

# Soccer Organizations Hope to Score Donations

By Evan Ortega

Actors, sportscasters, an Olympian gold medalist and punk rockers will play soccer at Mira Costa on Saturday to raise money for kids with more talent than money to play competitive soccer. The children are members of South Bay Force, a competitive soccer club of more than 600 soccer players ages 9-18 who play other teams across Southern California. Partnering with the club is Hollywood United, a soccer team whose members include entertainment industry artists and former professional soccer players.

Hollywood United teammate and former Force coach Kevin Eagleston recalls that his team has participated in celebrity tournaments before, but not ones benefiting kids. "Recently we started doing these big celebrity events and I noticed there weren't a lot of youth involved," Eagleston said. "I thought this would be a good way to get the kids involved and get my club involved and help with the scholarship fund."

South Bay Force players will compete in youth challenge matches from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., followed by a soccer clinic for children ages 5-12 from 6 to 7 p.m. The celebrity soccer match will run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. A silent auction will also be held, with items on the block including soccer memorabilia and sporting event tickets.

Some of the celebrities playing at the event include Hollywood United President and actor Anthony LaPaglia of *Without a Trace* and *Frasier*, musician Steve Jones of the Sex Pistols; journalist Rolando Nichols of Univision and two-time Olympic gold medalist Aly Wagner. "Hollywood United has played matches all over the country," said Director of Coaching Todd Saldana. "I thought, what a great idea of they could play one with us."

Tickets are \$7 and available on the day of the event at Mira Costa High School's Waller Stadium. Saldana thinks the event offers something for everyone. "We're just trying to give all different types of reasons for people to come," he said. "We hope the clinic will speak to a lot of people in AYSO who are about to begin their season."

Saldana hopes the event will offer kids participating in youth leagues like AYSO a chance to see what playing in a competitive club is all about. He explained that although parents who coach AYSO do great work, they tend to lack the experience to take the kids to the next level. "[South Bay Force] is the next step for the very competitive, serious soccer players," Saldana said. "It's the next step for kids that have decided they want to take soccer on as their number one sport... and to be coached by people who've played soccer at a high level."

Vice President for Fundraising Missy Juarez estimates the club has awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships this year, which will help underprivileged Force players in the 2009-2010 season. "It's a program that South Bay Force offers families that economically aren't capable of paying the full tuition amount," Juarez said. "Because it costs money to play in clubs, not everyone would have that opportunity if we didn't offer the scholarship program."

As a former South Bay Force coach, Eagleston recalls having had to constantly look for funds so players from cities including Hawthorne and Gardena could continue playing. "We had a lot of scholarship kids on my team and sometimes even wealthy parents would donate the money," he said. "Or we would do all kinds of fundraisers to find out how we could pay for these kids' registration. This is an ongoing thing for every coach and the entire club."

With the cost of participating in the club ranging from \$1,300 to \$1,500, Eagleston explained that even getting to games or practices can be a challenge for disadvantaged players. "Some of these families, they live in a one-bedroom or two-bedroom apartment with four or five kids, and they have one kid who plays club soccer," Eagleston said. "It takes so much time, so we will sometimes have another parent pick these kids up."

Saldana said the club gives out scholarships worth anywhere from 25 to 75 percent of the total cost to participate. "We don't give full scholarships because we do want them to be invested in the program too," he said. "Our older teams travel and we want our kids to be able to see the world outside of their environment, especially if they live in some tough places."

The event will also fund programs including college prep, speed, agility and nutrition. "We also offer supplemental skill programs for kids who want more work on their technique. Our college programs and supplemental programs are for everyone," Saldana said.

Saldana added that the club fees cover expenses like coaching, league registration, referees and field fees, and the fundraiser will help keep costs of the supplemental programs down. "There's an endless amount of things that it covers," he said. "Because of the economy, we don't want to raise our player fees. We would prefer to raise funds to offer these programs and scholarships through this [fundraiser] instead of raising fees."

South Bay Force will also share some of their proceeds with the soccer charity Project Play-Africa, which will be collecting donations and signing up volunteers. The organization coordinates the purchase and collection of soccer balls which it sends to children in African nations, where it uses the sport to promote youth development and community involvement.

Juarez hopes the fundraiser will bring together people and organizations from across the soccer community to give more kids the opportunity to play the sport, whether they live in Africa or the South Bay. "We have a whole gamut of people that are going to be coming," he said. "The good thing about this is it's basically a time to come together and have total team camaraderie amongst each other."

Although he doesn't coach for the South Bay Force anymore, the cause of helping disadvantaged kids play competitive soccer is close to Eagleston's heart. "Coach Saldana is giving these kids a chance to play at the highest level," Eagleston said. "We want to make sure that these underprivileged kids are getting that same chance."

# Student's forum

## Student to Student

Dear Students,

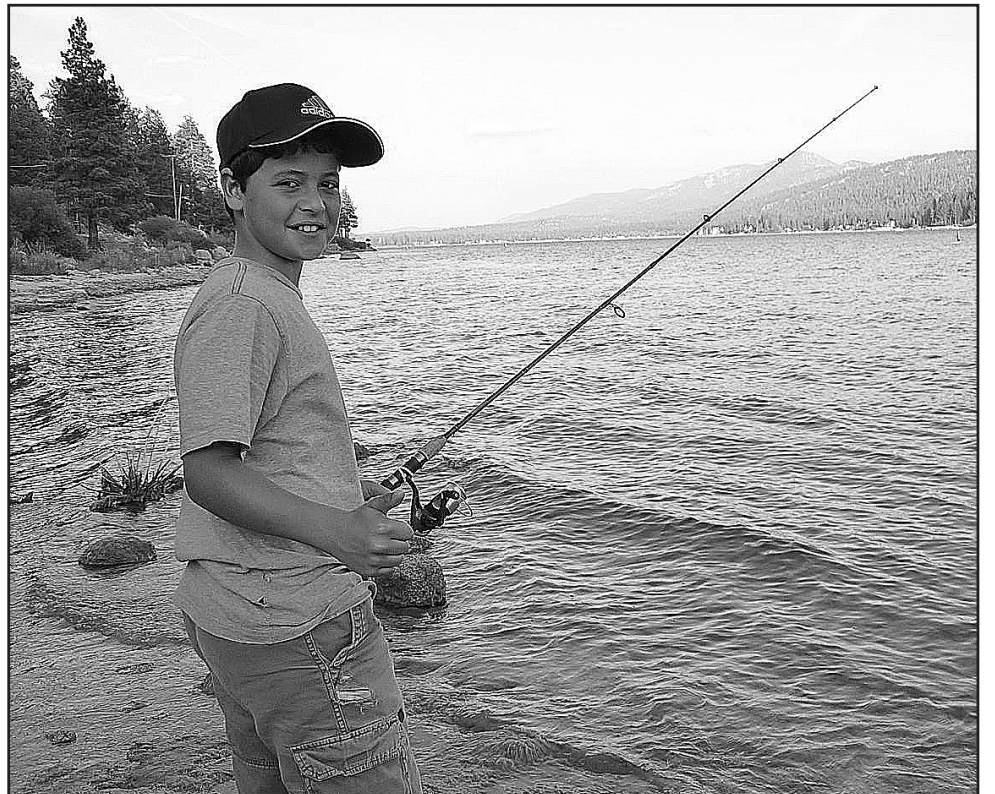
We are starting a new section of the paper for students called *Student to Student*. Sort of a "blog in print". The purpose of this section is to give you an opportunity to express yourself, anonymously, on subjects ranging from dress codes to national issues. The first few weeks, we will provide the questions and would appreciate your input or comments. If there are any questions you'd like us to post, please email them in and we will use

them. Please do not use anyone's full name or identity in your comments or questions. We have set up an email address, just for you: [students@heraldpublications.com](mailto:students@heraldpublications.com). Again, your submissions will be anonymous and your identities protected from the public.

We reserve the right not to publish any questions or comments that contain crude, vulgar, offensive, discriminating language or anything we deem inappropriate.

**Question:** Are there Bullies in your school?

## What I did this Summer



FISHING AT THE LAKE

This summer I went fishing to Big Bear Lake it was my first time going fishing and I was expecting it to be boring but I had lots of fun and I really enjoyed going there with my family. My dad showed me how to make the dough bait, how to put it in the hook and then how to throw the fishing line. I did not want to use the worm bait, like my brother did. I stuck with the dough, then I did it all by myself; I hooked the bait, threw the line and then I waited, waited and waited. The waiting to catch a fish was boring. I am very impatient and wanted to get a big fish right away. I kept asking dad to

help me get one, he said I was doing fine I just needed to be quiet not to scare the fish and most of all be patient. So I started to learn to be patient. While holding my fishing pole I started to look around the lake. It was beautiful and huge, the sky was so clear, the clouds so white, the pine trees were huge and everything across the lake was so small. Everything seemed so calm that I started to cool down and became patient.

I did not catch anything but I had a good time trying and enjoying the lake and everything else around me.

Julian Catania

## Who am I?

WHO AM I?

Dear Students,

We are also starting a new section of the paper for students called *Who am I?* Send in ten factual statements of yourself. The purpose of this section is to give students an opportunity to get to know you better. Students will send in their ten factual statements to [students@heraldpublications.com](mailto:students@heraldpublications.com). Below is our first *Who am I* student. Send in your guesses to [students@heraldpublications.com](mailto:students@heraldpublications.com). We will publish these guesses and the correct answer in next week's issue.

We reserve the right not to publish any questions or comments that contain crude, vulgar, offensive, discriminating language or anything we deem inappropriate.

1. I played Frosh football at the high school last year.
2. I live in El Segundo with my dad and Hawthorne with my mom. I have a sister who is in the eighth grade.
3. I have dark brown hair.
4. I have dark brown eyes.
5. I truly enjoy eating crab cakes.
6. I enjoy making my friends laugh.
7. My hair is cut very short.
8. I wear a tee shirt and shorts everyday to school.
9. I will be a sophomore at El Segundo High School in the Fall.

