



Oswego Youth Soccer Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 5155  
Oswego, NY 13126

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President's report – 10/6/05

### **2004-5 Activities and Accomplishments**

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Oswego Youth Soccer Association completed the construction of concession stand / rest room / storage area at the Richard J. Benjamin Soccer Complex. Volunteers completed the vast majority of the work on this project. Paid contractors were used only for the electrical work, the plumbing work, and the installation of the concrete floor, sidewalks, and interior wall construction. The efforts of a few volunteers made the completion of this project possible. While there are too many volunteers to list everyone, a few stand out in terms of their exceptional commitment of time and energy to this project:

- Butch Ponzi – Butch has maintained the grounds and supervised all parts of the construction process from the very first day of construction. He mixed the vast majority of the mortar used in the building, moved thousands of blocks, set up the scaffolding many times, helped set the top plate, mixed the concrete for the bond beam, helped erect the steel supports for the patio, and painted much of the building.
- Jim Reynolds – While Jim often noted that he preferred to work “one day in a row,” he still kept appearing between 7 and 8 am every day for many months. Jim is responsible for about 80% of the block work on the exterior of the building from the footer to the top plate. He also assisted with the construction of the roof and many other aspects of the construction project.
- Tim Kraft – Tim set the levels for the floors, performed all of the carpentry work in the building, constructed the rake, installed the soffits and fascia, set the windows and doors, installed the drywall grid for the ceilings, installed the ceiling in the storage room, did a good deal of painting, and helped organize the construction process. He also designed the perimeter drainage to deal with water problems that became apparent during construction.
- John Kane – John assisted with every aspect of the construction project. He worked on the project more than any other person. He has spent several thousand hours on the site: digging ditches, laying blocks, moving blocks, moving scaffolding, installing insulation, working on the fascia, painting, grading, and doing any and all work that needed to be done. This project could not have been completed without his efforts. Whenever I could not be there, he was. Whenever I was there, he was usually there as well. Since the construction of the building, John has worked in the concession stand every Saturday and nearly every weekday evening. All of this was done while he was coaching a travel team, refereeing, and working with the TOPSoccer program for players with disabilities.
- Sam Tripp and Mike Amedio – installed the attic trusses and the metal roof.
- Todd Dudley – provided a boom truck and labor to set the trusses in place.
- Bob Morgan – Bob has supervised the golf tournament (along with the other golf tournament committee members – Pat Benjamin, Jamie Cullinan, Terry Baum, Lynne Smith, and others) that have provided the funds that have allowed the organization to remain solvent during the construction project. Bob has also been an active volunteer with most aspects of the construction project.

- Dan Attwood, of DSA Drywall, installed the drywall ceilings in the patio area, the kitchen, and the rest rooms.
- Laura Suchnicki – assisted with some of the masonry work and painting, and helped get the new concession stand up and running. She also handles the much more involved task of ordering and organizing the concessions.
- Susan and Andy Michaud – assisted extensively with the installation of the roof, the construction of the ladder rake. Susan helped install much of the insulation and painted a substantial share of the building. She has also been a very active volunteer in the concession stand.
- Brenda Getman – assisted with painting and general site cleanup as well as with grading, raking, and landscaping tasks etc.

Our house league program continues to thrive, with fall soccer registration (445 players) at the highest level in about a decade (even with a relatively smaller cohort of children in the relevant age groups).

### **New initiatives**

- Return to winter indoor soccer at the Armory
- Developmental training to be offered at the Armory for travel team players
- TOPSoccer pad for wheelchair and walker soccer

### **Challenges ahead**

Now that the construction is completed, the board needs to refocus its attention on coach and player development.

**House league** - While we had offered youth modules in 3 of the past 4 years, low registration numbers forced the cancellation of this module during the spring season of 2005. We need to offer more coach development opportunities to coaches, so that they may provide better opportunities for player development. We still see far too many coaches having players wait in line to take turns shooting at a goal. Coaches cannot provide adequate technical and tactical training if they have not been exposed to appropriate training techniques. This is an area in need of significant improvement.

**Travel leagues** – The performance of our travel teams remains generally weak. This is primarily the result of:

- too few training opportunities provided to players
- limited training provided to many coaches. We need to make a substantial effort to have all travel team coaches complete at least a “E” level license and to provide more opportunities for coaches to acquire a more extensive collection of effective practice activities
- insufficient efforts made to identify and develop the players with the highest levels of ability. Too often, we have relied on self-selection by players and/or parents, or other mechanisms that do not generally result in the selection of those players that will receive the most benefit from the travel program.
- too few players participate in the ODP program and on select teams when this is appropriate to their skills and development level.