

WI WEST TIMES

Your Club, Your News. All the happenings at Rush WI West



Tryouts?!?!? Already?

by Kyle Lownds / May 1st 2019

Yes believe it or not, tryouts are just around the corner and registration is OPEN! Have you registered? Have you even thought about it? This is the perfect time to get on and register before it slips your mind again! We continue to grow each and every year and we are hoping for an even BIGGER turn out this time around. You can register online through our website. Below is the tryout schedule:

08/09 Boys: June 3rd and 4th 5-6PM
08/09 Girls: June 5th and 6th 5-6PM
Team Selection: June 14th
Academy Registration Opens: June 7th

06/07 Boys: June 3rd and 4th 6-7PM
06/07 Girls: June 5th and 6th 6-7PM
Team Selection: June 14th

05 Boys: June 3rd and 4th 7-8PM
05 Girls: June 5th and 6th 7-8PM
Team Selection: June 21st

04-02 Boys: June 4th and 5th 7-8PM
04-02 Girls: June 19th and 20th 5-6PM
Team Selection: June 21st

Upcoming Program Highlights
Mighty Mites: Each Wed. in May 5:45-6:30PM
South Dakota Tournament: May 11/12
Presidents Cup: Pool Play May 17-19

Tenacity...What is it? Do you have it?

by Kyle Lownds / May 1st 2019

Dictionary.com defines tenacity in the following way: **tenacity** [tuh-nas-i-tee] – the quality of being tenacious or of holding fast; persistence. Tenacity is one of the 11 Core Values we have with Rush Soccer and can often be the difference between being successful or unsuccessful. Here is what a couple of our coaches feel Tenacity is and how they apply it to soccer and everyday life:

Coach Paul: *"I believe tenacity should be closely paired with planning, as these two elements are vital for accomplishing any goal. Once you can identify a goal you wish to achieve, you should then make a roadmap which outlines how you will accomplish that goal. There will inevitably be setbacks in your execution of the roadmap, however, only those who are tenacious will reach the summit of their goal."*

Coach Talia: *"Tenacity means the willingness and determination to persevere despite obstacles that are thrown in the way of reaching one's goal. This can be related to both soccer and everyday life. Especially as people face set-backs like injuries. The willingness and determination to get back to health and be active/ play again or just still be a supporting member of the team demonstrates one's tenacity."*

As you can see, Tenacity is a mindset and a valuable life skill and one that players experience each day in training or in the games. Just another way that soccer can be used to teach everyday life lessons and how we hope to develop our players on and off the field.

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Get to know Coach *Talia*!

One of the newest faces at Rush WI West

by Kyle Lownds / May 1st 2019

With our staff continuing to grow, I wanted to take some time to get to know one of our newest coaches, Talia Dacquisto, and share some insights that make her who she is.

RWW: "According to your bio, you're originally from the Milwaukee area. What do you love/miss the most about that area?"

Coach Talia: "I miss some of the things a big city offers, the abundant restaurants, and coffee shops, I love coffee shops, but do not miss the traffic, noise, and lack of green space. I grew up very close to Lake Michigan, so I also miss that. I never thought I would stay in the area after finishing school at UWL, however, the more time I spend here, the more it feels like home."



RWW: "You attended UW-L and earned degrees in Social Sciences and Spanish. Why did you decide to earn those degrees? Why did you decide to stay in the area after graduation?"

Coach Talia: "Growing up as a family we traveled a lot. Part of each trip was learning about the history and significance of each place we visited. In addition to the trips, my dad made us watch many old history movies which I think played a part in, at least initially, getting me interested in history. Also, with traveling I have always loved learning about other cultures, which is why I studied Spanish. I stayed in this area after graduation because I love to easy access to doing outdoor activities, such as hiking or biking the bluffs, taking a walk by the river, and the small town feel."

RWW: "Describe how soccer has influenced you?"

Coach Talia: "Soccer has been a part of my life since I was 5. Initially I played in rec programs, then helped FC Milwaukee create the girls teams which meant I had to play on all boys teams, then played in high school, later college, and now adult leagues. I cannot think of a time in my life when soccer was not in it. It has influenced how I look at school, who I spend my time with, being competitive and pushing myself to try harder and look out for others on my "team" whatever that "team" is at the time."

RWW: "What have you enjoyed the most about coaching at Rush WI West so far?"

Coach Talia: "I have enjoyed working with the academy girls and coaches and seeing how they have fun playing the game."

RWW: "What are your career ambitions outside of soccer?"

Coach Talia: "Currently I am a high school teacher teaching both AP Psychology, History, and Spanish; however, I would and plan to go back to school to become a school psychologist helping to create educational plans for students with special needs."

RWW: "What are your soccer coaching ambitions?"

Coach Talia: "As a coach, I hope to instill a love for the game, help the players learn what it means to be a part of a team, and ultimately have fun with the players."



RWW: "If you could travel anywhere in the world and money was not an issue, where would you go? Why?"

Coach Talia: "If I could travel anywhere without money being an issue, I would go on a 2 month long backpacking trip through the Patagonia Mountains in Chile and Argentina. I have been camping and backpacking my entire life and this has always been on my bucket list."

Rush Fest 2019

by Kyle Lownds / May 1st 2019

"North, South, East, West! We are Rush Wisconsin West! North, South, East, West! We are Rush Wisconsin West. NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST! WE ARE RUSH WISCONSIN WEST!" Many of you may have heard that cheer before and many of you may not. One thing for certain though is that Rush Fest is about one thing, it is about SPIRIT! Last year Rush WI West came home from Colorado Springs with the spirit award for the first time in our club's short history. For those of you that are going this year, it will be an experience the players will remember for the rest of their playing career.

The coaches representing our club this year are Coach Kourni, Coach Jake, and Coach Stefano. Here's what Coach Jake had to say about attending for the first time and what Coach Joe had to say about his experience after attending in the past:

Coach Jake: *"I'm hoping to learn new strategies and methods to improve my pedagogy as a coach for the benefit of my players. I'm also interested in learning the ins and outs of other Rush clubs in general and how they operate as a club compared to ours"*

Coach Joe: *"Rush Fest is a once in lifetime opportunity to experience one of the largest youth soccer celebrations in the world. It gives players, coaches and parents an opportunity to learn more about the "Rush Way" to play and live, along with how we are more than just a local club, we are an international club."*

College Exposure Camp (CEC)

by Kyle Lownds / May 1st 2019

ATTENTION ALL RUSH WI WEST PLAYERS ENTERING 9TH-12TH GRADE: Are you looking to play collegiate soccer? Ever wondered what it may be like to play soccer in college? If you answered yes to one or both of those questions, then we have an event for you! We are hosting a College Exposure Camp right here in La Crosse on July 27th. This is a great opportunity for you and your friends to get in front of college coaches and ask them questions you are looking to have answered about the college playing experience.

We currently have representation from colleges at the Division II, III, NAIA, and NJCAA on both the men's and women's side. You can find the link here or on our website. Contact Coach Kyle with questions.

<https://rushsoccercamps.com/events/la-crosse/>

A Little Something for the Parents

An Open Letter to the Out of Control Sports Parent Sitting Next to Me in the Stands

by John O'Sullivan / Wednesday, 20 March 2019
/ The following article was originally published on the website changingthegameproject.com and is being distributed for educational purposes only

Dear Out of Control Sports Parent,

You.

Yeah, you.
The one shouting "Get the rebound!!!" to your kid. The one with the heart palpitating so loudly that you cannot contain yourself. The one yelling and complaining about the coach. The one hollering at the 13-year-old referee. The one angry at my kid for making a mistake. The one hollering at the kids who made a mistake running the scoreboard in a recreational tournament in a meaningless pool play game.

Yeah, you, the one whose spouse won't sit next to you during the game. The one who is micromanaging every aspect of the game and turning what would be a pleasant normal Saturday into a heightened state of anxiety for all of us, including your fellow parents stuck next to you for today's game, this season, and our kids' childhoods.

PLEASE STOP!
PLEASE CALM DOWN!
Do you notice the Normal Sports Parents sitting next to you who are quiet? Did you even look at us? You probably didn't. Do you know what we are thinking? Well, I've listened to you holler in my ear all game, so now it's my turn.

Your noise pollution is ruining my day and my experience as a parent. You don't have the right to dominate over all of us sitting here watching and cheering like Normal Sports Parents. You don't have the right to keep blocking my view as you jump up to contest another call, or express your frustration at another mistake by an 11-year-old.

Have you ever stopped to consider any of the following things:

You are not helping your kid. Did you ever think of that? Did any of your advice, ever, help anyone on the court? Did your kid swing better, make the shot, score the goal, or improve in any way because you yelled? Did a referee ever change his call? Did it have any positive effect on the game whatsoever? You are embarrassing your kid. Your kid knows he missed the shot. Do you have to criticize him publicly for it? Now your kid is focused on your voice and the coach's voice and his inner voice and it's taking away the ability to think and make decisions and play. No kid likes to be yelled at publically, in front of his friends. Do you? When was the last time you were yelled at or shamed by your boss in front of the whole company? You know what kids want parents to say on the sidelines? Nothing. No coaching. At most, general cheering.

Don't yell at my kid. EVER. What makes you think that this is even OK? If you want to screw up your own kid's journey, that is sad, but it's your kid. As for the rest of them, zip it.

No one on the sidelines thinks you are a good parent for yelling like this. Not even your friends. We are all kind of embarrassed for you, and your child. We are just afraid to say it because your kid is pretty good, and we are not sure if the club will support us in telling you to be quiet.

You had your turn to play when you were young. Let it go. This will all be over soon, you won't have anyone to drive to practice anymore, and you will have to ask yourself "what was this all for?"

You have it all wrong. We don't need MORE games. We need more practice. Why so many games anyway? The number of games rivals professional sports.

Kids play almost as Many games as they do in the NBA and pro athletes don't even go to elementary school. (Read "Does Youth Sports Get the Math All Wrong") You see, in practice, kids take risks, try new things, learn and develop.

They need to think and make decisions and they can't do that if you are yelling at them the whole time because you are focused on the scoreboard. I don't want to get in my car again next weekend and drive to another tournament. How about we stay home and just get better, or even play some pickup games?

Before you think I'm going to say the score doesn't matter, I'm not. The score matters....to our kids, but not as much as it matters to you. In fact, they will be over it by the time they cross the court and ask "what's for lunch?" Kids are not stupid. They also know the team with the taller, faster, and older kids have a better chance. But you are focusing only on the score, and your kid is learning that mistakes are NOT OK. That perfection is required. That your love is conditional on winning. Don't turn your kid into an anxious hot mess with stomach pains. Look at the rates of anxiety and depression among kids in high school and college. What is your endgame?

We all screw up, but it's never too late to change! Last week, I got caught up in it too. In fact, I wanted my kid's team to beat your kid's team so I could shove it in your face. Then I remembered your kid is a kid. And it didn't feel very good to feel good about your 11-year-old feeling lousy. That didn't seem like an adult thing to do.

I get it. You are stressed. You are scared your kid might miss out on some opportunity. I feel that too. We work hard so our kids can have advantages that we never had. It's hard to keep up with the Joneses. It's hard to know who to believe. But we never had this kind of pressure back in the 80s when we were kids. Do you even remember the scores from your THIRD-grade games? I don't.

Please, for everyone's sake, but especially your own kids, calm down. Enjoy the moment. Watch them with pride when they succeed, and watch them with pride when they have the courage to fail. If you want to jeer and holler at a game, go to a professional one.

But here, on this sideline, let's remember these are kids. That it is just a game. That referees are human. That no one is turning pro, and no scholarships are being handed out today.

Let's model good behavior and put it all in perspective for our children. They are here learning how to play a game with other kids with all of its ups and downs and trials and life lessons and friendships.

They are not here to boost our self-esteem. They are not there to entertain us. They have only one childhood. Please let kids be kids. Please let them fall in love with the game. Please let them play. And please, just let me watch in peace!

Thanks,

A Normal Sports Parent

(The above open letter was written by Karen, a mom and a Changing the Game Project follower who has grown frustrated and disgruntled with the current state of youth sports, and the fact that she cannot go and watch her kids compete in peace. She asked us to publish it and to remain anonymous. We thought it was pretty good advice, so we decided to share. Thanks, Karen, and thanks to all those parents out there who realize that the game is supposed to be for the kids.)



Our Club in April!

