

State of Nebraska Soccer...from the perspective of the Director of Coaching 2002 - A Year in Review

Before I reflect on 2002, I think it imperative that I recognize outgoing Board of Director members for their volunteer service to the State Association. I respect the time and commitment levels it takes to represent the players, coaches, referees, administrators and parents of Nebraska Soccer. I especially want to thank Harlan Milder (President), Pat Reding (Secretary), and Randy Parker (Adult Commissioner).

The single most important action taken by the Board has been the approval and hire of an Operations Manager. Jeff Hulbert has been in the position for the past 18 months and his leadership has afforded me the opportunity to be more involved in the areas of Coaching Education, the Olympic Development Program, and Player Development. (Any complaints or concerns should be forwarded to Jeff.)

On the Field

On the field, 2002 was a banner year for Nebraska Soccer headlined by the U18 Boys NFC Vincere Snicker's Region II Championship. The U19 Boys Arsenal Crush and U17 Boys Viva Ozymandius both represented themselves and Nebraska well by advancing to the Championship game. The U16 Boys Viva Juventus advanced to the semi-finals and the U17 Boys WO Gladiator En Fuego narrowly missed advancing on goal differential after going undefeated in pool play.

At the college level, Nebraska soccer continued to shine.

...University of Nebraska-Omaha went undefeated during the regular season capturing the North Central College regular season and tournament titles and advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship game- their only loss of the season- in only their fourth year of existence with a roster comprised of nearly 75% Nebraskans.

...Creighton University men won the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) tournament and advanced to the NCAA Division I College Cup for the second time in three years

...The University of Nebraska women won the Big 12 Conference tournament and advanced to the NCAA Division I Sweet Sixteen for the seventh straight year.

...The Creighton women won the MVC regular season and tournament titles and earned a birth in the NCAA Division I Tournament- all firsts in the school's history.

...The Hastings College men won the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) regular season and tournament titles.

...The Hastings College women won the GPAC tournament championship.

Olympic Development Program

Due to too many changes in leadership, our Olympic Development Program has gone through some tough time over the past four or five years. After my first year as Director of Coaching, I am proud of our accomplishments.

Marty Anderson is in the middle of her second year as ODP Director and her leadership and the vision of the ODP Committee have made many positive changes. We've had our share of "learning experiences", which have only made the program stronger.

In the younger age groups, the quality of play in the training environment has grown exponentially in the past year. In the past, those who paid went to camp. This year several age groups have very difficult decisions, because of the quality of player.

Web Page

The Nebraska State Soccer Association web page has seen significantly more traffic this year than in the past. Jeff's commitment to the development of the page has resulted in the more efficient dissemination of information to players, coaches, parents, referees, administrators, and sponsors.

If you've never been, go to www.nebraskasoccer.org.