

Allen Girls Soccer Program 2011-12

The new school year is almost here and Girls soccer has been in the media this summer. A fantastic Women's World Cup Championships had some great games and nail-biting endings. The Final Four showcased different systems and tactical adjustments, all within a competitive yet supportive atmosphere. The work rate of those teams and the speed/accuracy of passing was tremendous.

ESPN covered every game and also visited Colorado to film live the U-17 ECNL Girls championship . I know that several of our players played in the Elite Clubs National League finals and gained invaluable experience. The Nationals tournament also was held and many local events and tryouts/camps. With 30 and more days over 100 degrees in the metroplex, it has been soccer practice with care and concern .

I hope that families had vacations together (instead of around soccer tournaments !!) and have found opportunities to do other things together. I was involved in top level club for over 20 years and the summers were brutal with camps, tryouts, preparation for new season, scrimmages, tournaments. etc. I now enjoy family time , especially with a 21 month old grandson and opportunities to swim, watch movies/tv, read books, go on a cruise, catch up on repairs to the house etc.

It will be my second year at Allen and I have now a good grasp on how things work at the High school. Allen truly is a great place to be at and with so many fantastic things such as perfect grass fields, a large air-conditioned indoor facility, several top level weight rooms, athletic tutoring, but moreover an athletic staff that is so supportive of every sport .

It is going to be a difficult couple of years at all schools in Texas. Allen has tried hard to keep the status-quo but budgets will be cut back, a freeze on new hires, less opportunities. In Girls soccer we will rely more on the booster club to support the program and we have made it our priority for parents to be able to come to all meetings from August thru December in order to plan for the many activities that will happen in the soccer season.

Parents **have** to attend one of two introductory meetings in the first two weeks about the Allen Soccer program. The program (coaches, board, committees) will be outlined at Welcome to The Soccer Program meeting 7:30pm on Tues Aug 23 and also after meet the Teacher Night (tbd). Our largest fundraiser is the Eagle Cup Soccer Tournament that we sponsor Fri Aug 26-Sat 27 for ASA recreational teams and ask for volunteers for a couple of hours from coaches, parents and players. It is our opportunity to promote our program .

Please check the Girls Soccer website on the Allen ISD website. It has all information for the first week with important forms to be completed. Remember that all players have to be cleared by the athletic trainers in order to step on the soccer field. **No exceptions**. Please make sure that over the next 2 weeks you get all paperwork in order.

Coach Hantak (Head Boys soccer coach) and myself have worked together to make sure that both the boys and girls programs do many things the same and have opportunities to work with each other. We will share equipment, purchase new items together, and help promote the entire soccer program to be one of the best and most admired in North Texas. It is a challenge that we welcome and with the support of the board, players and parents, we can achieve it.

Finally, High school soccer relies on players that have been involved in club soccer but we have players of all different levels. Some do not play club; others are recreational, select, academy, ECNL, ODP. They tend to play at their age level. High school is over four years. A freshman can play against players 2-3 years older. There are 3 different levels at High school and players may progress at different paces over the 4 years.

We have access to great fields, both grass and field turf and a wonderful new stadium in 12 months time. The weight rooms are excellent and female -friendly ! We have other coaches and a full time conditioning coach to push the players to another level...and then great competition for 3 months in top level stadia. **All for free. (or the price of a booster club membership)**

We can help and assist players with club...knowing when you have important tournaments, showcases etc to ease back on our training. Those who wish to play soccer in college will be prepared through our program and we have connections with college coaches in order to help you to reach your goal. Others want to just play club and high school and then go to college for academic reasons. Some just want to play with friends they have known for over 10-12 years in elementary and middle school.

High School is run a little differently than club. We have large squads (approaching 30 each team) to allow as many as possible to participate. Each player has to be academically solid in order to play, passing all courses. We have a tutoring program that helps here. Each player receives four credits for soccer in high school so they are graded each week on attendance, uniform and participation. Coaches and teams are evaluated constantly by the athletic dept on techniques, tactical, chemistry, fitness, community involvement and success on the field in tournaments, district and the play-offs.

Expectations are high at Allen High school. Across all sports, Allen finished 2nd in a tough 8-5A district but the top 5 were separated by only a few points. Allen was tenth among 64 5-A schools in the North Texas area. A one high school town, we expect to be challenging for a district title every year and competing for Regional and State honors. We have the first 2 weeks of school to evaluate players so please come in good shape and ready to play. Have all paperwork completed. Have a positive attitude and desire to improve as an individual and as a team, whatever level that you are selected on.

Welcome to Allen High school Girls soccer 2011-12

Kevin Albury

Head Girls Coach