

Youth Soccer Camp Teaches Lessons On and Off the Field

By Leslie Rott

Drago Dumbovic and members of the Saginaw Valley State University soccer team were on hand at Great Turtle Park last week to share their soccer knowledge, and participants learned that being a good soccer player is more than being a good athlete.

A smile and enthusiasm are key to enjoying soccer, Mr. Dumbovic told the students, and to being a good person.

"You are here to learn - that is the key to success," he told participants at the start of the three-day camp, held in the mornings from June 28 through 30. He emphasized to them the importance of teamwork and communication, necessary skills for soccer and life.

Stay focused and think ahead, he told them. Think three plays ahead, not just on the play at the moment.

"The game is just a small part of everything," Mr. Dumbovic said after the camp. "My responsibility is to make them believe in themselves."

Whether playing on an athletic team or working for a major company, he said, people will work harder and show more respect if their coach or boss believes that they have the ability and drive to succeed.

The best advice he could give? It was yet another lesson that can be learned both on and off the soccer field.

"Environment," he said, "is everything. In a positive environment, ordinary people can do extraordinary things."

He added that everyone should focus, concentrate, and work hard in everything that they do. And most importantly, they should enjoy what they are doing and appreciate the opportunities that they have in the United States.

"The future is in their hands," he said of the children at the camp. "Everything is possible."

Mr. Dumbovic, originally from Croatia, has more than 23 years of professional soccer experience, but said coaching youth has been the most pleasurable experience. He was the head coach of the Detroit Rockers during the 1999-2000 season and assistant coach during the 1998-1999 season.

He played professional soccer between 1983 and 1999 for various indoor teams, including the Detroit Rockers, the Sacramento Knights, the Detroit



Above photo: This year's soccer camp is only just the beginning of a long tradition to come, promised Saginaw Valley State University Coach Drago Dumbovic. Pictured are this year's participants, including (Front row, from left) Zola Murray, Laurel Young, Ethan Urzagaste, Colton Fisher, Travis Merchant, Tony Merchant, Kyle Bailey, and Will Barnwell; (Middle) Saginaw Valley State University Coach Drago Dumbovic, Jaimie Sweeza, Jesse Straight, Kate Dupre, Codie Steensma, Paul Fisher, Graham Young, Sarah Deeter, Stacy LaLond, Robert Chaffee, Crystal Meacham, and Mackinac Island Lakers Soccer Coach Ken Straight; (Back) Caleb Straight, Robert Chambers, and Nick Cohen. Not pictured is Shannon Haan.

Right photo: Mackinac Island Lakers Soccer Coach Ken Straight and Coach Dumbovic after a successful practice on the first day of camp.

Bottom photo: Coach Dumbovic displays his kicking skills as a group of camp participants watch, eager to learn his tricks of the sport.



Neon, the Hershey Impact, the Atlanta Attack, the Baltimore Blast, the Chicago Sting, the Minnesota Strikers, and the Pittsburgh Spirit, and outdoor teams like the Washington Diplomats and the Maryland Bays.

He was named all-star player six times and set several league records.

Mr. Dumbovic became coach of the Saginaw Valley State University Women's Soccer Team in 2003. Several of his players assisted at the camp on Mackinac.

The youth soccer camp at Mackinac Island will become an annual event, he predicted. "We want to expand the game of soccer."

Sponsors for the camp included the Doris St. Onge Memorial Scholarship Fund, the City of Mackinac Island

Recreation Department, Mackinac Island Public School Boosters, and Chippewa Hotel. The camp was organized by Leanne Brodeur, Barb Fisher, and Mackinac Island Lakers Soccer Coach Ken Straight.



Daniel David's Second Annual Illumination Series Will Begin July 3

By Leslie Rott

Daniel David returns this year with his Illumination Series, which will feature scholars from various religions who will speak about peace.

The first in a series of four lectures will be held this Sunday, July 3, at Ste. Anne's Church in which Gehlek Rimpoche will talk about Buddhism. The program begins at 3 p.m.

Mr. Rimpoche was born in Lhasa, Tibet, in 1939. He was recognized as an incarnate lama at the age of four and he was one of the last lamas to be educated in the Drepung monastery.

Principle teachers of Mr. Rimpoche were junior and sen-

ior teachers to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

He gave up monastic life at the age of 25 and worked as an editor for the Tibetan Works and Archives in Delhi and as the head of the Tibetan Service Department for All India Radio.

He founded The Jewel Heart Center in Ann Arbor, which has branches all over the United States and in Malaysia, Singapore, and the Netherlands.

Mr. Rimpoche's first book, "Good Life, Good Death," was released in October, 2001.

He is an American citizen and currently resides in Ypsilanti.

Other speakers in the series will include Prasanna Vengadam, who will speak about

Hinduism July 17, Wissam Charafeddine, who will speak on Islam August 7, and Mr. David, who will speak about Christianity August 21.

"I came up with the idea for the Illumination speaker series gradually as I saw evolving an atmosphere of war and retribution in America and around the world, particularly after September 11, 2001," said Mr. David. "I thought it important not to lose sight of the fact that peace was still something worth striving for and to counteract the attitude that war was inevitable in today's climate."

He added that he started the series to "point out to people that the basic purpose of all the world's major religions is

peace..." and said that all of the speakers for the series believe in that ideal.

Mr. David said he decided to continue the speaker series this year in part because of the positive response he received last year, and also, he added, "due to the fact that war still exists in the world. As long as it does, I will hope to continue the Illumination series."

Mr. David has been a professional musician for almost 30 years. He started working in bands when he was 14 years old and has had the opportunity to play almost every type of music. He is a first-class jazz pianist and singer and is currently completing a master's degree in music theory. He also

describes himself as a political historian, writer, and social activist and has written a play about Thomas Jefferson returning to the present United States to set it back on its original course, called "Jefferson Lives!" He is also writing a book on the consciousness-raising properties of music.

All lectures in the series will be held on Sunday's at Ste. Anne's Church at 3 p.m.

The Second Annual Illumination Series is sponsored by the Center for Peace and Idealism (CPI), an organization started by Mr. David, which is dedicated to world peace. Information about that can be found at www.peaceandidealism.org.