

Brentwood Soccer Club



Newsletter

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Member Newsletter



A Note from the Assistant DOC

by Sandy Pollock

On Thursday, October 13th, training was cancelled for coaching education. This is something we do on a fairly regular basis. This time we saw the return of Dr. Tom Turner. Tom came down in the fall of 2009 and the coaches really enjoyed his insight, so we invited him back. Dr. Turner is one of the most respected coaching

educators in the USA. He has worked as an assistant to both the U16 and U20 women's national teams. He was appointed by US Soccer to conduct a technical analysis for the men's World cup when it was held here in 1994 and has also been the head of both boys and girls ODP programs for Region 2. Tom currently leads several coaches' education committees and is a senior instructor for USSF coaching schools teaching A, B and C national licenses.

Tom is especially interested in developing new methods for teaching children the best way to learn the game of soccer, and that is what his topic was for Thursday night. He conducted 2 field sessions at Tower Park, one for our U9 academy boys and one for our U12 academy boys. Both sessions were attended by all of our coaching staff. Afterwards, Dr. Turner delivered a lecture at the Hilton Garden Inn which went on until 9:30 pm. This in my opinion is what sets us apart as a club, we have an enthusiastic group of coaches on our staff that are hungry to learn and apply new methods in order to make your children better soccer players. We will continue to conduct these education events as we all strive to become the best coaches we can be.



Photos of Dr. Tom Turner during the field sessions and lecture for coaching education

Q & A

Q & A With Dr. Tom Turner

Questions Compiled by the DOC and ADOC

Q: Tom, you have been a player, a youth and national team coach and a coaching educator in the USA for over 20 yrs, what are some of the changes you have seen over the years regarding youth soccer?

A: The average player is better and there are more of them.

Soccer is now a mainstream sport; a mainstream industry; and, in many ways, long-term player development has been hijacked by the lure of money.

There are now significantly more coaches with soccer playing backgrounds working at the lower levels, but, ironically, the growth of the game is being held back by people in leadership positions who don't understand the game.

Q: What in your opinion can parents do to help their children become better soccer players?

A: Stop regarding sports participation as an investment. Realize that failure and struggle are necessary for life skill development. Realize that the coach is the coach and the referee is the referee. The parent's job is to get their kid to and from events and to support their best efforts. It's very difficult to be very good at something; it's very easy to destroy a passion.

Q: What should coaches do at the young academy level to make soccer practices fun?

A: Learn about kids. Think about the lessons of street soccer. Play lots of games. Use competition as a positive motivator. Keep things lively, but facilitate indirect learning. Given the option, kids won't stand in a line to take a turn. Freedom of expression is a critical component of learning. Look for the occasional successes, not the frequent failures.

Q: Do you believe the best players in soccer are in some way 'gifted' or have a natural ability that others may not possess, or do you believe the best players became good from playing and training all of the time, or is it a combination of both?

A: Physically, we all have some limitations (size, strength, coordination, speed, quickness, endurance, etc.) that can act as achievement ceilings; however, the biggest influence on maximizing potential is the drive that comes from emotional attachment. If we are passionate about something, we will learn (sooner or later) that we need to work harder to improve. No-one gets to the top without hard work.

Invariably, the players with the requisite physical tools to succeed in a position (winger vs. midfielder vs. goalkeeper vs. central defender, etc.) coupled with an excellent attitude will do better than those who are less motivated.

Q: How do the best players become so good? Is it the amount of training, the type of training, size, speed, athleticism, or a combination of all of these factors?

A: First, young players need some ability with the ball. Second, they need coaches who understand long-term development.

The top players invariably come from free play backgrounds. They play with older players. They play a lot! They establish their soccer personalities without coaches. When they are “discovered” and brought into professional soccer environments, their raw talent is shaped, their emotional toughness is tested, and their eventual success or failure is often a matter of being in the right place at the right time with the right club.

Q: My son/daughter doesn't get as much playing time compared to the majority of players on his/her team. I can see that he/she is not as good as most of the players on his/her team, so I understand the limited playing time compared to the others. However, is it better for my son/daughter to stay with a high level team where he/she will be around better players and challenged more, or should he/she move to a lower level team where he/she can get more playing time?

A: Every player is different. Players who aren't very motivated to self-improve would probably be better looking for a less competitive club. On the other side, hard-working players would probably be better staying in an environment with good players and good coaching. For motivated players, there is no substitute for a good environment.

Q: I have two sons/daughters on different teams with two different coaches. One doesn't say much during the games and only seems to say a few things to the players in training, while the other coach talks throughout most of the games giving lots of good instruction and also provides plenty of information and demonstrations during the training sessions. Is one method better than the other? How are the kids going to learn if they aren't continually told what to do?

A: My approach is to work very hard during training and then let the players enjoy the games. If the training sessions do a good job of replicating the demands of the game, there will be more transfer and less need for coaching on match days.

Coaches who talk all the time during matches are either under too much pressure to win; don't appreciate that soccer is a very difficult game to play well and therefore filled with mistakes; or have long forgotten the joys of playing just for the thrill of competition. I'm not sure many players really enjoy the game with all the noise and contradictory information coming from the adults.

The best coaches impact the game by offering strategic, not tactical, advice...Those who verbally kick every ball would probably be more productive in the long-term if they just sat back and assessed each player's successes and failures.

Q: My son/daughter wants to play in college, but he/she plays for the second team in our club. How can he/she get exposure if he/she isn't on the first team going to all of the top college showcase tournaments?

A: How old is the player? How good is the first team? A younger player will have more time to achieve the skills necessary to reach that goal. An older player may be a good player on a very good second team; or may not be good enough to play in college.

There are three NCAA divisions and one NAIA division. Lots of colleges. Second tier players can still find opportunities to enjoy a college career. They first have to be realistic in their expectations and then do their homework. The Internet makes college recruiting a much easier process these days, but most players still find their own school and make the initial contact with the coach.

Q: My son/daughter is 13 yrs. old and the coach wants him/her to focus on soccer only, but we believe playing multiple sports will help develop him/her as a better all-round athlete. At what age do you think kids should specialize in sports?

A: Interesting question...Brad Friedel was a basketball and tennis star in high school after the fall soccer season, but he is a goalkeeper. Some kids only play one sport and do fine.

Given the number of hours required to reach the top levels – and the formality of sport in the US, the bigger concern is perhaps having some significant time off to recharge the batteries and enthusiasm. A 3-4 week winter or summer break can be very necessary. Playing a different sport during an “off” season can be a great idea. Playing a different sport on a more casual basis is a great idea. Having outside interests – music, for example, can provide a wonderful mental release. Most kids won’t be professional soccer players. Everyone needs variety in life to become well-rounded. Everyone is different.



Update from the Executive Board

by Scott Hill, BWSC President

1. The BIT was a huge success. Special thanks again to Ty Fobare.
2. Golf Outing/Parents Social - November 7th
3. Budget Committee Being Formed. Need Volunteers
4. Below are the results from the annual survey that was conducted.

BWSC Members,

Several months ago, the Board sent out a survey. Jay and Janice Wasack volunteered to analyze the survey and submit a report.

Comments on Questions asked:

Frankly, I am not sure the questions can really go any deeper. You have probed what has to be the key questions facing the club. My only comment is they could have been phrased differently to be a little clearer, less ambiguous. Having said that, I don't think it would have changed the overall responses.

Comments on Survey Information:

I think it is MORE important to formulate a responsible reply to these questions...and quickly. This way, you are being responsive to the needs without having to solve everything right now.

Some of the issues are tough. I think those who answered have provided some clear insight as to what is on the club membership's mind and it would be healthy to continue to face them head on.

You've done a pretty good job of that so far. But there are some issues cited which I would personally agree need to be addressed, however difficult, if the club is to grow and it us to service the underlying purpose which is to give the kids a great soccer experience. Clearly, everyone sees the massive improvements over the past couple of years. Those that do not probably never will. You're doing a great job building a better product, but we must not lose sight of the aforementioned charter. It's tempting and easy to get into build the club instead of developing the players. I think that might have happened in some isolated areas, but clearly not off track by any means.

Overall this is what the membership is looking for from what I see:

- Raise the level of communication. Not only tell them what they need to know, tell them about your efforts in creating a better environment for the club. I love when I hear about your behind the scenes efforts and it will make people appreciate your efforts.
- Increase the transparency: I think the club can do a better job. Break out costs of the coaches, etc. it will serve no other purpose than to have the members appreciate you more. It won't change a thing.
- Realize that our own problems stink too and fix what needs to be fixed. Don't defend the tryouts. Just say "Yep, we are going to do a better job next time around." I think there are valid points about the tryouts which can easily be fixed.
- Don't protect the status quo. Be objective: when someone complains about a coach, don't circle the wagons and say it's a whiney parent. DOC needs to be more engaging instead of how things are handled now. Sometimes the parents have a valid point. (Re:U13 Girls tryouts) Look into it and make the hard calls. Small adjustments, big returns.

Breakdown of the survey questions:

We broke it down by gender and playing level and found that all responses were consistent across all the groups (Very minor deviation).

We also attempted to do a sampling of the comments to get an overall sentiment.

Interest in Volunteering:

Time: 44%

Money: 20%

Both: 26%

Neither: 10%

On the question of priorities:

| | Coaching | Cost Value Of Travel | Leadership | Communications |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Not Satisfied | 1.5% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.5% |
| Not Very Satisfied | 5.4% | 10.8% | 7.8% | 5.4% |
| Satisfied | 18.6% | 28.4% | 27.0% | 20.1% |
| Somewhat Satisfied | 20.6% | 31.9% | 25.0% | 20.1% |
| Very Satisfied | 53.9% | 28.4% | 39.2% | 52.0% |

Practice Time:

More Development 22.3%

Train More/Play
Less 10.9%

One More Day 13.4%

Fine 53.5%

COMMENTS/REMARKS:

- **Coaching:** the responses show overall high satisfaction with coaches.

- Those who are satisfied with their coach are strongest about conflicts with coaches with more than one team. questioning club/coach priorities over good of team
- high praise for many coaches: Jose, Rico, Coach
- premier coaching quality good, falls off for lower teams
- split between keeping a coach for a couple of years (sometimes produces bias) and seeing new coaches every year
- concern in academy that skilled players getting more attention than those in need of development

- **Cost and value of travel soccer:** it seems some were thinking tournaments but overall, satisfaction seems to be tied to previous question in many cases.

- better clarification of cost breakdown
- suggestion of tiered costs based on playing level

- **Leadership direction** 91% are satisfied or better

- tryout process concerns
- although mixed, most happier than last year and feel things are 'settling down'
- concerned about no BOD

- **Practice Time**

- Older groups lean towards specialty/SAQ training
- Additional skills training

Rank the Following in terms of priority:

There was a minor deviation in the academy level. Practice time was a slightly higher priority for that group over training more.

6. Who the coach was
7. Train More
8. Practice times/place
9. Cost of Soccer
10. Travel Less

Sincerely,

Jay and Janice Wasack



2nd Annual Golf Tournament & Couple's Dinner

Join us on Monday, November 7th for our second annual golf outing at Brentwood Country Club. Play golf during the day, stay for happy hour, then meet up with your significant other for a couple's dinner, and have a great night will fellow Brentwood Soccer Club adults!!

Click Here for more information:

http://www.brentwoodsoccerclub.com/golf/index_E.html



BWSC Newsletter Photo Gallery

Each upcoming newsletter will now have a “Photo Gallery” section. This is your opportunity to submit pictures to be published in the BWSC Member Newsletter! In order to submit your photo please email it to:

communications@brentwoodsoccerclub.com and include a short caption. Also, please make the subject of your email “Photo Gallery.”



Robbie Stewart's U14 Boys Premier team won the Region 3 Central Premier League. The team finished unbeaten with 6 wins and 2 ties. They had 26 goals scored for with only 5 against. Winning premier league automatically qualifies the team for the Region 3 championships in Greenville, SC next June.



Quotes for Success

“Success isn't something that just happens – success is learned, success is practiced and then it is shared.”

-Sparky Anderson

Cool Water Orthodontics



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615-778-1800 ~ Franklin, TN
Braces for Children and Adults

Braces and Sports Related Injuries

The American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) is encouraging kids to “play it safe” and consistently wear mouth guards and other protective gear during competitions and practices. Football, soccer and basketball can all be hard hitting sports. Dr. Michael Sawaf at Cool Water Orthodontics wants to ensure that orthodontic patients, and their teammates, are properly protected from sports related injuries to the jaw and mouth. These injuries can include a lifetime of maintenance to repair and maintain.

Despite the risks, many kids are still not wearing mouth guards and facial protection during sporting competitions and practices. Parents, coaches and kids need to understand the prevalence of sports injuries and know that many sports injuries can be reduced or prevented by wearing the proper protective gear.

During orthodontic treatment, it is especially important for patients to wear a mouth guard to prevent injury from braces that can easily cut lips cheeks when hit and players won't additionally swallow parts of their braces. Here at Cool Water Orthodontics, free orthodontic mouth guards are provided for all our patients. If you don't have one or lost it, call our office or stop in to pick one up during office hours, or call your orthodontist to obtain one.

If you have any questions about what type of mouth guard that will work best for you or your child, we will be happy to assist you with that.

Dr. Michael Sawaf
Cool Water Orthodontics
Diplomate, The American Board Of Orthodontics
Dr.Michael@coolwaterortho.com



“Thank You” To Our Sponsors!

The 1st Monday each month is “Monday @ McDougal's” for BWSC players and families. McDougal's will donate 10% of all food sales between 5pm-10pm to BWSC. Please join us for “Monday @ McDougal's” where they have the BEST Chicken, free ice cream, kids eat for .99 cents and 2 for 1beer!



A special thanks is due to our sponsors Loden Vision Centers and the Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance, TOA. We appreciate their support!