

## **NWI introduces new structure, director**

NWI United is very pleased to announce that a new structure for our club has been designed which focuses new emphasis on all three of our major age ranges. As opposed to the old structure which split focus of the seniors into boys and girls and had the youth stretched from 8 - 14, we have tightened our focus on three core segments and brought additional leadership to the club.

The new structure will maintain Tony Cardenas as the Youth Director; he has done a marvelous job with our youth players. All youth trainers, coaches, support staff will report to Tony Cardenas. In conjunction with his program (up to U12) a "Director of Transitional Players" will be named to focus expressly on the U13's and U14's. It's a critical time for these players as they are either jumping from 8 v 8 (U13) or jumping into the high school environment (U14). The additional focus on these players should help us as we train and support our players who enter the very competitive senior ranks. Currently Mis Mrak, former VU Head Coach, Westfield Director and spring trainer for a number of United Teams will be supporting our Transitional Players. He brings a wealth of soccer experience and knowledge to this critical age group. He is currently in the process of locating a collegiate position so we'll be utilizing him and enjoying his expertise as long as he is able to stay committed to United and a university has not plucked him away.

A new Senior Director, who will now be in charge of all U15 and up (boys and girls) is being introduced, Jeff Oleck. This individual will be supported within the specific genders by two commissioners. The commissioners will focus on one gender or the other to provide an additional level of feedback and support for the senior players and the senior director. John Mario will be the commissioner for the girls, and David Galloway will be the commissioner for the boys. The intent is to insure that the boys and girls senior programs both have their specific needs met in the areas of training, competition, tournament play, etc. All of the coaches, trainers, commissioners, etc. will report to Jeff Oleck.

Jeff Oleck comes to us as a younger man in the world of coaching, training and club leadership but brings with him a tremendous love for the game, unparalleled tenacity for success, a desire to exceed all club goals and leadership style which is well beyond his years. Comments such as this were the norm when we inquired about his resume contacts, "..... Jeff would be terrific.....on his own merit, I trust him implicitly and think he has a great future as a coach". All of his mentors, former bosses and former program leaders all stated basically the same unanimous commentary, to paraphrase...."He's extremely ethical, highly self motivated, successful in all of his endeavors and understands the game from a number of levels, he will make an excellent director".

Jeff has been part of the ODP program for a number of years, including training responsibilities and evaluations. He's coached at the club level for one of our Indiana Rivals, "Dynamo" and been part of the coaching staff in the collegiate arena for Wabash. He is currently on the coaching staff for V.U.

where he is a returning student for higher education (having graduated V.U. previously). He's worked and supported a number of different camps, including I.U., V.U. and the youth in Crawfordsville for Wabash College. He brings with him several coaching licenses and spent some time participating with the Premier Indoor Soccer League during the 2007 / 2008 campaign.

We're very excited to have someone of his breadth of experience to lead our senior program. He follows in a strong tradition of spectacular senior leaders for NWI United, including Division I coaches, state high school championship winners and other substantial accomplishments. We are grateful to all of our current and former directors, without whom our successes would not be possible.

Please join NWI United in welcoming Jeff Oleck to the NWI United Family for the 2009 / 2010 soccer campaign.

United has some lofty goals on our plate for the next three years (3 year club plan) which include bolstering our training regiments, increasing the quality of our trainers through coaching education, locating and developing new field locations and indoor facilities, hosting our first tournament, providing youth training throughout the NW Indiana marketplace by our trainers for local soccer clubs (NWISL city clubs), formally partnering with our local Div I soccer campus (VU) and teaming up with a professional soccer club to support our membership (players) and their development. All of these activities will create growth for the club, improve the stature of United in the area and push us towards our goals of training talented, quality, solid in character youth soccer players. Quality soccer development is our goal.

As a board and as a club we know that you the parents have many clubs to choose from in Northwest Indiana for your players' soccer development and soccer enjoyment. We are grateful to you that you have chosen and will continue to call NWI United your soccer home.

Tryouts for (up to U14's) are this weekend, please share our changes and goals with your friends and other players at competitive leagues so we can begin to build NWI into the strength of club we all desire and envision. Tryouts for senior teams will be in October after the high school season.

Thank you very much for your continued support of NWI United FC.

Sincerely,

Robert M Gerry, President Elect (July 1, 2009), NWI United FC  
GO UNITED !!!