



THE PHOENIX PHLYER

Newsletter of the Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer Club

JANUARY 2006

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The coaches are Neville Basman & Steve Klucas. Team Manager is Kim Klucas. The team is: Abby Werner, Amanda Eidem, Amy Morgan, Anna Gerding, Bridgit Bergquist, Brooke Riches, Dani Hinckley, Jen Dye, Jenna Basman, Karolyn Wood, Kelley Gilbert, Kelsey Jacobson, Laurel Oswald, Melissa Plooster, Nikki Klucas, Rachael Koene & Rachael Wittkowske.

The Golden Valley Phoenix U13 C2 Girls' Soccer Team Wins Championship at the MYSA 2005 State Tournament.

The Golden Valley Phoenix Firebirds finished the regular season 2nd place in standings for the West District. They won 9 games and lost 2. They scored 26 goals while only letting in 9.

They also took 1st place at the Father Hennepin tournament in Champlain earlier in the season, 2nd place at the Wings tournament in Plymouth and 3rd place at the Wayzata tournament in Plymouth.

The team went on to districts for a chance to qualify as the 2nd seed to state play to represent the west district. They defeated St. Louis Park 1-0 with a goal scored by Bridgit Bergquist. Then they went on to defeat St. Michael 1-0 with another goal scored by Bridgit Bergquist.

Next was the MYSA state tournament. The games were at the Blaine Sports Center.

Game 1 on Friday, July 29th was against the North district 1st seed, Fridley/Columbia Heights. Golden Valley won 2-1 with 2 direct kicks being scored by Brooke Riches.

Game 2 was against River Falls, the East district 1st seed. Golden Valley won 3-1. All 3 goals were scored by Bridgit Bergquist including a header goal off a crossover assist from Rachael Wittkowske.

The 3rd qualifying state game was against Dakota Rev., the South district 2nd seed. The game ended with a 1-0 win with another direct kick scored by Brooke Riches.

The championship game was against Bloomington, the south districts 1st seed to state who had only lost 1 game during the regular season. The game was tied 0-0 at the end of regulation play. The game went into double overtime. The game was scoreless at the end of the first 5 minute half. With only 5 seconds remaining in the second half, Nikki Klucas passed a ball from the mid-field up to Bridgit Bergquist who took the ball down to the Bloomington end with 2 kicks and scored the winning goal.

The team got their championship medals at the Schwan's event center afterwards along with their team photo representing the state champions for the Girls U13 C2 division for 2005.

The team went on to play U14C1 in fall of 2005 and qualified for the fall state play at the Harvest Fest. They made it to the semi-finals with the final standings of 3rd place out of 21 teams that played U14C1 for fall 2005.



From Our President *Dan Freeman*

My child wants to play soccer? I could not imagine where my son came up with the idea of playing soccer. We had not watched soccer on T.V. nor had we ever attended a game. My surprise was even greater when he informed me that he wanted me to be a coach for his team. I believe I knew even less about soccer than my then six year-old son.

Looking back over the last several years as my son has progressed through the in-house program and into his first year of traveling soccer I realize how this game has been about growth and change. Whether as a player or as a coach I have observed the progress my son and I have made in our skills and team work. Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer has had a positive impact on hundreds of kids and parents over these many years. Through all of the years it has been fun to watch the club change and mature in the quality of programs it offers to the children, parents and coaches.

Phoenix Soccer again has the opportunity to change and evolve. The mythical Phoenix was reborn from ashes, our club on the other hand is changing and building from a point of many very positive successes. During the last year we began a program where we hired Minnesota Thunder players to supplement the skills training of our young athletes. We had the University of Minnesota Gophers Women soccer players and coaches lead several training sessions for our girls traveling teams. We as a club are very proud of our C-13 girls who through their hard work and the help of dedicated coaches and parents were able to win a state championship. This last year also was the debut of our new uniforms. Without a doubt Golden Valley Phoenix has the best looking kids of any youth soccer team in the area.

The Phoenix Soccer Club can not remain stationary. We have been long recognized as a club who has an outstanding in-house program. Our commitment is to continue to develop the in-house program and keep it as a premier offering of the club.

We believe we need to dedicate more resources and efforts to build our traveling program. We are looking to improve the coaching director position to provide better support for our coaches and players through continual active participation and support. We plan to increase the stipend we pay coaches so we can keep the quality coaches we already have and to be able to attract top notch coaches for the teams currently without a coach.

Because this will be a transition year we encourage you as players, coaches and parents to give us constructive feedback so we can better change this club to give our athletes the opportunity to be competitive in a positive learning environment. This is a volunteer organization so your involvement is critical to the success of the club. We welcome your participation.

A great season of Phoenix soccer is just ahead. Congratulations on being part of the club and best of luck this coming season.



Traveling Soccer—Planning for the Future— *Steve Ferrell*

Phoenix Soccer will be focusing on improving our coaching staff. We plan to hire a professional Coaching Director who will be in charge of staffing winter and summer skills sessions, player and coach development and recruitment, and improving our winter training sessions for players over 12.



Our vision is to pay our traveling coaching staff based upon experience and certification. The board will review our coaching pay structure to acquire and retain professional traveling coaching staff, and continue to encourage current traveling coaches to obtain certification. Phoenix Soccer Club will pay registration and certification fees necessary for coaches to become certified.

The Coaching Director will continue to train our volunteer In-House coaches, and will be instrumental in helping players make the transition from In-House to Traveling. Our Coaching Director will be a representative of Phoenix Soccer Club at games, tournaments, and club functions.

Our goal is to focus on creating a fun and challenging environment for all of our players to grow.

Kids Corner— *Tenley Steinke*

The Soccer Season and Try-outs

This soccer season was great for the U11 girls soccer team. After a tough 2004 (I think we won only two of our games) season playing C2, we moved back to C3, and added some good players. We won or tied most of our games. In fact, we won enough games to put us up to C2 again for the fall season.



This fall, we were more competitive than the last time we played C2. We beat some good teams and ended up winning more games than we lost.

Just before Halloween, we had our first try-outs. Even though I was a little sad knowing that our team might change, I thought that the try-outs were a good idea. Nearly everyone on our team was there and the whole team did a good job. We even had a few new people try-out that I didn't know.

Finally, we had our annual game against the "parents." Our eleven girls took on a team of 16 moms and dads and played them tough. I think we even let them win. It was a blast!

All in all, it was a great summer. I am looking forward to another fun season of traveling soccer next summer.

2005 Golden Valley Days Parade

The Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer club participated in its first Golden Valley Days parade this last May. Although the weather was less than cooperative, good fun was had by all. Phoenix was well represented too as more than 100 people from the club participated.



Lebahn Jamboree

Each year Phoenix kicks-off the season with an event



held in memory our dear friend, board member and coach, Tony Lebahn. Last year's Jamboree hosted over thirty "mini-games" and generated

funds to pay registration fees for kids wanting to play soccer who have demonstrated a financial hardship. To check out photos of this event, visit our website at **www.gvphoenixsoccer.org**. Jamboree 2006 will be held Saturday, June 3. See you there!

"It isn't what you know; it's how fast you can look it up!" - Steve Ferrell

One of my goals this year is to make our website a place where you go for the information you want and need.

This year, I'll be adding team rooms, with team calendars that can be edited by Coaches and Team Managers; Team rooms will allow quick notification of weather cancellations, or other important team information.

Plus I'll be adding a store, where you'll be able to buy uniforms, pins, shirts and sweatshirts.



If you haven't been to your website recently, stop by. You'll see two new additions. New this year was an "e-mail the board" link where you can send a note to the entire board with one simple click!

Another new addition this year was a Sponsor link. Every year Phoenix Soccer Club accepts confidential scholarship requests that help pay for traveling or in-house fees. We have a new Sponsor link where you or your company can become a sponsor. For \$250 annually, you or your company can have a web-ad on our website. All of the proceeds from our sponsors will go toward scholarships that will help people who need financial assistance with club membership fees.

Visit **www.gvphoenixsoccer.org** today! It's your website, so help me make it more useful. Send any suggestions or questions to **stferrell@comcast.net**.

Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer Team Offerings - Rick Zinter/John Steinke

In-House Soccer



Is your child looking for the opportunity to play summer soccer? If so, should he/she play traveling or in-house soccer? To help answer these questions, we have provided a summary of our summer offerings. Both programs are focused on developing soccer skills and providing a fun experience.

In-house teams are in place for children, ages 5 to 10. This marks a change this year as Phoenix will no longer offer an in-house team for U12.

- A player can start “traveling” soccer at any time from U9 on up.
- In-house usually has 10 games during the summer season.
- For questions, please contact Donna Ostdiek at phoenixinhouse@comcast.net.

Traveling Soccer

- Traveling soccer begins at the U9 level and continues up to U19.
 - U9 & U10 are considered to be developmental years for the players with 2 levels of competition:
 - Gold (less competitive)
 - Maroon (more competitive).
 - U11 and beyond is considered competitive play and teams are assigned to different levels within their age groups based on experience and competitiveness. The levels are as follows:
 - C3 (competitive)
 - C2 (more competitive)
 - C1 (most competitive).
- Newly formed teams will typically start off at the C3 level.
- The traveling season usually begins in mid-April and runs until the end of July if a team makes it all the way to the State Tournament. The core season is from May through the second week of July.
- Traveling teams typically play 12 games per summer season, with 6 home games (in Golden Valley) and 6 away games. Game nights are either Mondays & Wednesdays or Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- Each team sets practices individually, but you can plan on 2-3 practices or games per week during the summer season.
- Traveling teams usually participate in 2 tournaments (weekends) during the season for another opportunity for trophies and more games. Each tourney is usually 3-4 games.
- Away games for traveling teams are typically played at Hopkins, Maple Grove, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, and Orono.



For questions, please contact Steve Ferrell at stferrell@comcast.net. Additional information is also available on the MYSAs website (www.mnyouthsoccer.org). Click on traveling/competitive.

Clinics, Developmental Sessions & Camps

Winter Skills Clinic

For all players interested in working on their skills during the winter months, Phoenix is providing a Winter Skills Clinic to be held January 7 through March 11. Sessions include: 1/7, 1/14, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/25, 3/4 & 3/11. **(Note: no sessions 1/21 or 2/18).** These are co-ed clinics, for ages 6 on up.



Ages 6-8:	1:00pm-2:00 pm
Ages 9-11:	2:00pm-3:00 pm
Ages 12 on up:	3:00pm-4:00 pm

Sessions will be taught by Aaron Leventhal, Amos Magee, Tim Foster and Keren Gudeman. The **cost is only \$35.00** for all 8 sessions per player. Clinics are held at the Sandburg Middle School gym, just west of Douglas Drive on Sandburg Lane, Golden Valley. Please wear your shin guards and bring a soccer ball, water bottle and wear indoor tennis shoes.

Space is limited, so **please register early using the enclosed form** (or at any training session on a space available basis). With questions, please contact Aaron Leventhal at aaron@thecompleteathlete.com.

Summer Soccer Camp—*Aaron Leventhal*

Phoenix is offering a summer soccer camp directed by Aaron Leventhal and staffed by former Minnesota Thunder soccer players. Appearances by current Thunder players, tickets to a Thunder game and locker room pre-game passes are just a few of the fun items included in the package provided to all summer camp participants. Mark **“Phoenix Soccer Camp, June 12-16”** on your calendars and we will get more information to you via a mailing and the website. “I am excited to be working with an organization that emphasizes fun and inclusiveness and I look forward to working with you all.”

Referee Clinic

Phoenix Soccer Club needs both adult and teenage licensed referees for the upcoming soccer season and will host licensing and recertification clinics. To receive your initial license, you must attend the weekend course, TBA and pass a licensing test. Re-Certifying referees should contact me to indicate that they are interested in working for GVL this spring and additionally contact the MNSRA to sign-up for recertification. In which case the re-certifying referees must see www.mnsra.com for recertification dates. Those interested in refereeing that are not yet certified should also contact me. If you are interested in receiving more information about the role of referee, the clinic, or how to register, contact Referee Coordinator, Chris Vanciu, by email at chrismv@pobox.com.



Coaches Clinics

Aaron will also be providing coaches training at clinics held May 1st and 4th. His goal is to equip coaches with what they need to provide a fun and informative experience for the Phoenix players. Please check the IN-HOUSE NEWS article on page two for more complete information.



Don't Forget Your Phoenix Club Gear!

The Phoenix Soccer Club sells sweatshirts (with or without hoods), visors and t-shirts adorned with the club logo. Show your club spirit and buy your gear on the Phoenix website, www.gvphoenixsoccer.org or at the annual soccer Jamboree on June 3, 2006!

Phoenix Board

President	Dan Freeman
Traveling Vice President	Steve Ferrell
Traveling Committee	Rich Fromstein
	Jon Twesten
	Mark Legeros
	Scott Ulring
In-House Vice President	Donna Ostdiek
Treasurer	Jack Beaird
Secretary	John Lucas
Registrar	Kim Klucas
Field/Equipment Coordinator	Steve Swanson
District Coordinator	Jack Beaird
Uniforms	Gregg Hackett
Risk Management	Lori Dickson
Communications	John Steinke
Tournament Coordinator	Dave Ashling
Jamboree Coordinator	Doug Frey
Volunteer Coordinator	Dave Ruha
	Liz Ruha
Webmaster	Steve Ferrell
Coaching Coordinator	Aaron Leventhal
Referee Coordinator	Chris Vanciu

Register Now!

Traveling Soccer registrations due January 31st

Via Mail (preferred): GV Phoenix Traveling Soccer
2759 Ewing Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 554227
Drop Off: Brookview Community Center, 200
Brookview Pkwy, Golden Valley 55426

In-House Soccer registrations due March 1st

Via Mail (preferred): GV Phoenix Soccer
1609 Gettysburg Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55427
Drop Off: Brookview Community Center, 200
Brookview Pkwy, Golden Valley 55426

Your respective coach will contact you in the spring. If you have questions regarding either traveling or in-house, please email:

Traveling Coordinator stferrell@comcast.net
In-House Coordinator phoenixinhouse@comcast.net

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 31	Traveling Registration Deadline
Feb 18	MYSA Soccer Symposium
Jan 7 - Mar 11	Winter Skills Clinic
TBA	Referee Clinic (check www.mnsra.com)
Mar 1	In-house Registration Deadline
April 29	In-house Team Kick-off
April 29	In-house Coaches' Training
April 29	MYSA Traveling Coaches Meeting
May 8	Spring/Summer Season Begins
June 3	Jamboree
Jun 12-16	Summer Soccer Camp
July 12-18	Host District Tournament
July 23	End of Season Picnic
Aug 1	Traveling Registration Deadline
Sept 9	Fall Traveling Season Begins

Check out gvphoenixsoccer.org!

Phoenix Website—For up-to-date Phoenix news and events, visit us at www.gvphoenixsoccer.org, our primary means of communication with you. The site has been recently updated and modified and will include some exciting new links for 2006. Check out what's coming soon:

- **Team Room**—Click on this link to find current information regarding your team.
- **Weather Link**—Click on this link to access current weather conditions and how this may affect your team.
- **Phoenix Store**—Click here to purchase Phoenix articles such as uniforms, socks, sweatshirts, hats, visors, and more .
- **Phoenix Uniform Exchange**—Click on this link if you interested in exchanging Phoenix pins, uniforms, shoes, etc.

MYSA—To familiarize yourself with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, go to www.mnyouthsoccer.org, especially useful to those who are new to the sport and want to get educated. For those who wish to contact use via phone, call the **Phoenix Soccer Line** at (763)-544-9829.