



# In Touch

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## From the Director Of Coaching

Youth soccer is very competitive. There is a lot of time, effort, and money put into the sport by both child and parent. It takes a big commitment to be able to compete at the highest levels and to be successful. It seems that every tournament game is intense and the outcome is vital to the success of the team.

As a coach, it is easy when we are not in the middle of a match to say that the games are not important, it is much harder when it is 1-1 in a close match against one of the local rivals to act with those words in mind. It is probably the same for all parents as well. Away from the game we know that criticizing a referee, yelling at the other team or "coaching" from the sidelines is wrong, but I am sure that as you watch and see a physical player from the other team continue to foul or a ref make the wrong call it becomes hard to sit there quietly. I am sure almost all of us have had our moments on the sidelines, some maybe not quite as outspoken or boisterous as others, but when the group gets going, it becomes just a little bit easier to join in the chorus.

Let me be clear when I say that all of us coaches can be just as bad as parents and that I know sometimes a poor officiated game can drive you crazy, especially when it effects the safety of the player or the outcome of the game. It is also very hard to sit there while the other team or other group of parents are the ones who initiate all the complaining. In some cases, maybe questioning a call is okay, but for the most part I think that sometimes as we vent our frustrations, we overlook the reaction that it has on our kids. If we are trying to teach our kids to think and act responsibly, and as a club our goal as coaches is to get our kids to solve problems related to soccer on and off the field, then we have to demonstrate the proper ways to handle these situations

I remember refereeing when I was 12 years old, it was my first.....and consequently last...game that I officiated. It was a U8 game and I can still remember the call vividly. I still don't see how I could have called it any other way, but one team's coach and group of parents obviously did. The coach was screaming, the parents were irate, and to top it all off I had to sit in the parking lot and watch all of them glare and make faces at me as they drove by, while I sat there waiting for my ride. I never officiated again.

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Sometimes when I see a ref handle a situation so poorly I want to scream, stop the game, pull my team off the field, anything to make him realize he was wrong, but that is the easy thing to do. It is easy to solve simple problems, not so easy to solve bigger ones. Sometimes a ref making a bad call that changes a game is a big problem. I have heard parents scream for red cards, scream at other teams' players, and confront other teams' parents and I don't know than in any of those instances where it has solved the problem, but only created one more.

I am finding more and more as I get into my coaching career that the behavior I exhibit tends to have an impact on the kids I coach. I can't ask my kids to solve a problem in a correct way while I sit there in front of them and try to fix it

Soccer games are important.....but not because they determine a winner and a loser, but because they provide all of us with any opportunity to grow as fans, players, coaches, and parents. It provides tons of teachable moments and opportunities to grow. Winning a soccer game is exciting, but only when it is done with class and respect. For a coach the reason it feels good to win is because it was a moment when your team demonstrated what they have been taught. If we can maintain a calm throughout the most intense of youth soccer matches, we can all continue to help be an example of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Yours in Soccer,  
Casey Mann




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## Menace Merchandise Fundraiser!

Hopefully you have all received the fundraiser forms.

- All proceeds will help to benefit the academy this season by paying for the lights at Aliber.
- Feel free to ask friends, relatives and neighbors if they want to purchase Menace gear!
- Payments are required at time of purchase and with sheets turned into your team managers by the designated date.

***Selling dates:*** Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> - Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

***Turn in date:*** Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to your team managers (order form with payments)

***Delivery dates:*** Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Oct 31<sup>st</sup>

Thanks for your support and feel free to contact me if you have any questions!



## Congratulations

- To the U17 boys team who won the Urbandale Tournament and the U18 boys were runner ups!
- We missed an 2007 Graduate who will be playing college soccer from our last issue. Andrew Boersma, who played in goal for the 1989/1990 boys team will be playing college soccer at Trinity Christian College in Illinois—NAIA. Andrew has played all 90 minutes of 1 of the games thus far this year!
- Be sure to check out the Menace website all Fall Season as we update the academy season and feature a youth player each week. Claire Caligiuri is featured this month. Go to [www.menacesoccer.com](http://www.menacesoccer.com) to read more!

If you have any news you want to share please let us know at [tmm@menacesoccer.com](mailto:tmm@menacesoccer.com) or call 515-457-6034



## Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to following Academy Members in October!



Jennifer Dodge  
McKenna Schnack  
Lauren Morford  
Lauren Raike  
Josh Tuggle  
Alex Heston  
Luke Johnson  
Dylan Michelsen

Kyle Torkelson  
Catum Whitfield  
Gabe Crall  
Kyle Cumings  
Andrew Krog



## Quote of the Month

The vision of a champion is someone who is bent over, drenched in sweat, and the point of exhaustion when no one else is watching.

~Anson Dorrance  
(North Carolina Women's Coach)



***Soccer  
Connections***

All Menace Academy Members receive 15% off any shoe purchase at Soccer Connections. Stop in at any of their 2 Des Moines locations or visit them on the web at <http://www.soccerconnections.net>

# Academy Information

## *What you need to know*


### GOAL KEEPER AND EXTRA SKILLS TRAINING

Goalkeepers and players have an extra chance to train on Wednesday Nights

GOALKEEPERS:	5:30pm-6:30pm	U11-U14
	6:30pm-7:30pm	U15 and up
SKILL WORK	5:00pm-6:00pm	U11-U13
	6:00pm-7:00pm	U14 and up



### BILLING . . .

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- Don't forget the second round of bills are due for the 2007-2008 season. They are due on the 1st of each month and will incur a 1.5% finance charge if not paid by the 10th.
  - **In this 2nd billing if you are behind more than 60 days the player card will be pulled and that player will not be allowed to attend practices and games until payment has been made.**
  - Academy bills will be emailed each month on the 15th, unless specified or no email address was given at registration.
  - The next installment will be due November 1st then the final December 1st.
  - Returned checks will be assessed a \$15 finance fee.
  - If at anytime you cannot make payments please call to make arrangements.

**Check the Menace Website for all up-date information**

**Call the Weather Hotline for any questions about weather-related cancellations**

**Hotline Number: 457-6378**

**Contact Your Team Manager and/or coach. They'll often have the answer or know how to find it.**

**Call the Front Office. You can contact Tawnya Mann at 457-6034 when you have questions.**

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