

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FC

NEWSLETTER

February 2010



NIFC Calendar

Fay's Pork Chop Dinner

February 24th from 4 to 6:30pm
\$12 each

Prizes awarded to the top
three ticket sellers!

Mark Your Calendars

NIFC Night With Chicago Fire

Saturday April 10th, 7pm
Kickoff

More info on tickets to come soon!

NIFC Development vs. Winning

"Matches are important as a means of player development, not as the aim. The usefulness of the game can occur in many different forms. Focus on the process and performance rather than the outcome." US Soccer Federation

NIFC is in the beginning of Indoor Session 2, and I think now is a good time to talk about the difference between development and winning. NIFC and its slogan is "Development Through Training" and we continue to address that every time we get on the field. When putting the teams together for Indoor Session 2, we had many challenges and obstacles to think about, but at the end of the day, we decided that we should do what's best for the kids and their development as soccer players and individuals. The number 1 goal of the teams was to try and make our teams as competitive as possible so all players have a chance to grow and get better, not go out and win every game and let everyone know that NIFC is the best. In addition, all players develop at different levels, and as many kids have the tools, sometimes they are lacking the confidence. So, in order to build the confidence of players, we put them on the appropriate team to build that confidence on the ball, not necessarily win games.

As you watch games during the weekend, you may notice that most other teams don't try and play soccer, they just like to kick it and run. Our NIFC teams, are trying to play a bit of soccer. We are taking our training themes and incorporating them into the games. We are asking our players to connect passes, play to feet, look to combine and all become moving parts. "The critical, fundamental phases is often overlooked by coaches and parents, who focus on competition and winning rather than the acquisition of basic skills and Fitness." Istvan Balv. Sports Scientist

Finally, as we move through the winter season, we also now when and where to challenge our players and take them out of their comfort zones. For example, we took our High School Girls during 1st session and really challenged the group and pushed them. As they believed in the process and continue to work, their confidence did lower a bit. But, so far during second session, we have adjusted the teams and the levels they are playing. This way their confidence is high and feeling good going into their High School seasons next month.

As the club formed a year and half ago, it was entrusted that the board would hire the right soccer people for development reasons. As the board has put their trust in, we ask that you as parents continue to trust that the Director of Coaching and his coaches/trainers are making the best decisions for your child in terms of their development.

NIFC Board of Directors and Director of Coaching

"Development through Training"