



Tri-County Soccer (AYSO Region 417) Wins Platinum for 4 Years Running

Fenton/Linden/Lake Fenton AYSO Region 417 was honored at the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Section 8 Meeting at the Traverse City Resort, on March 7, 2009.

More than 108 regional programs from Michigan and Indiana were invited to the meeting. Of the 108, 37 programs received recognition. Only five regions won top honor of "Platinum Award". This prestigious award is given to regions that excel and go beyond the "standard regional offerings". Region 417 was one of the five receiving the Platinum Award for the advanced and pilot offerings that challenge the status quo. AYSO program offerings are the foundation for business structure and training that allows us to perform at such a high level.

The Regional Assessment Program (RAP) is designed to recognize regions for their successful implementation of AYSO programs in their local communities. When your region actively supports AYSO philosophies and policies, strives for constant improvement and demonstrates a commitment to training its volunteers, starting pilot programs that satisfy the community needs, maintaining the volunteer base to grow the region.

It has been an exciting year as our name "Tri-County Soccer" from the merger of AYSO 417 and local travel program gains more name branding within the communities. In fact, Tri-County Soccer is known beyond the local community as a maverick region in piloting a program for better serving the community with full service soccer offerings. Whether the player is new to soccer or a skilled player, Tri-County Soccer offers an opportunity to compete at those various levels with the opportunity of professional and licensed trainers.

The new offerings for 2007/2008 included the addition of the U5 Program, which has over 90 players participating. Multiple referee team concept was in the plans as we have this pilot program in the infancy of the roll out. Both programs

are generating excitement as we continue to improve the offerings within the communities.

The Very Important Player (VIP) program continues to be a positive growth program in offering a program to the special needs players. The TCS VIP team travel to neighboring Grand Blanc AYSO Region to share in an interplay game, where the only bragging rights were that these players are having FUN.

Adult programs that run from late June to mid-August continue to be well attended programs, fluctuating between 90 to 120 adult player participants. As the adult program is being recognized as an offering that has been part of our program for the last five years.

The developmental (AYSO Recreational Program) and travel soccer programs continue to grow over time. While the developmental program maintains the numbers, the travel program has grown from 17 teams to 26 teams. Four of the travel teams playing Michigan State Premier Soccer Program have won their divisions with the last three years. Many of our travel teams continue to be highly competitive at the top of their divisions in one of the best travel leagues (WSSL) within the state of Michigan.

The training program (Justin Detter and team of trainers) that further develops players and coaches has grown with our growth. The training team hosted their first summer soccer camp with 106 participants. Also, last summer, Justin coordinated a college recruitment combine for the boys. Twenty percent of the attendees received recognition and possible communication once their NCAA clearing house commitments were met. From the last three years, 26 players from the Tri-County Soccer program have continued their soccer careers beyond travel soccer or high school.

Prior to June 2007 try-outs, Justin Detter, ex-Professional Soccer Player for the Kansas City Wizards, offered a player try-out camp to give the players and parents a chance to better understand the travel soccer programs. While Justin and his team ran the players through a series of events and participation fun, Jeff Yankley, Regional Coach Administrator, completed a chalk talk under the pavilion for the parents to brief them on the key elements in making an informed decision about the possibilities of travel soccer.

Tri-County Soccer (AYSO Region 417) volunteers are committed to providing a full service soccer offering to a majority of the community members interested in soccer. Without this commitment to serve the community, it would not be possible to be a top performing region and to receive the "Platinum Award" for the three straight years. Thank you to all that make Tri-County Soccer a growth factor in an economic depressed environment within our communities.