

Westfield Soccer Association Celebrates 35 Years, Looks Back at its History

By ALLISON GIBBONS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Keith Hertell grew up playing soccer in Garden City, Long Island. His elementary school gym teacher, an Englishman, had all his classes playing the beautiful game.

In 1968, when he married and

ance in Westfield certainly provided awareness to the fact that just maybe, the sport had arrived in Westfield and that there was room for both football and soccer." Mr. Hertell said of the development of the WSA.

In 1973, the five founders of the WSA met: Reginald Barley, Jack Beuhler, Bob Pecka, Dan Semels and Mr. Hertell, who was elected president.

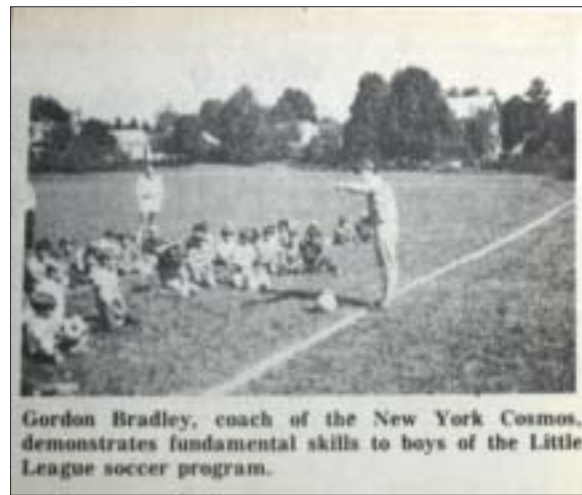
As president, he worked to obtain playing fields, interacting with the recreation department as well as the Westfield Board of Education. They started at the Elm Street field; over the next five years, they also began to use fields at Sycamore Street, Memorial Park and Jefferson and Tamaques

one of the best in the state," Mr. Kapner said. "It was totally due to the Westfield Soccer Association."

"We're happy," Mr. Greenspan said of the current state of the WSA. "Our whole aspect is to provide a level of soccer for whatever that child desires...It's to get them as far as they would like," he said.

The WSA does work with professional trainers to this day. "We contract with many great professional organizations that we work with very closely to train our members. I do not wish to single out one organization over any others or the program they currently work with in the WSA," Mr. Greenspan said.

He gave credit to the volunteers who allow the program to run as well. "It is a tremendously dedicated group of volunteers," he said, from the executive board handling the immense detail to the coaches and parents who give their time. "The volunteers are the real key to the success of the program - their



Gordon Bradley, coach of the New York Cosmos, demonstrates fundamental skills to boys of the Little League soccer program.

reprinted from The Westfield Leader, September 28, 1972

moved to Westfield, he noticed the only soccer in town was at the junior-high and high-school levels - and was definitely taking a backseat to football.

"I started to ask about how a little league program could be formed," he said. By the spring of 1972, when a group of parents formed to start two travel teams, Mr. Hertell agreed to coach one if the parents would help him start his little league.

By that fall, the little league was composed of five teams, four of which were 12 years old and under and one with 13- and 14-year-olds.

But when Mr. Hertell had first begun to try to generate interest in a soccer league in Westfield, "The reception I received in terms of soccer was cold at best," he said. He decided to generate interest in a different way: by bringing in a man by the name of Gordon Bradley, a name familiar to many of the older generations as the coach of the New York Cosmos.

The same coach working with the soccer phenomenon Pelé came to Westfield to teach a younger generation how to play.

Mr. Hertell met Mr. Bradley when he was invited to try out for the New York Generals, the precursor team to the Cosmos. "I would invite him to come to Westfield and run clinics," he said.

"I think Gordon Bradley's appear-

Wade Joins DC Public Relations Firm

WASHINGTON - Kathryn Wade, formerly of Westfield, has joined Crosby-Volmer International Communications (CVIC), a Washington, D.C.-based public relations firm. Ms. Wade is experienced in Latin American affairs and the development of cross-cultural alliances. She will assist CVIC as an account executive with consumer outreach and education campaigns among the Latino community and associations.

Ms. Wade studied languages and communications at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in English. She spent a year studying communications at the University of Seville in Spain and helped organize a conference on the relations between sports and the media in the United States. She is fluent in Spanish.

She graduated from Oak Knoll School in Summit after attending Westfield public schools.

"When it absolutely must get there!"
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Schools. "We had grown from about five teams in the fall, which represented about 72 kids, and five years later we were about 500 kids. Today I believe there's over 2,000 kids involved," Mr. Hertell said.

In an interview with The Westfield Leader and The Times, current WSA President Brian Greenspan said there are about 2,600 children currently involved in Westfield soccer, based on 2006-2007 numbers. About half of the players are girls.

He attributed the popularity of the sport first to the ease of play. "It's a



Boys Soccer Tournament Underway

reprinted from The Leader, October 4, 1973

very easy sport to play from the earliest ages," Mr. Greenspan said.

The youngest program the WSA currently runs, "Fun of Soccer," is for 3-to-6-year-olds and runs every Saturday in the fall for about 10 weeks. Another attribute that contributes to the sport's popularity is its accessibility. "The rules are essentially the same for both men and women," he said.

George Kapner, the Westfield High School boys' soccer coach, said the WSA did make an impact in Westfield soccer.

"They produce lots of players; they produce quality players," he said.

The development of players from young ages was "an enormous edge" until the mid-90s, Mr. Kapner said, when other towns caught up to the WSA.

"In the 80s, we really took over as

FW Fire Dept. Breakfast Set Sept. 9

FANWOOD - The public is invited to a pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department on Sunday, Sept. 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Chelsea located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood.

The department needs funds to fully equip its first ladder truck.

In addition to the breakfast, there will be raffles, prizes, a moon bounce and a piñata. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 7 to 17. Children under 6-years-old will be admitted free.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. For reservations, please call (908) 654-5200.



100 Register for Soccer

reprinted from The Leader, September 13, 1973

desire to educate themselves to provide a safe and appropriate environment, to watch children play a great game, is what is so rewarding," he said.

Presently, the WSA runs a recreation, travel and inter-county leagues, along with a premier league, Mr. Hertell said.

People with Disabilities Fishing Derby is Sept. 8

ECHO LAKE - The 30th Annual People With Disabilities Fishing Derby will be held on September 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Echo Lake Park. The rain date would be the following day.

Fishing tackle and bait will be provided, along with a clown and magic show, lunch and prizes for all registered participants. Pre-register by calling Ellen Chase at the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4096. Volunteers are welcome and needed. For more information, contact Fred Bercau at (908) 753-4726.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and The Tedesco Bunch of Rumson will sponsor the event.



LOOKING AROUND...Red Tail Hawks thrive in the area. Each morning, the Westfield Hawk suns himself, perched atop the evergreen tree at the Northside Train Station parking lot.

Quote of the Week

From Internet blog regarding Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura's statement, "If we arrested them all, where would we put them?" - Blogger, "How about deportation?"



An artist's rendering of the villa-style construction at 1 Priscilla Lane in Westfield.

West Holly Street Flooding Concerns Area Residents

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD - Resident Cindy Dawley-Gallagher spoke at Monday's township-committee workshop meeting on behalf of West Holly Street-area residents whom Orchard Brook flooding during rainstorms negatively affects.

"It's a problem that has been ongoing for 40 years and has been promised to be corrected by the council committee for 15 years," she said.

She said since the Nor'Easter this past April there have been four floods, two in the last month. She said three cars were totaled since last week's rainstorm. Ms. Dawley-Gallagher presented pictures of the flooding depicting depths covering the top of tires.

Miriam Moody of West Holly Street attended the meeting and told The Leader/Times her garage flooded last week and the insurance company estimated damages to be about \$2,000, with an additional \$2,000 in damage to her car. She said when West Holly Street floods it "flows like a river."

"We are completely surrounded by water. It's like an island," she said.

She said water comes from Westfield and Garwood and that a Garwood tunnel, built in 1926, needs enlargement.

Barbara Krause of Pittsfield Street said while driving from Orchard to West Holly Street at 9:20 a.m. last Friday, there was about two to three feet of water on the roadway.

"Maybe we should rescind the aesthetics plans for the Post Office Plaza Triangle (Eastman Street), which isn't hurting anyone, and help these people, which is a life-threatening situation," she proposed.

Ms. Krause also presented the committee with the current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) environmental impact statement, released this month in response to airspace redesign in the New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia metropolitan area.

The plan aims to ease delays at Newark Liberty International, John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia and Philadelphia International airports but has met opposition from local governments because of the potential of increased air traffic noise.

Ms. Krause asked the committee to oppose the air traffic patterns proposed in the environmental impact statement. Elizabeth, Roselle and Westfield join Union County in opposition, as urged by the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise (NJCAAN).

Mountain Ave. Home Uses Italian Villa Style

WESTFIELD - Many residents who have traveled down Mountain Avenue this summer may have witnessed the construction of a large home on Priscilla Lane.

One Priscilla Lane will be the private residence of a family who has lived in Westfield for many years, according to Christopher Zehnder of Zen Architecture LLC, the architect for the project. The property is over a half acre in area with frontage on Mountain Avenue.

"For this monumental home, my office chose to travel back through history to the Victorian Era. Within this 100-year period of American architectural history there existed several distinct architectural styles," he said.

"My clients and I chose to combine building elements from the Italian Villa style with building massings gleaned from the Italianate style to create a period piece of architecture that would be both stylistically unique and accommodating of contemporary domestic design themes such as the 'open plan' and 'kitchen as a gathering place,'" Mr. Zehnder said. "As this building evolves through construction, it will become a prominent example of how to design a large home without embracing the recent trends toward sterile, mass-produced impersonal dwellings."

The Italianate style was introduced in the United States in the mid 1800s as an alternative to the then prevalent Greek Revival style. Properties commonly found in Italianate period homes include low-pitched roofs, arched windows, tall first floor windows, inclusion of a belvedere or tower structure, balconies with either wrought iron or baluster railings, an emphasis of vertical dimensions and stone, stucco or wood clapboards.

Ms. Leber said relocating the program downtown, pending a proprietor's support, would be beneficial. In the meantime, classes are proposed to take place Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the community center at \$100 per course. A final agreement depends on a storage solution and approval to hang a banner on the building, officials said.



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Saturday, August 25th
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— featuring live entertainment —
RSVP to 908-317-3030

Families and friends are invited to an outdoor summer concert at Sunrise of Westfield. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and join us for an afternoon of fun. Live entertainment will be provided. Arrive early to meet our team, take a tour and mingle with residents. See what we do to make our community a place seniors are proud to call home.



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