

It is my pleasure once again to provide a report on some of the highlights of Indiana Soccer in 2013. Your state association continues to expand services and offer solid programming while remaining fiscally responsible.

Most of you are aware of a number of highlights that occurred on the Indiana soccer landscape this past year, a few of which are listed below;

- Lucas Oil hosted the Chelsea, Inner Milan match which was one of the Guinness Cup preliminary tournament matches. It was a great match; played under an open roof with wonderful temperatures – in front of approximately 43,000 soccer fans. As an side, more people attended this match than any of the preliminary and quarter final matches held in this national tournament.
- Indy Eleven was launched, sold over seven thousand season tickets and will begin its inaugural season this spring.
- The City of Westfield developed one of the largest sports parks in the United States. Westfield Mayor Andy Cook plans to open the park with soccer activity beginning as early as February 22<sup>nd</sup> when Indiana Soccer hosts a sub-regional Olympic Development event. Westfield Youth Soccer is scheduled to host boys and girls showcase events in mid-March and Grand Park is scheduled to host Carmel United Soccer Club's boys and girls showcase events in April.
- A number of communities decided to leverage their assets for the benefit of the players and their families. One such community is Fort Wayne where Fort Wayne Citadel and Fort Wayne Fever joined forces – under the new name of Fort Wayne United FC.

**Membership:** Indiana Soccer added several new clubs to the membership this past year. Please join me in welcoming;

- Clay Youth Soccer Club                      District 8
- Valparaiso Soccer Club                      District 1
- Indiana Magic                                  District 1
- Pioneer Soccer Club                          District 6
- Jay County Soccer Club                      District 7
- Montgomery County United SC              District 8
- Springs Valley Soccer Club                  District 20

The number of recreation players, recreation plus and travel players continues to be stable with last year's membership surpassing the 5 year average by 1%. Indiana Soccer and your board and staff appreciate the opportunity serve the new member clubs, as well as the long-time member clubs of Indiana Soccer.

**Strategic Plan** Your state association continues to pursue written objectives outlined in its strategic plan. Many of the significant goals identified in the strategic plan have been achieved:

- Increased presence and event participation in Youth Soccer Month
- Expanded participation in Kohl's Recreation Cup
- Expanded participation in the U10 academy format
- More succinct and consolidated playing and registration rules
- User directed and guided promotion/relegation league play
- Leading edge technology implementation to enhance member service
- Strengthening of the association's balance sheet with increasing registration income
- Addition of adult levels of competition, year-end tournament offering
- Addition of additional levels of competition on the youth side, year-end tournament offering

The association plans to revisit and revise the Strategic plan during the 2014 calendar year. Your comments and suggestion are welcomed. Please contact the Executive Director via email at [dave@soccerindiana.org](mailto:dave@soccerindiana.org) with your comments.

**TOPSoccer** continues to grow in participation, not only in players but also buddies and volunteers. Your association, in partnership with Special Olympics, is committed to have a TOPSoccer experience available to each child in Indiana with special needs. This program benefits the child with special needs but also the buddies who experience working with these exceptional athletes. If you don't have a TOPSoccer program in your club, please contact Joy Carter [joy@soccerindiana.org](mailto:joy@soccerindiana.org) or Jason Brown [jason@soccerindiana.org](mailto:jason@soccerindiana.org). Either of these two dedicated individuals would love to help you start a viable, TOPSoccer program.

**Coaching Education** remains a high priority for member clubs. Your association, in partnership with each of the member clubs continues to offer several coaching course at no cost to the coach. The purpose of this no-cost coaching model is to elevate the playing experience of each Indiana soccer player; from U6 to over 60. Steve Franklin, Indiana Soccer's director of coaching education is committed to providing highly

effective coaching courses as often as he can. The youth modules, are recommended for all coaches that coach players U12 and younger. These youth modules are free to coaches who are coaching Indiana Soccer registered players. The E license and the state D license are also free to qualified coaches of Indiana Soccer registered players. Steve has other supplemental courses that will add value to the playing experience of the player whose coach invests in his continued education.

**The marketing department** secured a number of new partners this past year. One of which is Goalrilla, a company based in Evansville Indiana. Goalrilla generously supported several outreach programs by donating a number of their new inflatable soccer goals. Goalrilla's inflatable goals are safe, cost effective and quite practical, and Goalrilla offers attractive discounts to members of Indiana Soccer. Tom Roush, Lincoln-Mazda, also joined Indiana Soccer as a partner this past year. Tom Roush donated a vehicle, allowing the Indiana Soccer staff to visit more clubs and league playing locations. Many of you may have noticed the Indiana Soccer art covered vehicle at your games and tournaments this past year. This year, George Perry, will be driving an attractive, art-covered, Tom Roush, Mazda SUV as he increases his field presence. Substantial discounts from Tom Roush are available to Indiana Soccer members.