating displays for Bayern Munich last season, including scoring the winner in the Champions League final. Let's not forget Robin van Persie, who scored 11 goals in nine qualifiers to overtake Patrick Kluivert as the Netherlands' all-time record scorer.

### **How they qualified**

They won nine of their 10 matches and scored 34 goals, with only a 2-2 draw against Estonia denying them a perfect record. That said, few countries had easier opposition - none of their opponents were ranked in Fifa's top 30.

### **World Cup record**

The Dutch suffered World Cup final heartbreak for a third time in 2010 when they lost to Spain, adding to the defeats their great teams suffered in 1974 and 1978. Brazil will be their 10th World Cup finals.

**Fifa ranking:** 9

## **CHILE**

### **Prospects**

New coach Jorge Sampaoli has brought a swagger back to Chile's football, combining aggressive pressing with a fluent passing game. Fun to watch, tough to play against, La Roja have the potential to reach the quarter-finals for only the second time in their history - if their best 11 stay fit.

### **Key player**

Lightning quick Barcelona forward Alexis Sanchez, 24, has hit a rich vein of goal scoring form for club and

country of late. Juventus midfielder Arturo Vidal, 26, is equally indispensable.

### **How they qualified**

They finished third in South American qualifying despite a mid-campaign wobble which saw them lose four games in a row. A change in coach halted the slump, and they recovered to win five of their last six games.

### **World Cup record**

This is only the third time they have qualified in eight tournaments, but they did reach the last 16 in 1998 and 2010 - losing to Brazil on both occasions. They got to the semi-finals on home soil in 1962, again losing to the Brazilians.

**Fifa ranking:** 15

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **Prospects**

Australia are the lowest ranked country to qualify, and the remit for new coach Ange Postecoglou is to bring through the youth. His predecessor Holger Osieck was sacked in October after back-to-back 6-0 defeats to Brazil and France, having been accused of staying too loyal to the Socceroos' ageing players.

### **Key player**

Australia's Player of the Year, Mile Jedinak, will surely have to play a vital role as chief midfield protector if the Socceroos are to enjoy a fruitful World Cup. In the prime of his career, the Crystal Palace captain can also play in defense.

### **How they qualified**

Now firmly established as an Asian Football Federation member, the Socceroos qualified automatically behind Japan but their passage to Brazil was not easy. Winless in their first three matches, they went unbeaten over the last five and secured their place seven minutes from time in the final game against Iraq.

### **World Cup record**

They have reached their third successive finals, and their fourth in total. Guus Hiddink's side reached the last 16 in 2006 but lost in stoppage-time to eventual winners Italy.

**Fifa ranking:** 59

## **Congratulations to Coach Sivik**

Mentor Soccer Club is very proud to announce that our own Wave coach Steve Sivik has been named Lake Catholic's Girls Varsity Coach! Steve has been the Mentor High Boy's Assistant Coach since 2005 and helped guide them to the State Final game this past season. Steve is currently coaching the Wave Girls U14

Red team. He has a nice young core of girls at Lake Catholic with a couple of former MSC girls on the squad. Best of luck to them all.

## **MSC Looking for Rec Coaches**

Mentor Soccer Club relies on volunteer coaches for our Rec Division. Our age groups were full for the Fall season, and we would like to be able to open up more teams in the Spring for kids that want to play, but did not sign up in the Fall. To do this, we need more volunteer Rec coaches. You don't need to be a former player or an expert in soccer. We hold a training class before the season to get you up to speed and supply you with the necessary practice items like cones and pinnies. If you would be interested in becoming a coach, and your child's hero, contact Amy Myers at [Rec@mentorsoccerclub.com](mailto:Rec@mentorsoccerclub.com).

## **On the Sidelines – Parent Tips**

### **Helpful Game day Tips...**

#### **Before The Game**

Tell your children you are proud of them regardless of how well they play.

Tell them to play hard and have fun and remind them that "nervous is normal."

Commit to Honoring the Game no matter what others do.

#### **During The Game**

Let the coaches coach. Avoid instructing your child (or other players).

Fill your child's (and teammates') Emotional Tanks.

Cheer good plays and good efforts by both teams.

#### **After The Game**

Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.

Thank the coaches for their effort.

Remind your child that you are proud of him or her – especially if the game didn't go well!

**"To excel, your children must love the game enough to work at it. Pressuring them to excel can sap that love. You can nurture this love of playing by noticing and recognizing them for specific things they're doing well." Shannon Boxx US Women's National Team Midfielder.**

## Mentor Soccer Club and Wave Spiritwear

Soccer.com has opened its new MSC Wave Spiritwear Online shop. Check it out at this link for some of the coolest Wave gear available:

### MSC WAVE SPIRITWEAR

Mentor Soccer Club gear with the new Mentor Logo as well as Wave gear is now available at our other Spiritwear shop:

### MSC SPIRITWEAR

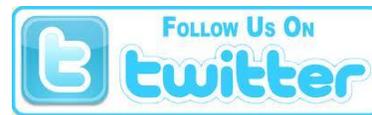


## Follow and Like Mentor Soccer Club online.



Mentor Soccer Club is on Facebook and Twitter! Keep up to date with all the latest team news and announcements as well as having fun and seeing pictures of some of our teams. We would love for you to like our page and post whenever you can. The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mentor-Soccer-Club/325866336713>



We are also on Twitter. Keep up to date on field closings and other important announcements by following us at:

[https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen\\_name=mentorsoccer](https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen_name=mentorsoccer)

## Club Calendar

Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Heisley President's Day Tournament
Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting at Longo's on Lakeshore 7pm
Mar 17-20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break Soccer Camp at Heisley
March 28-30	MSC 4v4 Indoor Festival
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Outdoor Spring Rec Season begins (weather permitting)
Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting at Longo's on Lakeshore 7pm
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting at Longo's on Lakeshore 7pm
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rec All-Star Day - The World Comes to Krueger
May 31 – Jun 1	Rec Tournament

## **Soccer Web Links**

Mentor Soccer Club: [www.mentorsoccerclub.com](http://www.mentorsoccerclub.com)

MSC Wave Spirit Wear: [http://www.soccer.com/teamGateway.php?club\\_id=701460&spiritwear=1](http://www.soccer.com/teamGateway.php?club_id=701460&spiritwear=1)

MSC Spirit Wear: [www.mentorsoccerclub.shopgraphx.com](http://www.mentorsoccerclub.shopgraphx.com)

Ohio Youth Soccer Association North: [www.oysan.org](http://www.oysan.org)

Northern Ohio Girls Soccer League: [www.nogsl.com](http://www.nogsl.com)

## **Club Contacts**

For general club questions:

[admin@mentorsoccerclub.com](mailto:admin@mentorsoccerclub.com)

440-954-4326 (voice mail)

For questions about Rec Soccer:

[rec@mentorsoccerclub.com](mailto:rec@mentorsoccerclub.com)

For questions about Wave Academy Soccer:

[wave@mentorsoccerclub.com](mailto:wave@mentorsoccerclub.com)