

Trotwood youth team forms bond with UD soccer

'It's really been good for our kids,' TSAY co-vice president says of the clinics with the Flyers teams.

By David DiCenzo, Contributing Writer

2:14 PM Thursday, October 14, 2010

TROTWOOD — In many ways, Angelina Floyd is your typical soccer mom. The mother of four has three children playing in the Trotwood Soccer Association for Youth, which means she goes to matches and proudly cheers them on.

But Floyd wants to do much more than see her own kids thrive. As co-vice president of TSAY and a former coach, she envisions every young athlete in the association developing into a better player. To help accomplish that, Floyd sent an e-mail to the University of Dayton's men's soccer office and asked for help.

Just one year and many clinics later, a bond between TSAY and Flyers soccer has been formed.

"It's really been good for our kids," Floyd said. "They have blossomed."

UD soccer had its first clinic for TSAY at Trotwood's Madison Park in the fall of 2009, followed by another last spring. The UD women are now involved for six more sessions scheduled this fall for TSAY members between the ages of 4 and 14.

"The initial thought was 'What can we do?' " said UD men's assistant coach Kiki Lara, who received Floyd's e-mail. "If we could do something over a longer period of time, it might be more of a benefit.

"With youth soccer, I feel the focus should always be learning something, but still having an enjoyable time," Lara added. "The idea is to make it as technical as possible without losing their focus."

The results have been obvious for TSAY players. Ida Dawson said her 10-year-old daughter Alexis has improved not just her skills but also her communication.

"The morale they created with the kids, the one-on-ones, our daughter loved it," said Dawson, whose son Harrington, 17, also plays in TSAY. "She learned different ways to kick the ball. She said her passing changed some, and I did notice that after they worked with her."

The original clinic was offered to TSAY boys, but with girls now included, Dawson said Alexis enjoyed learning from the UD men.

"She thinks boys her age are yucky," Dawson said. "She was able to actually communicate with them, and it was a positive because the (UD) boys were able to show her things that made her

more competitive against the girls.”

TSAY has reciprocated in that UD soccer has developed an entirely new fan base. TSAY players and parents are regulars at Baujan Field. On Oct. 3, the collaboration was officially celebrated with Trotwood Soccer Day. The youngsters walked out hand-in-hand with the women’s and men’s teams, acted as ball kids and participated in events at halftime of the two matches.

“When we first went out to Trotwood, they were unaware of us and we were unaware of them,” Lara said. “Now, they are a part of our games, and we feel that.”

“It’s about a 20-minute drive to Trotwood and every single time on the trip back, the team is sharing stories about how they had a good time with it. The whole way back, everyone’s talking,” Lara said.

Both parties hope the relationship continues.

“Coach (Dennis) Currier is very big on tradition, and I think we found something pretty special in Angie and the whole Trotwood community because of how loyal they have been to us,” Lara said. “I feel like they have given us so much support.”

Find this article at:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/dayton-sports/trotwood-youth-team-forms-bond-with-ud-soccer-976845.html>