

NorthStar News

The Newsletter of NorthStar Soccer Ministries



CONNECT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAUL NEVILLE

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NORTHSTAR SOCCER MINISTRIES

promotes opportunities for investment in the lives of urban youth in Birmingham by providing a high quality Soccer Club within a holistic, Christian environment

‘Don’t just kick the ball when it comes to you. Look for a pass.’ I lost track of how many times I have said those words and others that mean the same thing at practices and during games as a NorthStar Soccer coach.

The player with the ball ‘looking for a pass’ to make is one part of the equation. For team play to work the players without the ball must understand how to put themselves in position to receive the ball. The players must learn to CONNECT a pass, yes. But even bigger, the team as a whole must learn to CONNECT to each other. When they do they create opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

If we do our soccer development well, NorthStar will contribute to a few of our players getting college scholarships (that has already happened). That will never be more than a relative few. Soccer at NorthStar is primarily a tool for CONNECTING youth to mentors, opportunities, academic encouragement, physical activity, ideas and spiritual truths. In addition, the relationship skills they learn while CONNECTING on the soccer field will help equip them to build positive

peer networks. Our goal is for them to score by becoming adults with character, education, skills, tools, and networks to succeed in life.

This Fall, through our devotions in Psalms, together we have reflected on how to *connect* to God’s provision through the midst of challenging circumstances. Our teams have practiced connecting through praying for one another and for families.

This organization depends on contributions to operate. For those of you who are involved in that way, thanks! You make it possible. I hope you will actively CONNECT—personally, with your time—with youth who need it. Let your contribution be something you do to augment and enhance the connections you make through your life!

Paul Neville

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Fall 2019 Season Highlights

For the Fall 2019 season NorthStar had 210 registered youth participating in our directly provided programs with another 25 under the leadership of our program partner Holy Rosary Soccer. Key points about the program include:

- 170 kids participating on teams directly operated by NorthStar that played in our own NorthStar Intramural League (see below for other teams in the NorthStar League)
- NorthStar Intramural included the following age divisions: U6, U8, U10, U12
- Teams in the NorthStar League came from the following locations/organizations: NorthStar East (based at Cornerstone Elementary School in the Woodlawn Community), NorthStar West (based at Legion Field Stadium just west of downtown), NorthStar at Hemphill (based at Hemphill Elementary School in the West End Community), YMCA Youth Center downtown (included in direct NorthStar player count), Holy Rosary (based at Holy Rosary Church in the Gate City Community), Pinson Parks & Rec Soccer, and Birmingham City Soccer Club (based in the city of Fairfield)
- NorthStar successfully fielded two ‘Travel Teams’ participating in the Central Alabama Soccer League plus we provided older girls as guest players with Holy Rosary on their team playing in the same league.
- With our U11 boys Travel Team we were able to develop an active partnership (share players both ways) with the Briarwood Soccer Club U11 boys rec team also playing in Central Alabama Soccer League.
- NorthStar Intramural League ended on October 19 but NorthStar will have 3 teams participating in the Alabama Soccer Showdown at Liberty Park on November 16-17. Participating teams will include, both ‘Travel Teams’ {including Briarwood Soccer Club guest players} plus a tournament team composed of NorthStar players from various intramural teams and top players from Holy Rosary.



Above: NorthStar/Youth Center Coach Beau Walker with U12 team on one of those upper ninety degree Saturdays . . . In October! Below: NorthStar U10 West (purple) with dad/coach on the sideline facing off against Pinson in NorthStar League action.



Support our new field sponsor, Chicken Salad Chick!



Below: Dad/Coach in post-game talk with one of three NorthStar East U6 teams. U10 game happening in the background.



Left: NorthStar players on the Hemphill Elementary School U8 team with some of their teachers who came to support them, posing in front of the Chicken Salad Chick banner. NorthStar loves Hemphill School and Chicken Salad Chick!



Involvement: Highlights & Opportunities

In mid August with only a couple weeks left before the start of the Intramural practices, it was staff only (Paul Neville and Kristen Shircliff) available to handle coaching at the Hemphill Elementary School after-school outreach location. Two coaches to not only manage the 35+ kids but to actually have them in their teams by age groups and ready to compete in the NorthStar League against teams of more experienced players? Big problem. By God’s grace in comes the staff of the Cahaba Medical Care—West End with an interest in adopting the U6 portion of the Hemphill School program. Their staff rotated managing Hemphill U6 practices and game coaching. It was great!

Extra skills coaching sessions for the boys and girls Travel Teams were provided by players from Briarwood High School varsity teams (men and women’s teams).

We are working now to identify coaches for the spring season at all levels. You can make a big impact in a child’s life with just a few hours per week during the season (February through May). Can’t commit to be a team coach? Skills coaches, bible study leaders/mentors, van drivers are all needed as well.

Contact us today to talk about volunteer opportunities!



Above: High School Senior and former NorthStar player, Kierstyn Chambers (right of photo in the blue coaching shirt), keeping an eye on East (red) v West (gray) U8 Intramural game. *Below:* Assistant Coach Lauren Perry (pink hat) with U12 East team at half-time. Lauren is a former NorthStar player and current varsity player for Altamont High School.



Left: Cahaba Medical Care staff, Kate Abraham, with members of the U6 Hemphill Soccer team. *Right:* Briarwood High School varsity soccer players—Anna, Bethany & Berkley (grey shirts) —with member of the NorthStar U12 Girls Travel team for a skill training session.



Sponsor Highlights



Ingram Equipment Company was our largest program sponsor, filling the role of 'Uniform Sponsor' for the Travel Team program. We expected there to be 3 teams for the Fall but ended up only having two. Those teams will continue proudly wearing the Ingram logo in the Spring Season!



ACCi returns as a Team Sponsor for 2019-2020 with our U12 girls Travel Team proudly wearing their logo on their sleeves. ACCi has *it* covered and NorthStar girls!



ELEGANT EARTH

ESTABLISHED 1988

Elegant Earth returns as a team sponsor and the U11 boys Travel Team proudly wears their logo!



Junior League of Birmingham *again* is sponsoring the U6 program at NorthStar Soccer. Junior League provides not only funds but volunteers! Below is dedicated Junior League volunteer Julia Ludlam leading a U6 East practice session on a Tuesday night this Fall.



JUNIOR LEAGUE BIRMINGHAM



Alabama Soccer Foundation is sponsoring our Hemphill School outreach program for the second year in a row!



Let's Celebrate!

We hope you will make plans to join us on November 14 at 6:00pm at Shades Valley Community Church for the annual NorthStar Celebration! It's a day to celebrate God's work among us that is being accomplished through staff & volunteer hours and the results of funding—sponsors highlighted here but also **the many churches and individuals who contribute financially month after month and year after year to make this ministry possible!**

At the Celebration we will recognize the team sponsors on the facing page and also key program partners such as Cornerstone School of Alabama and Hemphill Elementary School (both of whom provide us with critical field space).

Guests will have the opportunity to meet kids who have benefitted from the program and volunteers who serve regularly.

This year at The Celebration we will hear *live* from Birmingham native and Legion FC Forward, **Chandler Hoffman!** Come meet Chandler and try for a raffle on four tickets for a Birmingham Legion game in 2020!

Celebration Banquet Sponsors Needed!

- Table Sponsor — \$500
- Goal!! Sponsor — \$1,000
- Hat Trick Sponsor — \$3,000
- Premier Event Sponsor — \$5,000

Event sponsorships may be made on our website (below) or by mailing a check to NorthStar Soccer Ministries at P.O. Box 11512 / Birmingham, AL 35202 or www.northstarsoccerministries.org

WE also NEED Table Captains to help us fill sponsored tables. Sign up today and bring a friend! Individual tickets are \$50

Special Thanks to our Premier Event Sponsors—Ingram Equipment Company and A-1 Products!



Volunteer Opportunities

Your financial contributions are of great value and help us make the program possible. But, your time is the best way to really get involved and **connect** with youth on and off the soccer field.

We need-

- Coaches and Assistant Coaches for both 'Travel' and Intramural teams. (Experienced Head coaches for Travel Teams this Spring will receive a small stipend for their effort). Intramural teams depend completely on volunteer coaches (parents and outside volunteers together)
- Skill trainers / discipleship group leaders for small groups of Travel Team players. This is a great opportunity for high school players!
- Saturday game day help with the Intramural program (no soccer experience needed for this!)

Contact Paul Neville at paul@northstarsoccerministries.org for more information.



Nonprofit Organization

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Birmingham, AL

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www.northstarsoccerministries.org

FALL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AND BANQUET PREVIEW INSIDE!

Please Join us for a NorthStar Celebration

CONNECT

Thursday, November 14th at 6:00PM
Shades Valley Community Church
160 Oxmoor Road | Birmingham, AL 35209

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 per person or a table of
8 for \$350. Price of ticket includes a catered dinner.



For more information and ticket purchases please
call Kristen Shircliff at (205) 243-5329 or visit our
website at NorthStarSoccerMinistries.org