



# The Final Third

Springfield, Missouri

Issue 2

2009

## SSC only local club found in State, Regional, and National Rankings

The Springfield Soccer Club parents, players, and coaches have worked very hard over the years to improve both on and off the field. Off the field, we have raised thousands of dollars for the community (the story is in this issue). On the field we are the only Ozarks club to win a State Championship and the only club to be ranked by national organizations. This success is a testament to the amount of hard work the players put into their training, to the parents for giving their kids the opportunity, and to the quality of the coaching staff. At the time this was published, the following teams were ranked by one or both of the national organizations. Congratulations to all of the SSC family on a job well done!!

<u>Team</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Nation</u>
13 I girls	10	32	
12 boys	7	23	
13 I boys	5		
14 I boys	2	21	
15 boys	6	57	
16 boys	2	24	
17 boys	6		
18 boys	1	2	4
19 boys	2	35	



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*Rob Brewer, Joe Kofron, Steve Eise, Josh Hertel, Dan Meyer, Kirsten Hatz, Todd McCutcheon, Jeff Reinold, Dave Stockton, Tom Giovanni, Ben Hamilton, Chad Jaeger, Bryan Murray, Mike Seabolt*



## Midwest Regional League

The MRL is the top league in the Midwest Region. It is a selection only league that requires teams to perform well in their State Cup competition. The Springfield Soccer Club is the only club in the area that is represented in the prestigious league. This spring we have placed all of our age eligible teams in the league. The 14 I, 15, 16, and 17 boys are in the MRL First Division while the 18 boys are in the Premier Division (highest of levels). These teams have the opportunity to play against teams from all over the 13 state region. They will play against State Cup Champions and finalist. They will play against Regional champions and finalist as well as a few National finalists. The competition these teams play in the MRL is one of the reasons that SSC players are so driven to succeed. SSC has won the First division twice and the Premier division once. This spring, we look to improve upon those accomplishments. Being the only club to play in the MRL from the Ozarks also allows us to prepare for the tough State Cup competition. It's just another reason why we've been successful there too!! Good luck to all the teams!



### Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Cup Full of Highlights for Springfield Soccer Club

During the weekend of April 4-5, 2009 the Springfield Soccer Club once again made its' presence known at a local tournament. With several teams competing in the Ozarks Coca-Cola Dr Pepper Cup hosted by Lake Country Soccer the familiar red and white uniforms were prominent on the fields. The weather conditions on Saturday were beautiful for early spring in Southwest Missouri, with Sunday being a quick reminder of the conditions can change overnight. Gusty winds, rain and cold made the conditions challenging on Sunday.

While it is still early in the spring outdoor season many teams and players seem to be hitting their mid season form already. "All of the training teams have been putting in during the indoor season was showing that it paid off. A few teams even practiced during their spring break to be ready for the tournament and that shows dedication." said Eric Sorlie Director of Player Development for the Springfield Soccer Club.

The SSC 97/98 Boys highlighted the weekend by taking home the Championship in the Under 11 Boys 8 v 8 Bracket by defeating Sedalia Select in an exciting overtime game. The SSC 96/97 Girls took home 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the U12 Girls 8 v 8 Bracket. Coming off a successful indoor session at Lake Country Soccer the SSC 95/96 II Boys also brought home 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the U13 Boys Bracket. Other notable performances were the SSC 95/96 II Girls in the U13 Girls bracket as they finished 2-0-1.

Thanks, to all players, parents, teams and coaches for a fantastic weekend of soccer right here in our own backyard. Without the support of Lake Country Soccer and the Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Company events like this would be impossible in our community. The Greater Springfield Area Sports Commission for their continued support of the event is also a major part of the event.

## Springfield S.C. Players Make College Choices

The Springfield S.C. is pleased to announce its' senior class of 2009 and their college choices to continue their academic and athletic careers. "Since 2005 we have seen an increase in the number of players from the Springfield S.C. choosing to continue their soccer careers at the collegiate level. As the club has grown so have the expectations of the players as well as the opportunities. This year's class will definitely make their mark on the college game as they have the talent, commitment and desire to do so." said Jeremy Alumbaugh Director of Soccer Operations. The 2009 class of Springfield S.C. graduates will attend all levels of play on both the men's and women's side of play.

Team and individual accomplishments have been plenty for this year's class. "It is a bitter sweet feeling watching the boys class of 2009 prepare to become college student athletes. They have been a great pleasure to work with over the past six year and they will be missed. They are mentally and physically prepared for the next step in their lives. They have accomplished great things in winning two MYSA State Cup Championships and numerous other events, but I have no doubt they have high expectations for themselves at the college level." said Cory Carr Director of Senior Boys Programs.

While the Springfield S.C. places a heavy emphasis on player and team development, there is no doubt that the goal for many is to attract the attention of college coaches. "If you look at the girls' side of the college game it is such an early process where players are making decisions their sophomore and junior years of high school many times. The commitment by our graduating girls' players to find the right academic and athletic fit is evident by the variety of schools they have chosen. By attending the high level showcases and traveling the past few years to summer camps, they have given themselves a great amount of exposure. No doubt they will continue to raise the bar of our players at the college level." said Alumbaugh.

The college season of 2008 was full of success for former Springfield Soccer Club players. Patrick Carver earned NSCAA Division III All-American Honors playing for Emory University for the second consecutive year. Missouri State University made a run to the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Championship behind the play of Heath Melugin and Justin Alford. Drury University also made headlines by defeating the # 1 team in the nation, Northern Kentucky, before being knocked out in the GLVC Semi-Finals behind some stellar play from Adam Peterson and contributions from Danny Collins and Alex Palmer.

The class of 2009 and their college choices are listed below. "Bottom line is what once was a dream for soccer players from the Springfield area is now a reality. If you want to play college soccer and are diligent in your approach on and off the field, you can make it happen. You can tell college coaches are pleased with the Alumni of Springfield S.C. as we have multiple players at programs now. This means that the environment we have here at this club is preparing players to be successful at the next level." said Alumbaugh. Congratulations to the players and their families for reaching their goals.

### Girls

Erica Freiert	UMKC	NCAA Division I (cross country)
Michelle Hicks	Missouri Southern State	NCAA Division II
Emily Jordan	Concordia College	NCAA Division III
Jody McFarlen	Missouri State University	NCAA Division I
Jessica Roberts	Illinois Institute of Technology	NAIA
Hannah Winkel	Virginia Wesleyan	NCAA Division III

## Boys

Graham Basecke	Indiana University	NCAA Division I
Tyler Bennett	Oglethorpe University	NCAA Division III
Grant Bollig	Crowder College	NJCAA
Bryce Collier	Crowder College	NJCAA
Caleb Collier	Missouri S & T	NCAA Division II
Tim Griffin	Illinois Wesleyan University	NCAA Division III
Matt Medley	Loras College	NCAA Division III
Mason Morawitz	Missouri S & T	NCAA Division II
Ryan Moses	Saint Louis University	NCAA Division I
Devon Newport	Saint Louis University	NCAA Division I
Ian Newport	Saint Louis University	NCAA Division I
Ryan Partch	Eckerd College	NCAA Division II
Trevor Pedigo	Crowder College	NJCAA
Ryan Squires	William Jewell College	NAIA/NCAA Division II
Christopher Tombridge	Northwestern University	NCAA Division I

## **Springfield Soccer Club Has Success at GSASC Champions Challenge**

During the weekend of March 7-8, 2009 the Springfield Soccer Club had a number of teams participating in the GSASC Champions Challenge hosted by Lake Country Soccer and the Springfield Soccer Club. The conditions quickly reminded everyone of what spring soccer can be like after being indoors preparing for the past few months. Evidence of the hard work and dedication by players, parents, and coaches was quickly seen as many teams enjoyed stellar results.

Some of the top clubs and teams from throughout the greater Midwest were in attendance to enjoy great competition and top-notch facilities in Springfield, MO. "Obviously, the weather was much better than last year where we still had snow and sloppy field conditions, but the winds made it a difficult task for the players on the field." said Jeremy Alumbaugh Director of Soccer Operations. "Overall we had some tremendous results not only in wins and losses, but equally important was the fact that we are able to see how our intensive training during the indoor months has made our players and teams better." The Under 17 and 18 boys' teams enjoyed competition from State Cup Champions and MRL opponents all in a showcase division where standings were secondary to getting good games. Thanks, to all players, parents, teams and coaches for a fantastic weekend of soccer right here in our own backyard. Without the support of Lake Country Soccer and the Springfield Soccer Club this weekend would not be possible. The Greater Springfield Area Sports Commission's continued support is also a major part of the event.

### **GSASC Champions Challenge Champions & Finalists**

Under 10 Boys- SSC 98/99 White	Finalists
Under 11 Boys- SSC 97/98	Finalists
Under 12 Boys- SSC 96/97	Red Champions
Under 14 Boys- SSC 94/95 I	Finalists
Under 15 Boys- SSC 93/94	Finalists
Under 16 Boys- SSC 92/93	Finalists
Under 13 Girls- SSC 95/96 I	Champions



## Springfield Soccer Club Raises Record Amount of Money for the Community

Anyone who was able to attend the 24 Hour Marathon Soccer Match on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> was able to see what can happen when the Springfield Soccer Club community comes together for a good cause. With every single team within the Springfield Soccer Club participating in the event and every team playing a major part in the donations raised for the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks and the Springfield Soccer Club.

The game consisted of each team playing for an hour time frame beginning at 4:00pm on Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup> and continuing until 4:00pm on Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Springfield Soccer Club Coaching Staff also participated in the 24 hour marathon match by playing from 1:00-3:00am. "It was a little rough playing in the middle of the night, but it was for such a great cause and many of the kids actually came out to watch us play before they started at 3:00am." said Joe Kofron. "It amazes me how the entire club came together for this cause and really stepped up." Last year the club raised over \$19,000 so the 2009 Game saw an increase of \$20,000.00 in donations!

Each team did more than their fair share in raising pledges and also helped them realize they can help the community in many ways. This year a set of adidas jerseys were awarded to the team who raised the most and that was the SSC 94/95 II Boys who brought in over \$6,000.00 as a team.

All together the 24 Hour Marathon Soccer Match raised \$39,828.00. On Tuesday February 17, 2009 the Springfield Soccer Club presented the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks with a donation on behalf of all the players, parents, staff and contributors, for \$16,845.32. Also, at the ceremony players from the Springfield Soccer Club distributed soccer balls, posters, autographed jerseys and shirts.

Springfield Soccer Club and the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks would like to thank its presenting sponsors; Dental Care of Nixa, Subway, Great Southern Bank, Pepsi, adidas, J & K Soccer, and QuikDine. Without their sponsorship this event would have been difficult to put on.

This event provided an opportunity for SSC players to contribute to the community and also their club, while doing what they do best-playing soccer!! We are very proud and thankful of the support that this event raised for the club and more importantly the generous donations that were generated for the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks to help benefit families in need in the Ozarks.



## Q & A with SSC Alumni:



### ***What was the biggest transition to college (not soccer wise)?***

The biggest transition to college was just learning the best way to balance my time. When you get to college you have to devote more time to soccer and more time to homework and classes. Then of course there is learning to live on your own and having more freedom in your social life. It is a lot at first, but you learn soon enough how important it is to stay on top of classes and budget your time to minimize stress.

### ***What is the biggest difference between youth soccer and college soccer?***

There are two major differences between youth and college soccer. The biggest one is definitely speed of play. In college soccer you have to play fast or you will have two or three opponents on you in no time. You learn this very early in the year and its one thing you must adapt to very quickly. The second difference is just the physical nature of play. In the college game the referees allow more physical play. Also, every player on the field is strong and capable of playing very physically, so you must learn how to deal with this toughness from every team you may encounter.

### ***What is a typical week like in season?***

During the Fall season, we will practice Monday through Thursday. We have weights Tuesday and Wednesday after practice. Usually on Thursday nights we will have a team pasta dinner for our Friday game. If we have out of town games we will leave either Thursday night or Friday morning (if the drive is not a long one). We normally have a game Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. Saturday we will have a light walk-through to go over set pieces and to get a few touches on the ball.

### ***Applying what you know now about college soccer is there anything you would have changed or focused more on during your youth soccer career?***

I think one thing I would have focused more on in my youth soccer career would just be technical work like my touches, dribbling, and juggling. I mentioned before one of the biggest differences between college and youth soccer was the speed of play. Therefore, your first touch and your passes should be on point every single time at the college level. So, it is extremely important to practice those small technical skills often to be ready to play at the college level.

### ***Best player/team you have gone against at college level?***

Kayla Lambert from Evansville would have to be the best player I played against this year. She was a senior last year and named Missouri Valley Conference player of the year. She was very quick and was a great goal scorer. As for the best team I played against in the fall, I would say Kansas University. They were the biggest challenge on our schedule and had some really nice goals against us.

### ***How did SSC prepare you for college (on/off the field)?***

SSC prepared me for the college game by always pushing me to be my best. The coaching staff is extremely hands-on and knows the abilities of every single player in the club. Because of this, the coaches know what every player is capable and makes sure every player plays to that capability level during every practice and game. Also, SSC practices always involved speed and agility work, technical skills, playing, and fitness. All of these components are extremely important at the college level. SSC prepared me for college outside of soccer as well. The SSC staff always focused on the importance of schoolwork and putting your education first. Also, they were easy to talk to about progress and improvement. It is so important in college to remember you are there for an education, not only to play soccer. Also, learning how important communication is from the SSC coaches helped me to know how to better communicate with my teachers, coaches, and teammates here at college.

### ***Any advice for those starting the recruiting process and those who will begin college in the fall of 2007?***

My advice for those starting the recruiting process is to remain very active and open in your search. Make sure to do your part in contacting coaches and going on school visits. If the coaches know you are very interested it makes them more excited about having you in their program. Discuss with them their style of play and expectations to be sure the program is what you are looking for. Also, visits are extremely important not only to see the campus and facilities but also to meet the team. It is so important to make sure you get along with the team and can see yourself becoming close to every teammate because you will be spending a lot of time with these individuals.

## **Juggling Crew Updates**

We are very proud of the juggling crew and it's been exciting to see players improve over the past year. As a reminder of the achievements we recognize we have the 50 Club, the 100 Club, the 250 Club, the 500 Club, and the 100+ Club. Each player receives a t-shirt for the 100, 250, and 500 Club. The 50 Club gets mentioned in the newsletter and the 1000+ Club receives a plaque. Here are the **recent achievements** to each juggling club **since the beginning of the season** and the team they play on. Congrats to each and every player!!

### **50 Club**

Madison Burton  
Katelyn Sallee  
Brianna Hilton  
Lexi Wapelhorst  
Olivia Frazier  
Nick Wapelhorst  
Kristen Knetzre

### **100 Club**

Molly Wassum  
Zach Miller

### **250 Club**

Josh Ellerbee  
Mary Hannah Miller

### **500 Club**

Quentin Monnig  
Joseph Lightner  
Ryan Randell

### **1000+ Club**

**Don't forget to witness your son or daughter juggling and then report it directly to Eric Sorlie ([sorlie@springfieldsportsclub.com](mailto:sorlie@springfieldsportsclub.com))**

**Continue to visit the Springfield Soccer Club web site for Club updates at:**

**[www.springfieldsportsclub.com](http://www.springfieldsportsclub.com)**



The Springfield Soccer Club "Final Third" newsletter is published quarterly by the coaches and staff of the Springfield Soccer Club and Springfield Sports Club, Inc. The contents are meant for current members and former members of the Springfield SC and its predecessor organizations, as well as members of the Springfield area soccer community.

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