



# Thunder- Struck



TSC News

March 2001

## Spring 2001 Dates

- March 26 Through May 21 - Monday night Keeper Training Sessions - Contact Brian Boussy
- March 28 - Coaching Education - 8:30pm Loc. TBA
- March 31 - WAGS & NCSL Seasons Begin
- March 31/April 1 - Daylight Savings Time - Set Clocks Forward
- April 4 - THUNDER Board Meeting - Glenwood Library - Time TBA
- April 7 - State Cup Play-in date
- April 7 - THUNDER Micro Soccer Opening Day 8:45 - 11:00 am
- April 7 - DC United Home Opener 7:30 pm @ RFK vs Kansas City
- April 14 - WUSA Inaugural Match - 2:00 pm @ RFK Wash. Freedom vs. Bay Area CyberRays
- April 18 - Coaches Meeting - 8:30pm Location TBA
- April 21 - DC United 7:30pm @ RFK vs New England
- April 28 & 29 - State Cup Round Robin
- May 2 - Matt Smith: The College Process - Tentative
- May ? - THUNDER Board Meeting - TBD
- May 9 - Coaches Meeting - 8:30pm Location TBD
- Mid May - THUNDER Tryouts - Check Web Site
- May 20 - Maryland Pride W-League Opener @ 2:00 pm vs Jacksonville Jade
- May 23 - Coaching Education - 8:30pm Loc. TBA
- May 26-28 - Memorial Day Tournaments
- June 5 - Thunder Golf Tourn./Dinner at Oakmont Green, Hampstead, MD
- June 6 - THUNDER Board Meeting - Glenwood Library - Time TBA
- MARYLAND PRIDE Home Schedule (continued)**
- 05/25 - 8:00pm vs Hampton Roads Piranhas
- 05/27 - 2:00pm vs Northern Virginia Majestics
- 06/01 - 8:00pm vs Tampa Bay Extreme
- 06/03 - 2:00pm vs New Jersey Wildcats
- 06/30 - 7:30pm vs New York Magic
- 07/08 - 2:00pm vs New Jersey Lady Stallions
- 07/28 - 7:30pm vs Hampton Roads Piranhas

## A SPECIAL THANKS

The THUNDER SOCCER CLUB wishes to say a very special **THANK YOU!!** To the firm of

### **Ferris, Baker Watts, Inc.**

sponsors of the THUNDER Spring Micro Soccer League for two years running. **Ferris, Baker Watts'** \$2500 dollar donation helped provide the capital to purchase the goals, balls and other equipment needed for the program, as well as T-shirt and end of season tokens for each participant to help reinforce their positive soccer experience.

Micro Soccer is a program used to help introduce 5 to 8 year olds to the sport of soccer. Staffed by THUNDER coaches, players and parent volunteers, the program is our way of reaching out to the community that supports us, and sharing our love for the game with them. In its first year, there were about 60 participants, and this year we are hoping for even more.

## Mission

The Thunder Soccer Club will by, putting players first, establish and maintain a youth soccer environment that provides to young people the opportunity for growth through competition and the continuous education and improvement of players and coaches.

# President's Corner

## President's Message from Mike Hasty

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As the Thunder Soccer Club enters it's 11th year we have grown and begun to mature. We are continually looking for ways to add value and focus for our player's development. To that end we also must balance increased cost as an organization and the cost to individual members.

The most recent added value event was providing training during the month of March when daylight hours are limited. No other Club in the area does this. We secured field time at the SuperSports facility in Eldersburg and provided lights to extend the available practice hours. While this was our first attempt, we had good success and our players were afforded the opportunity to get a "jump start" on the Spring season. Without your Club dues, we could not support such efforts. Cost to the Club was about \$6000, all paid for with Club dues.

With the increased number of teams, we have also seen an increase in the amount of money needed for league and affiliation fees (\$9000 this season). The leagues require payment well ahead of start of play so the club needs all teams to pay their club fees on time. We do not have the finances to front league fees. You should all be aware that we have adopted a policy of notifying teams each season of a due date for fees. Teams who do not pay the Club on time will not be entered into their leagues, and

may be required to pay late fees.

This spring we will spend another \$5000 to secure practice and game fields, and for field maintenance. And of course, the Club continues to provide keeper training and coach training, together accounting for another \$3500 plus expenses. Our investment in a Director of Coaching continues to help with the introduction of new coaching and trainer talent and a steady focus on improving the "soccer" in our Club. Many individuals don't realize all the benefits provided for their Club fees.

The items already mentioned are a sampling of some of the more costly items. Other expenses include patches costing over \$1000 a year and equipment at over \$1000 a season. In addition we have our Web site, Newsletter, PO Box, voice mail, insurance, advertising and other miscellaneous expenses. While each of these items may seem trivial they do, in fact, add up to another \$6000 plus per season.

To break these expenses down in relation to the club fee of \$125, nearly the entire \$125 goes toward maintaining the recurring expenses mentioned. Thus to run some of the special programs and activities we have planned, like college forums, additional coaching training, scholarships, reduced fees for first season teams, curriculum etc., we must raise additional funds. The bottom line is we really need our membership support for our club fund raisers. The players are the benefactors of your efforts.

### More Election News

Surely you all are weary on the subject of elections, but after accounting for the hanging "chads" we have a newly elected Board of Trustees for the THUNDER SOCCER CLUB 2001 calendar year. The new Board is as follows:

**President – Mike Hasty**

**Vice President – Dan Ennis**

**Vice President – Jim Gormley**

**Treasurer – Dave Walter**

**Secretary – Dave Gould**

### At-Large Board Members include:

**Ken Boras – Coaching Liaison**

**Patty Burford – Parent  
Representative**

**Jim Havey – Newsletter/Web Page**

**Sharon Keeny – Golf Tournament**

**Ralph Kompare – Fund  
Raising/Equipment**

**Tom Kuba - Field Coordinator**

**Cliff Walcott – New Team Facilitator**

# THUNDER Keepers Gear Up for Spring

By Brian Boussy Thunder Goalkeeping Coach

Before we discuss the specific goals for the THUNDER goalkeepers this spring, let's first introduce a new addition to the Keeper training staff who THUNDER Keepers achieve these goals. Marc Villegas was available to us in the fall season, and we are excited about his return for the spring. Marc is originally from the North Carolina area and is a former player and graduate of The University of North Carolina, Asheville. The experience and expertise Marc adds to our program will, no doubt, be of great benefit to all our keepers.

The main goal for all our keepers is one that we have stressed in the past, and will continue to stress in the future. That goal is to move our goalkeepers from the level they are at currently, up to the next level. This may sound abstract, but because of the different levels of skills and different ages we train, this is the most encompassing.

What follows is a brief description of the different areas where we would like to see our goalkeepers improve.

**I. Catching and Footwork:** The younger and inexperienced keepers need to learn how to move and catch the ball. Although these concepts may sound simple, they can be very challenging. Our program expects all our keepers to be able to cleanly handle balls struck at them and to be fast on their feet.

## **Hey KEEPER!!!**

One of the benefits of the evolving Thunder organization is the continued availability of a quality goalkeeper coach focusing on the development of the players learning that challenging position. Not someone's Dad who has kids stand in the goal and throws balls at them, but a real goalkeeper trainer. A licensed coach and teacher of the overlooked and oft forgotten position. Someone knowledgeable of the skills required and capable of transferring that knowledge to a student. The Thunder Keeper training program is a tremendous benefit, provided for the players, by the Club. Coaches should encourage their players to participate.

**SHOTS ON THE NET** 

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

<http://www.mdpride.com/>

<http://www.dcunited.com/>

<http://www.washingtonfreedom.com/>

<http://users.erols.com/wsyacy/archives/ParentTrap.html>

<http://www.deaconess-healthcare.com/library/orthopaedics/stretchingforsoccer.html>

<http://www.eteamz.com/youthsoccercoach/>

[www.unitedsoccerleagues.com](http://www.unitedsoccerleagues.com)

<http://www.soccertv.com/>

[http://www.usysa.org/sidelines/parent\\_arch.cfm](http://www.usysa.org/sidelines/parent_arch.cfm)

( See the On-line version at [WWW.thundersoccerclub.org](http://WWW.thundersoccerclub.org) for "HOT" links)

**II. Simple Diving:** Correct technique from taking the first step, to landing correctly, to hand placement on the ball are all important. This is the foundation for all future levels of diving.

**III. Angle Play:** Angle play is one of the more difficult concepts to coach; this area can result in making goalkeepers much more effective not to mention making their job easier.

**IV. High Balls and Crosses:** Even the most experienced goalkeepers can struggle in this area. The crossing ball and high ball are challenging because instead of just defending the goal, the goalkeeper has to deal with several decisions at once. Should I come out or stay on the line? Do I have a direct path to the ball? What are weather conditions going to do to the flight of the ball? If I don't get to the ball first, who else will, my team or the opponent? Should I catch or punch the ball?

**V. Distribution:** Goalkeepers should know when and how to throw, roll, punt or dropkick.

Obviously there are many levels of proficiency within each of these skill areas, and goalkeepers may be better in one aspect than they are at another. Our expectations are high, but with small improvements made at each session, our goalkeepers will remain ready to tackle the game's most challenging and unique position.

# Brazilian Soccer in Western Howard County?

By Jeff Gross, Director of Soccer

How was there Brazilian soccer in Maryland this past winter? We don't have fields for players to play on. We definitely do not have the climate for Brazilian soccer. How then can we have Brazilian soccer in Western Howard County?

It's really quite simple. We've started a league that resembles and will potentially replicate some of the soccer played in South America. In Brazil they take pride in their flare, their ability to dribble and pass a soccer ball, and their heritage as one of the best soccer countries in the world. There is a reason for all this excellence, .....**Skillful soccer!**

So how does Brazilian soccer apply to the players in the Thunder Soccer Club? Be patient and read on.

Everyone thinks that Brazil is warm and tropical every day of the year. This not necessarily true. They have a winter, much milder than ours, but they have one. And during the winter these passionate soccer people must have a soccer outlet to express themselves and their passion for the game. To fill this need, the game of Futsal soccer was born.

Futsal, the word, describes a certain type of soccer ball. The ball is a size 3 with a no bounce attitude. The ball is weighted and rolls on hard surfaces as opposed to bouncing around like a normal outdoor soccer ball. You see, in South America they play indoors, and on hard surfaces throughout the year; so they want the ball to stay on the ground because they do not tolerate kick and run soccer.

The Brazilians only tolerate the "beautiful game", the skillful game. They do not let their players play in arenas with walls. Walls are for the less skillful, because if you lose control of the ball you can always bounce it off the wall and it will stay in play.

In Futsal, there are no walls. If you are not skillful and lose the ball, the other team ends up with possession. And we all know what happens when a team has possession of the ball; they have a chance to score! Again, you are saying how does this apply to Thunder players.

## ***Here it is!***

The Thunder Soccer Club has initiated a Futsal league for its players during the winter. During our first year we limited it to 20 players. Our 13 and 14-year-old boys agreed to partake in this first year experiment. Let me tell you what is happening to these players.

They are becoming more skillful and confident with the ball at their feet. Several parents have commented on how much better their son has gotten because of the league. That when they go play on their regular indoor arena teams, they are having more fun because they have been working on mastering the ball, and beating players 1 on 1, on a frequent basis!

Remember, there are no walls in a Futsal gym. Just skillful players developing those skills that high level coaches are in search of; dribbling to beat players, tight passing and the ability to "play the game." Moreover, there are no positions in Futsal because we play 4v4 and the players cannot afford not to defend and they will attack because the court is small and the goal is always close.

It teaches players to "play the game" of soccer as opposed to "playing a position" on a field. It is truly a tremendous "player's" game. They keep score, they govern themselves, they develop strategies, and most importantly they develop their own desire to compete. Each week our Futsal league games become more and more competitive. There are no blowouts! Just competitive, fun soccer, being played by developing young soccer players.

Next winter we are going to expand. Adults are asking to start a league for them; we will have the girls in our club playing too. We will attract the best players in our club and outside the club so that our players are being challenged each day they play. Most importantly, for the players who love this game and want an outlet on a year round basis, we have created your winter outlet. It is the game being played the correct way, **SKILLFULLY!**

We do not have the climate, we do not have the fields in the winter, but we do have the passion of the Brazilians. The solution! Brazilian soccer here in Western Howard County!

## **Futsal!**

Come play the beautiful game with us!

# We **Can** see the Light!

By Jeff Gross, Director of Soccer

Never let anyone tell you that the parents in our club do not have an impact! Because of one parent's idea, we have created a unique program for our players and teams. This program will benefit the coaches and club as well. Let me explain.

During the month of March 2001 we are providing a field and lights for our teams to train. That is right, for the entire month of March our teams will be training on a consistent schedule while all other teams in the state are scrapping for space and daylight. We will all "see the light" at the SuperSports fields in Eldersburg.

The THUNDER SOCCER CLUB, working with the SuperSports owner, has developed a truly unique situation for a travel soccer club. We rented his fields, worked with Mike March (club parent) to secure two banks of lights, and built our own "field of dreams." Build it and they will come.

This is truly a great thing for our players and teams. Not only are our players training on a consistent schedule, our parents are getting some if not all of their weekends back (I hope!) This is where it all started. Dave Gould approached me last spring and we had a chat. He said, "The trainers program is great and is there a better way to do it?" My response, "What is your suggestion?" Dave replied, "Is there a way to capitalize on creating momentum for our teams earlier in the season, as opposed to the end of each season, when we really see the benefit of the trainers?"

The club's response is here before you in the month of March, a club-wide preseason! A majority of our teams are utilizing the fields and the trainers. A small number of teams chose to pursue their own training times and methods. But for the majority of the Thunder Soccer Club we have started a program that many clubs will begin to copy. If not, then we will continue to find the best ways for our players to train and get an edge!

We are excited about the opportunities that this program is creating for the club and most importantly for our players. Our coaches will be in a great position to watch other coaches and trainers in the club doing their best training sessions. This is always a great benefit for coaches to watch and learn from others; no matter the level or experience of a coach, it is always great to get new ideas! Our players will see more of their friends within the club and we will all be more prepared for the first week of the season.

So, hopefully you can see that one parent's suggestion can effect the entire club. We have added new board members. We have expanded our already quality coaching staff, and we continue to be inclusive of everyone's opinions and abilities. The March preseason is just one example of this effort by the Thunder Soccer Club. See you in Eldersburg in March!

Someone will see the light this spring!

A huge THUNDER THANKS to **Mike March**, Boy's U-14 – His help was vital in helping us "see the light" and in creating this great opportunity for our players

## — **THUNDERWEAR** —

Check out the web: [www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org)

**New TSC team uniforms** Copa jerseys, shorts and training suits.

Have a supply of **gray Thunder sweatshirts** with "Thunder Pride" on back.

Show your support with a **Thunder Soccer Window Decal** only \$2.00.

*To place Team or individual orders contact Cheryl Gould*

E-mail [CAGX4@cs.com](mailto:CAGX4@cs.com) or (410) 313-8858.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*If you don't help, you can't complain.....DO IT FOR THE KIDS !!!!*

**NCSL REPRESENTATIVE** – Looking for a person to be able attend NCSL meetings six times a year. Coordinate Fall and Spring NCSL applications for boys U9 – U19. Contact David Gould at [DGMP@CS.COM](mailto:DGMP@CS.COM) OR (410) 313-8858.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF** – Intermittent efforts to collect articles and information on teams from Coaches, Parents, and Players to help the Club communicate. NO SKILLS NEEDED! Will assign work commensurate with abilities and train on the job. Contact Jim Havey at [havey@erols.com](mailto:havey@erols.com) OR (410) 540-6902.

**MICRO SOCCER** – Coaches, Players and Parents needed to help out with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Micro Soccer program. This program is going to be held on Saturday mornings starting April 7<sup>th</sup> for six sessions. This is a community service program for you middle and high school students. Coaches, Players and Parents we need your help make this a huge success again for these 5 – 8 year old boys and girls. Contact David Gould at [DGMP@CS.COM](mailto:DGMP@CS.COM) OR (410) 313-8858.

## Mom?...Dad? We Need to Talk

*Game Day Food for Thought*

The coach-player-parent triad is a mostly overlooked and neglected component of youth sport programs. Time spent on understanding, strengthening and enhancing the coach-player-parent triangular relationship is as critical to Thunder success on the field as quality coaching. Coach, player and parent play distinct roles within the Club and team context; no where is this more true than on game day.

The evolution of youth athletics has transformed sandlot games from "spontaneous and child exclusive" to "organized and parent inclusive". In sandlot settings parents never occupied sidelines to watch, cheer or "coach". Youth athletic contests today are no longer child driven and have mutated into the category of spectator sports.

What complicates matters is that parents (and even coaches) frequently, and with good intentions, model the behavior of professional and collegiate coaches on game day. Coaches of the American "money sports" (baseball, basketball and football) take every opportunity to strip players of decision making responsibility, stop play to develop short-term tactical strategies and provide coaching on-the-run as the game is in progress. This game day coach-centered approach has no place in soccer. Instruction in soccer occurs in training not during matches.

As part of the triad parents definitely play an important role during matches. Parents can offer a positive presence by cheering and encouraging all the players on their child's team. This type of vocal support, as long as it does not distract the players and is not done to excess, can sometimes enhance a player's confidence and perseverance.

However, during matches parents are asked to allow the players to perform without the interruption and distraction of parental coaching. Look at it this way: as parents are you permitted to feed your child lines during the school play or prompt them during a math test? Aside from the possibility that a spectator will give a player the wrong information, the more significant effect of instructing your children during games is that it undermines the child's relationship with his/her coach. Who are they to listen to? Who is right: mom, dad or the coach?

The Thunder coaching staff asks that you trust the sports intelligence of your child and their on-going mastery of skill during the upcoming spring season. Allow them to learn from their coach at practice and to make their own decisions and mistakes during games. As hard as it might be parents need to rein in the strong primal instinct that wants to help your child in the heat of competition. In so doing you will be helping to reverse the erosion of the sandlot spirit and contributing to the development of the exclusive learning relationship your child has with their coach.

**THUNDER SOCCER CLUB**  
**Golf Tournament 2001**

*Captains Choice - "Best Ball of Foursome"*

**Tuesday June 5, 2001**  
**Shot Gun Start 12:00**

Oakmont Green Golf Course  
2290 Golf View Lane  
Hampstead, Maryland

MARK IT DOWN !!!..... **June 5<sup>th</sup>**

The THUNDER Golf Extravaganza.  
A wonderful afternoon of golf followed by a  
Steak Dinner. Awards and door/raffle prizes.  
Special competitions. Refreshment carts. A  
chance to show your skill ..... or lack thereof.

Get your foursome together or enter as a  
single and we'll help match you up with a  
group. **BUT DO NOT WAIT!!!** We can only put  
a set number of golfers on the course at one  
time. Space is limited and no walk-ons will be  
accepted. You **MUST** pre-register.

This is also a great opportunity to help the  
Club out by having your business or  
organization sponsor a hole or foursome. Hole  
sponsors will be provided a sign at one of the  
tee boxes as well as recognition on the  
THUNDER web site and in the THUNDER  
newsletter. Obviously, we encourage you to  
thank and support our sponsors on your own.

Anyone who'd like to promote their business  
or organization by donating door/raffle prizes  
or giveaway tokens should also contact the  
organizers, Sharon Keeny 301.854.0924, or  
Jim Havey 410.549.6902, or for that matter  
any Board member to work out the details.



We'd love to help you help our players.

Just a few cautions. You must be 18 to drive  
the golf carts, so foursomes with younger  
golfers need at least two golfers 18 or older.  
Also, there **are** rules, the regular ones, and a  
couple of modifications!! We're not going to  
tell you all of them right now, but...well you'll  
see.

A registration form is provided in this  
newsletter. It can also be downloaded from  
the web site at [www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org).



**Micro Soccer Starts APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>**

THUNDER's Micro Soccer for 5-8 year olds  
begins April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 to 11:30 at Alpha Ridge  
Park. This is a tremendous way to help  
introduce young athletes to our beautiful game  
of soccer. Staffed by THUNDER coaches,  
players, parents and other volunteers, it is the  
THUNDER way of giving back to the  
community and promoting the sport.

The program will run for six sessions, ending  
no later than June 9<sup>th</sup>. Micro Players,  
affectionately known as "mini-me's", will use a  
size 3 (small) ball and be provided with  
coaches who will blend teaching and fun.

THUNDER players are encouraged to  
volunteer on their own, and specific teams are  
being assigned mandatory dates to serve as  
program helpers. Players can request  
verification of participation and use the  
volunteer time towards fulfillment of their High  
School community service hour requirements.

Wear your uniform proudly as a helper. You'll  
be amazed at the respect you will get from the  
youngsters participating, and even our worst  
jugglers can get a little mind started thinking  
about what could be!!

**GET WITH THE PROGRAM!!**  
**SUPPORT MICRO SOCCER**

Thunder Board and  
Administration

Executive Board

*President – Mike Hasty*

*Vice-President – Jim Gormley*

*Vice-President – Dan Ennis*

*Treasurer – Dave Walter*

*Secretary – Dave Gould*

At-Large Board Members:

Ken Boras

Ralph Kompare

Sharon Keeny

Cliff Walcott

Jim Havey

Patti Burford (Parent Rep)

Tom Kuba

Administration

Director of Coaching – Jeff Gross

ThunderWear Coordinator – Cheryl Gould

NCSL Representative – Dave Gould

WAGS Representative – VACANT

Registrar Assistance – Debbi Hasty

**Club Voice Mail: 410.207.2213**

*(For contact Information, Coaches and other  
news, See the Web Site)*

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

**Glenwood Park  
Reminder!!**

***No Parking is allowed  
on the grass along Route 97!!  
or for that matter any grass at the park.***

***IT IS NOT PERMITTED  
IT IS NOTSAFE!!***

***If it is allowed we will lose our permit to  
use these fields!***

Coaches and Managers must communicate this to the opposing teams when they contact them to confirm game times and directions. **You must also** enforce this on game days.

We have been advised that *if we do not comply*, our **permits** to play at these fields **WILL BE REVOKED.**

Advise the visiting teams of the availability of parking at the Middle School and require parking at the School for both TSC families and visitors when games are on the field closest to the School. *We cannot afford to lose these fields.*

***It's no fun not having home games!!***

