



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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www.ssbra.org

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TRAGIC NEWS; ALSO, MEMBERS HAVE AN OUTING AS A GROUP; SOME GOOD NEWS TOO

The 18 year old daughter of long-time Member **Michael Dewart** was killed in a horrific car accident early Saturday morning, January 7, 2006, in San Diego county. **Allison Dewart** was a passenger in a 1995 Corolla that was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver on the Interstate 15. Also killed were Allison's roommate at Loyola Marymount University, **Michella Matasso**, 19, and the driver of the other car. Allison was a well-known high school and club soccer player in the South Bay, and was enjoying her first year in college. Funeral services were held on Sunday January 15. A number of Members attended the services, including **Jon Ziegler**, **Scott Ziegler**, **David Mallen**, **Warren Howell**, **Joe Robelotto**, **Ed McClure**, **Greg Sirbu**, **Bob Slater**, **Bill Cook**, **Lee Jordan**, **Larry Stern**, **Kiku Annon**, and **Ed Beverly**. At the monthly meeting held on January 31, **Keith Gendler** announced that the Board had decided that the yearly proceeds from the annual SSBRA "green card" program, \$500, would be donated in it's entirety to the high school scholarship fund that was setup in Allison's name.

In other business at the monthly meeting, those 75 (including the guest speaker) present heard about, and

commented on, various items of interest. Warren reported having received two positive comments about the last Flag & Whistle, and acknowledged a typographical error therein, which he tried to explain away. He also detailed how several of the Members that were not registered with USSF for 2006 were in various stages of getting that issue resolved by working through the (problematic) registration process. Warren then revealed that Youth Members had been contacted about getting permission to have their contact information on the roster, and a number of their guardians had responded with that permission. **Tom Mallen** then spoke briefly, reporting \$4167 in the bank, and that he had some checks to give out. It was mentioned that a long-awaited payment to **George Heggie** was made too. It should also be noted that the Board will make additional funds available as needed for regular “green card” nominees, in addition to those funds earmarked for the Allison Dewart scholarship, and for which there is an online form that can be used.

The always anticipated turn of **Bill Cook** to speak came next, and he did not disappoint. He started off mentioning the great success of the group outing of SSBRA on January 29 to watch the USA’s Men’s national team defeat Norway, 5 - 0. There were 65 tickets in the group buy, and others bought tickets separately, so there was a large crowd to enjoy the game and the added opportunity of meeting various FIFA officials and national referees, and many attended the post match analysis with these famous visitors. The instructional staff present included **Alfred Kleinaitis, Esse Baharmast, Paul Tamberino, Angelo Bratsis, Sandy Hunt and Julie Ilacqua**, along with **Tom Bobadilla** and others. The only complaint heard was that someone should have organized a group pre-game tailgate party, in order to help get the Members in the proper frame of mind for the match. Bill then start talking about the plethora of games coming up at State Cup in Lancaster - of the 87 fields that will see State Cup action this week-end, SSBRA has committed to cover 10, insuring that there will be lots of work for all. Bill mentioned that no hats nor sunglasses are allowed, the roster must have a red state Cup stamp on it before we can even look at it, and that we can expect cold weather. Smoothly taking the floor, **Heidi Garlick** told us about the new State Cup substitution rule, wherein either team can sub at any stoppage of play, with the referee’s permission. Also, the injured player has to leave the field if a coach comes out to attend to him/her (except for the goal-keeper).

Next the gathering got a bit of a surprise when **Lauren Copley** asked to speak. It turns out she is selling raffle tickets for the good cause of helping her club team, the El Segundo Gunners, travel to tournaments in Sweden this summer. The Members responded well, and Lauren was later on seen taking in money like a Las Vegas blackjack dealer. Several new and prospective Members were then asked to introduce themselves to the crowd, and all got a well-deserved SSBRA welcome. Keith then re-took the floor, and talked about nominations for referee of the year, and the survey results.

After all of that, we were finally able to get tot the highlight of the meeting, and FIFA AR **Steven Davidson** was introduced. He proved to be personable and interesting, and put the new SSBRA video equipment to good use by showing us his excellent presentation on the A.R. and their duties. It was a fascinating mixture of still photos and video clips from MLS and other games. As usual, these generated a large amount of comments from the Members present, particularly the offside examples. Steve also did an outstanding job of relating all of this to the games that we do, that are not of MLS or international caliber but still demand our best. No one was observed leaving early nor getting bored, which spoke volumes on the fine job Steve did and how well it was received by the Membership.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2006

- A Christmas card was received from **Shelita** and **Jimmy Loeffler** (who were helped out by SSBRA Members in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina) with a short note to say they were trying to put their lives back together
- A possible nominee for the upcoming youth camp was proposed
- \$500 to go to the West Torrance High School scholarship fund in the name of Allison Dewart
- Referee of the year nominations were discussed, none were made
- Approaches to getting the mentor program off the ground were considered
- Possible changes to the ranking system classifications were mentioned
- Ticket distribution arrangements for the USA/Norway match were made
- Steven Davidson, FIFA AR, is set to speak at the January 31 meeting
- Sportsmanship (green card) criteria are now on ssbra.org
- No decision was reached on buying a sound system to go with the video equipment
- The end of the SBPSL season and a payment were discussed
- Heidi will make a presentation at the next meeting about the substitution rule
- Lee was given a secret task
- SSBRA history was talked about, and it was agreed acquiring pictures too would be a good idea
- No Bakersfield State Cup games this year, but there are plenty of games in Lancaster
- The secretary reported on USSF 2006 registration and the publishing of Youth Members contact information
- There is \$4042 in the bank. Tom reported that about 450 checks are now issued by the treasurer a year by hand, and proposed purchasing software/supplies to get this done on a computer, tied-in to Quicken (which is how our financial records have been kept for a number of years). The one-time cost of about \$200 for 2000 checks was approved unanimously by the Board.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND TRAINING.

Joke of the Month (submitted by **Larry Savell**);

After a soccer tournament, the tournament director, head of coaches and head of referees went to a bar to have a quiet moment of quality time together. As the evening wore on, their good natured banter turned to the question of which of them had the most important job.

"Well," said the referee, putting his beer glass firmly on the counter, "I am here to see that the laws are followed, and that transgressors are punished. That is what the Good Lord himself does, and since his job was the very first in the universe, I have the oldest profession, and claim seniority."

"That is all very well," countered the Tournament Director, sipping at his Daiquiri on the rocks, "But He

actually made order come from out of chaos. That is my job: and therefore I have the oldest profession of all."

The coach looked up from his triple Jack, straight up, and said "And where do you think that chaos came from?"

Thought of the Month: After being hired as General Manager of the Buffalo Bills, coach **Marv Levy**, 80, told reporters: "They say two things happen when you get older. One is, you begin to forget things. And I can't remember the other thing right now."

You make the call (submitted by Lee Jordan):

We're in the midst of the high school season here in Southern California. Last Thursday I was given an additional assignment and went to do two games in an L.A. city girls tournament. For those that don't know, most L.A. city girls teams have many players who have never played before.

In this game, one of the teams was fairly skilled and quickly jumped out to a 5-0 lead. The coach then had his team do a lot of things to keep the score down, with the final being 8-0.

With the score at 5, the better team had an attack and a shot on goal. Not a good shot, and the ball bounced to the keeper who grabbed it (in her hands). So far, so good. I'm right there and there is nothing going on, no problem. But one of her teammates must have thought that the ball had gone out (not even close, at least 4 yards from the goal line) and asked for the ball. So, the keeper tosses it to her and she grabs it and holds it.

I can't believe it. What can I do but blow the whistle? But, that would almost be cruel to the girls, who clearly don't understand what they are doing. But I had to do it, and blew the whistle. Then one of the keeper's teammates says no, give the ball to the keeper, she has to kick it. So the outfield player with the ball tosses it to the keeper who proceeds to run to the top of the area and punt.

Remember, I had blown the whistle. So I looked around, listened, and there were no comments or complaints, almost as if no one noticed, and I let it go. Play continued. The rain didn't fall, the game didn't collapse and the girls were still having fun.

I kept waiting for someone to come and rip my badge off my jersey.....

Sportsmanship in Action.....NOT (news article):

.....A penalty kick shoot out was about to take place (between 8 and 9 year old girls in South Brunswick NJ) between teams from Staten Island and North Hunterton, but before it could, a Staten Island coach argued that a North Hunterton coach shouldn't be allowed to stand behind the goal. The argument escalated into a fistfight with as many as a dozen parents and coaches involved. No children were involved, South Brunswick police officer **Jim Ryan** said.

--- from the L.A. Times, September 2000

Good News from the South Bay (submitted by **Stuart Winter**):

At the August (SSBRA) meeting I solicited donations for the Padres Contra El Cancer organization, for which I was and am raising money. As of today, I have raised \$34,319.00 for this organization. Of that amount \$2158 came from SSBRA members, and friends and family of SSBRA members. It gets better.

The CEO of Padres has just announced plans for a new Center for the organization and an adjacent soccer field and sports stadium. The field is going to be called:

Stuart J. Winter Soccer Stadium and Field

Even though my prognosis has downgraded lately, I am still hanging in there and doing well. I have made a new declaration for 2006:

On October 15, 2006 I am going to run in, and complete (!), the Long Beach City Marathon. This date is significant, because it is the one year anniversary of my "death." Doctors don't know everything, do they?

Even though this is not a solicitation, I will be raising money with my run for Padres. I can't think of a better way to celebrate my one year anniversary of "dying."

Thank you for your time.

Stuart