



September E-Letter

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For more information about the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, visit us online at www.seattleoyyam.org/

Dear CYO Athletics Community,

Welcome back!

The CYO Athletics program year is upon us. Since CYO Athletics embarked upon our relationship with the University of Notre Dame and implementing the Play Like A Champion Today® (PLC) coaches training back in 2007, one statistic has hit me over and over as I have seen it in the training videos and quoted in different articles in newspapers, magazines and online:

"Approximately twenty million kids register each year for youth sports. The National Alliance for Sports reports that 70 percent of these kids quit playing these league sports by age 13 -- and never play them again."

This statistic points out why the "Play" in PLC is so critical. There are many reasons that kids play sports. A study was done in 1992 by researchers at Michigan State University and updated in various arenas since as to why kids play sports. It indicated that without question, the number one reason for both girls and boys is "to have fun". I have conducted informal surveys when I have done workshops at our Jr. High Rally and have been given the same answer. When kids quit playing, or "retire" at a young age it is because they are no longer having fun. Of course, what is fun, and what makes sports fun will change and transform as children grow and mature and yet, in the end analysis, if they are not having fun, they walk away.

As is said in Matthew 18:3, "Believe me, unless you become like little children again, you shall not enter the Kingdom of God" - we are called to see the world through a child's eyes, with wonder, awe, joy and delight.

So, our task is simple. Keep sports fun. That is one of the key themes of the year for CYO Athletics. We will be looking for ways to give tools to our coaches for nurturing the fun in sports and being especially intentional about providing opportunities for our athletes and families to have fun together. And yet, the simplest way to access this is for each of us to ask our children and our teams, "Are you having fun?", "What makes this fun?" Do you want to share your child's response? Do you have an idea to share with us born out of their response? We would love to hear it.

[Here is a link](#) to a good piece and worthwhile related articles that give us some perspective and tools for keeping our sports in perspective and fun for our kids. [Here is an article](#) on how one young man is doing his own research into why kids play sports.

May we be filled with a spirit of openness, trust and playfulness so that CYO Athletics is a fun place for our youth to be,

Blessings,

~Tauno Latvala
Director of CYO Athletics

September - Important CYO Athletics Dates

September 7 - Soccer Coaches Meeting (K, 4th-8th Grades)

September 9 - Cross Country Team Registration Deadline

September 10 - Soccer Season Begins for 4th-8th Grades

September 11 - Kindergarten Soccer Begins

September 13 - Soccer Coaches Meeting (1st-3rd Grades)

September 16 - Soccer Roster Deadline (K, 4th-8th Grades)

September 17 - Soccer Season Begins for 1st-3rd Grades

September 20 - Cross Country Coaches Meeting

September 23 - Soccer Roster Deadline (1st-3rd Grades)

September 25 - First Preliminary Cross Country Meet

Seattle U Soccer Events 2011

SEATTLEU SOCCER

\$1 Youth Days with Jersey*

Sep 11 Men vs Washington

Oct 2 Women vs Boise State

* (8th grade and under)

Free Postgame Youth Clinic

Oct 9 Women vs Hawai'i

Oct 23 Men vs UNLV



Seattle University Men's and Women's Soccer teams have prepared some great games and events for CYO Athletics soccer families.

CYO teams can receive \$1 admission if they are wearing their jersey on 9/11/11 when Seattle U Men takes on UW at 1pm and 10/2/11 when Seattle U Women's Soccer takes on Boise State at 1pm.

On Oct. 9th and Oct. 23 will be holding a postgame youth clinic after the 1pm games.

Autograph sessions with players will be available after all home matches.

Seattle Sounders FC Game 10/15



The CYO Athletics community has been offered discounted tickets for the final regular season game on October 15th at 7:30pm. This will be Kasey Keller's final regular season home game, and to celebrate, Seattle Sounders FC have opened the upper bowl for discounted group tickets. Follow [This Link](#) and enter the Code "**Sounders**" to purchase \$10 tickets to this game. It is also Faith and Family night, and there will be a pre-game gathering at the WAMU theater starting at 3:45pm featuring Christian athletes, speaking about how their faith has shaped their sport experience. Afterwards, families are invited to Pioneer Square to join the "March to the Match".



The Mighty Macs

On October 21, a movie about the first women's college basketball national championship hits the big screen. Several representatives from CYO Athletics attended a screening here in Seattle recently and were inspired by the story and the movie that told the tale of tiny Immaculata College from Pennsylvania who overcame long odds to dream, believe, commit and compete in the biggest game. A great experience for families and teams - all ages, both young men and young women will appreciate and relate to the themes of this movie which transcend sports. Make your plans today. For more information, go to [The Mighty Macs website](#).

Thank you for your commitment to CYO Athletics. If you have not received past E-Letters, they can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please also continue to send us stories at cyo@seattlearch.org, the moments of grace that make our program special, and remind everyone why we do the work we do.

Sincerely,
CYO Athletics
Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Seattle