

February 9, 2009

Issue 3

# On the Sidelines

## Ridley United Soccer Club

### ***Profile of the Month:***

#### **Name, Town, Family, Day Job:**

Chuck Catania, Woodlyn, Renee – wife, Jill – daughter, Civil Engineer with Catania Engineering Associates (although many may say that I don't do much but drive around all day)

#### **Background with the club:**

Coach with Club since 1996, U-17 Girls Travel Coach, U-13 Girls Travel Asst Coach, RUSC Board member

#### **What you like best about soccer (your position, coaching, playing...):**

It's still fun after all these years. Deep down, there's still a little bit of a little kid in me. (ok, maybe it's not so deep down and maybe there's more than a little bit). As a coach, it's great when the kids succeed, but it's a lot more than that. It's just as important when that kid tells you about what happened at school that day. Sometimes, it's not easy (believe me, I've been known to express my displeasure in a fatherly loving kind of way – our team may describe it in slightly different words), but if you always go back to the "it's supposed to be fun" and have fun yourself, everyone wins...and your blood pressure stays in a normal range.

As a Board member, it's simply messing with Andy.

#### **What do you like least about soccer (your position, coaching, playing...):**

That's an easy one – overzealous parents. Soccer is a game. Games are meant to be fun. Kids who have fun want to come and play. Kids who want to come and play become better soccer players. A better soccer player is what we all want. If they don't become the greatest soccer player, they still enjoy the game. In other words, let the kids play.

#### **How do you see your future with the club, or the future direction of the club:**

My future – didn't really think about it, but first I'd like to finish with a certain U-18 Girls travel team, then I guess I'd like to start again with the young kids. I've had the unique opportunity to watch players develop from little kids who parents toted them around to young adults who now drive themselves to the games.

## COMING EVENTS

### Spring Registration:

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 10am – 2pm

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 9pm

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 10am – 2pm

## Spring Season Starts March 15<sup>th</sup>

## Travel Tryouts for Fall 2009 begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Referee Courses

Ridley United is hosting an EPYSA Sponsored Grade 8 Referee Course on March 24, 25, 26, 31 and April 1 & 2 at the Ridley United Club House.

Plus! Ridley United Youth can earn money refereeing our Intramural games! There will be an Intramural Referee Clinic on March 8 from 2-3 p.m. Email [Art Stretton @ aeee@rcn.com](mailto:Art.Stretton@aeee.rcn.com) or call 610 461-0803 for more information.

## Goalie Clinic begins July 12<sup>th</sup>

## Ridley United Invitational August 8th

## Fall Intramural Season Starts Sept 12th

### All Dates Subject to Change, visit:

[www.ridleyunitedsoccer.org](http://www.ridleyunitedsoccer.org)

**U10 Girls Rhinos:** The Rhinos will be playing in the U11 division of Pags next year. If you were born between 08-01-98 - 07-31-99 and have the skills to play travel soccer, please contact Coach Joe at ja1094@comcast.net or by cell at 610-715-3493 We will be looking to add at least 4 new players.

### QUOTE

"Terrible marking. You don't mark open spaces. Open space has never scored a goal in a soccer match"

Steve McMahon, ex-Liverpool soccer player

Any questions, comments or suggestions for future newsletters please contact:

Kathy Opperman @ [ridleyunited@hotmail.com](mailto:ridleyunited@hotmail.com)

# On the Sidelines

## Ridley United Soccer Club

### ***Profile of the Month (cont.):***

#### ***How do you see your future with the club, or the future direction of the club (cont):***

There are a lot of things that I have learned through this experience that I'd like to bring back for a second try. The Club's future – The new MLS team should bring a renewed interest in the game. These kids will have a chance to go see some of the real stars of soccer – Landon Donovan, Jaime Moreno, Beckham. Hopefully, some of these stars will give come back and give a little time to our future “stars”.

#### ***Fun Stuff:***

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Food: Cheese

Favorite Restaurant: Rosario's

Favorite Book: Tie between Dickens' *Great Expectations* and Sues's *Green Eggs and Ham*

Favorite Movie: Mr. & Mrs. Smith – it's not a classic but...

Favorite Group/Singer/Song: The Police

Favorite TV Show: Dirty Jobs

Favorite Quote: “Do you think it's funny when the ref gets hit with the ball?” It's not really my favorite, but it's a good reality check. Ask the players on our team and they may have a better answer.

*Thank you Chuck for letting us get to know you a little better.*

### **Top Ten Things Soccer Coaches Wish Soccer Parents Would Do**

Get the players to practice on time, fully equipped, and ready to go. Players should arrive 5-10 minutes early, ready to play, with cleats/shinguards on, with a properly inflated ball and a water bottle.

Let us know more than 6 hours in advance if your child won't be able to make practice or a match. Based on the number of players who can't make a given event, it can affect how we plan to run things.

Pay attention at practices. If you have a child that can be a handful - stick around at practice at least once a week and watch.

## Other News

### **Top Ten Things Soccer Coaches Wish Soccer Parents Would Do (Cont)**

Refrain from coaching from the sidelines. Being a coach AND a parent, it can often be impossible to keep my mouth shut. But coaches want the players to focus on the game and any instruction they may shout out . So stick to cheering and encouragement.

Put your folding chairs at LEAST 2 yards away from the touchline. Many fields do not include 'parent boundary lines', so often parents are so close to the touchline that players can't even take a step to throw the ball in. Plus it's a danger to players trying to make sliding saves or who collide/trip/lose control near the parents.

Respect our decisions as coaches and if you have a problem, approach us about it. We're not perfect, but perhaps given some additional explanation you might understand what we did. If not, at least you know why we did what we did.

Try to have your paperwork, fees, and any other administrative stuff taken care of well in advance. We coaches just want the kids to play, have fun, and learn. The less that paperwork intrudes on that, the better.

Don't scream at your kids on or off the field if they make mistakes. That's how they learn. Too many players are afraid of making mistakes at a young age on the field. Risk taking and creativity should be *encouraged*.

Volunteer to help your league. Every single one of you. They donate tons of time ensuring the league operates smoothly. So when they ask for help doing concessions, paperwork, field maintenance, fund raising, etc., offer to help. Too many leagues rely on a core group of committed but overworked volunteers to run things because parents aren't willing to donate an hour or two during the season.

Have fun. Youth soccer should be fun for kids AND adults alike. By keeping a level head and a positive attitude, you can have about as much fun as your child does. So keep things in perspective and ***have fun!***