



# Pitch-Side

Official Magazine of West Region Soccer NB

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## Welcome - Dear WRS Members,

May has been a busy month for soccer in the region thus far. Clubs are all preparing their teams for Premiership, Division 1 and Recreational programs. There is still a couple more weeks to go.

The weekend of 9th & 10th May saw 22 coaches attend the CSA NCCP Community Coach - Senior Coaching Course held in West Region. An excellent turn out and definitely a positive move to get more coaches qualified.

We need to encourage more coaches to obtain coaching certifications so that they can impart their knowledge gained from the courses to assist in developing players. We don't send our kids to school if teachers are not qualified and certified, so why do we allow it to happen in soccer?

West Region Soccer this month signed a 3 year sponsorship agreement with Fredericton Hyundai as the title sponsor. They will also be the title sponsor for the

West Region Soccer League (WRSL) Division 1, which will officially kickoff its inaugural season on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

The sponsorship deal will definitely assist in developing further player and coaching programs in the region.

Finally I would like to wish the thousands of kids, coaches, officials, supporters, administrators and parents all the best to the start of the 2009 summer soccer season that is about to start. ⚽

Enjoy!!

Yours in Soccer

**Macky Singh**

SNB Regional Technical Director- West



## Official Title Sponsor for West Region Soccer



# FREDERICTON HYUNDAI

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## Fredericton Hyundai Joins West Region Soccer as Title Sponsor



West Region Soccer is pleased to announce the signing of a 3 year sponsorship agreement with **Fredericton Hyundai**. The agreement will see Fredericton Hyundai as the title sponsor of West Region Soccer, the West Region Soccer League - Division 1 and the West New Brunswick Championships. "It is very exciting to have a long term agreement in place to help develop soccer in the west region" said Macky Singh, the Regional Technical Director of Soccer New Brunswick, West Region. "With Fredericton Hyundai's partnership, it will allow me to conduct more player development programs, coach education courses, and club development programs for all players and coaches in our region."

The west is one of five regions under Soccer New Brunswick's umbrella of promoting, developing, and improving soccer within the province. The west region includes Nackawic, Minto, Fredericton, New Maryland, Oromocto and Gagetown. West Region Soccer is responsible for overseeing and supporting clubs in the region in their development and improvement of soccer at all levels.


Currently there are six youth clubs (age 4 – 18) in the west region with approximately 4,500 players, coaches and officials. The clubs are Fredericton District Soccer Association (FDSA), New Maryland Soccer Club (NMS), Oromocto Area Soccer Association (OASA), Douglas Soccer Club, Keswick Recreation Association and Burtts Corner Soccer.

The Fredericton Hyundai sponsorship agreement will this year see the kick-off of the inaugural Fredericton Hyundai West Region Soccer League Division One (WRSL). Three clubs from the west region (FDSA, NMS and OASA) will compete in the

U12, U14 and U16/18 Boys and Girls age-groups with the champion from each age-group representing the west region at the Soccer New Brunswick Division One Provincial Championships.

During the regular season the WRSL will also play one full round against clubs in the Southern Region Soccer League Division One (SRSL). The champion within each age-group from the WRSL and SRSL will then compete for the Fredericton Hyundai West New Brunswick Championship at Rothesay on 15 August.

West Region Soccer welcomes Fredericton Hyundai and their General Manager, Dave O'Leary, as a sponsor and looks forward to working closely with them, together growing and promoting soccer in the region. "This is a real exciting opportunity for all of us here at Fredericton Hyundai. This partnership with West Region Soccer gives us the opportunity to get involved at the 'grass roots' level of the fastest growing sport in Canada, and we are very excited to be able to help grow the game of soccer here in the west region." said Mr. O'Leary.

"It's great to be able to support the West Region Soccer," said Peter Codispoti, Atlantic Zone Manager, Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. "We're very proud to be a part of this community, and tremendously grateful to the residents who support our company. To sponsor an organization that is a part of so many people's lives in the west region area is very fulfilling for us." 




Fredericton Hyundai General Manager, Dave O'Leary (right) and Soccer New Brunswick Regional Technical Director - West Region, Macky Singh (left)

## 2009 Fredericton Hyundai West Region Soccer League

The Fredericton Hyundai West Region Soccer League Division 1 will officially kickoff in the week of 25th May 2009. The WRSL Board, made up by Brian Ferguson, Danny McCarty, Keith Manuel and Macky Singh, has been responsible in establishing and finally launching the League this year.

The aim of the League is to provide an opportunity for Division 1 players to have a regular season schedule, which in the past has been missing. The League will also be a stepping stone for many coaches and players who want to strive to be involved in Premier-ship soccer in the near future.

All matches are scheduled during the week, with Boys matches scheduled for Tuesdays and Girls on Thursdays. Matches played against clubs from the South Region are scheduled on the weekends.

Follow the progress of the League on the West Region Soccer website. For all the results and schedules can be found on the website as well. 



# 2009 New Brunswick Women's Premier League



The newly formed New Brunswick Women's Premier Soccer League launches its first set of games this weekend in Fredericton with a game on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

The four team league has a team from Moncton, the NB Women's Canada Games Team and two teams from Fredericton. Sunday's game sees the NB Canada Games Team play the Fredericton Reds at 3pm on the turf at UNB. Monday's game will feature the Fredericton Athletics versus the NB Canada Games Team at 1pm.

The start up of the league is phase I in an effort to develop the league into a PEI – NB Women's Premier Soccer League in 2010. Although there is only four committed team in the league this year, there has already been interest shown from PEI, Saint John, and Bathurst for entry into the league next year.

The objective of the league is to provide a higher level of competition for women's soccer in the province. Coaches for the teams include Serge Manuel of Moncton and Howard Myatt who have both taken several teams to National Championships representing NB. Assistant coach to the UNB Women's team, Joe Crossland and West Region Technical Director, Macky Singh will coach the Fredericton Reds.

Joe brings a strong playing background and experience as a NB provincial All Star Coach. Macky Singh is a former head coach of the New Zealand Universities Games Team that competed in the FISU Games.

Finally, the Canada Games Team is coached by Andy Cameron, Head coach of UNB Women's Team and Monique Bourque. Monique has a strong playing background as a former captain of UdeM and has taken club and provincial teams to national competitions.

The standard is expected to be high with many of the university players from UNB and UdeM participating in the league. A couple of players to watch for will be Isabelle Miles. She played in the women's semi-professional league last year in New England and was a conference All- Star in the AUS.

Although younger, the Canada Games is expected to compete very well in the league. Dayle Collpitts, the Goalkeeper for the team and identified player with the National Training Centre will be key if the NB Canada Games Team is going to get results. 🌐



Isabelle Miles (in white) to play for Fredericton Reds



New Brunswick Canada Games Team

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
Sunday, May 17	1pm	Fredericton Reds	NB Canada Games	UNB Turf
Monday, May 18	12pm	Fredericton Athletics	NB Canada Games	UNB Turf
Thursday, May 21	7pm	Moncton	Fredericton Athletics	Rocky Stone
Saturday, May 23	2pm	Moncton	Fredericton Reds	Rocky Stone
Tuesday, May 26	7pm	Fredericton Athletics	Fredericton Reds	Barker St. Field
Tuesday, June 2	7pm	Fredericton Athletics	Moncton	Barker St. Field

The full schedule can be viewed on the West Region Soccer website [www.westregionsoccernb.org](http://www.westregionsoccernb.org).

## Feature Article: Player Development Pre-English Clubs Academies

The English Premier League was launched in 1992 and was basically a restructuring of the professional game in England to allow the top clubs to benefit financially from the increasingly lucrative television rights income. At the same time, the English game was suffering from three serious problems: hooliganism, ground safety issues and dwindling success at the international level. The 1980's are remembered in England as the decade of stadium disasters, hooliganism, and disappointing national team performances in major competitions. A government report concluded that the stadiums at the top tier must be converted to all-seating, installed with close caption TV's to monitor hooligan elements, and modernized in many other ways to improve fan safety. Government funding from lotteries plus the new television money, which was going to be massive, were earmarked to help pay for all these new requirements.

Meanwhile, The FA, the governing body for soccer in England, realized that the professional clubs must do a better job of developing players to stop the slide of the national team into mediocrity. In the 1990's, The FA went ahead and created a new blueprint for player development which mandated that every Premiership club must have a Youth Academy with specific requirements for staff qualifications and licensing, facilities, training, games, player ages, and supporting educational opportunities for the players. Hence, the birth of the modern Academies occurred in the late 1990's.

The situation for women's soccer wasn't very healthy in those days. Up until the 1990's, women's soccer did not get much funding or priority in England, as in most of the world. Only in the USA was women's and girls' soccer taken seriously, due to Title IX implementation. Girl's soccer in England finally got a boost in the 1990's. The FA felt obliged for moral and political reasons to support women's soccer and started to promote girls' leagues and player development schemes. Many of the professional men's clubs started to support a women's team and some funded the teams within a semi-professional scope. Fulham FC even fielded a fully professional women's team for a few years.

But the lack of revenue from TV or attendance in the female game kept the top level of the women's game in a semi-pro or amateur status. Nevertheless, women soccer in England is slowly progressing and most Premier League clubs run girls' academies in addition to the boys. More on that later.

If the youth academies were only started in the late 1990's, what was the player development structure before that? Prior to the academies, the professional clubs were only allowed to sign players starting at the age of 15. Players younger than 15 could train at Centers of Excellence run by the professional clubs, but the clubs could not really 'own' them. The players were free to train at as many centers as they wished, since they didn't belong to any one club.

Since the Centers of Excellence were just for training, the actual youth leagues were organized, managed, and coached by volunteers, just like in the USA. There were city leagues, district leagues, and various knock-out cup competitions and tournaments, just like in America. School soccer was also huge in scope and profile, and was well organized. Volunteer teachers coached the school teams in regional and national competition and, in fact, the U-15 National Team was selected from school teams. In pre-academy days, a typical youth player played for his local youth team, coached by a volunteer parent coach, and would also play for his school team. The best players would also be invited to train at the Centers of Excellence. Once players reached 15, the very best would be signed by the professional clubs, which is where the serious training started, under professional youth coaches.

This meant that the important formative years of development between the ages of 6-14 were in the hands of volunteers and school teachers. This environment resembled very much the youth soccer environment here in America, and spawned the same problems we encounter here today, namely: too many games; emphasis on competition, teamwork and winning trophies at a young age; size, fitness and work rate valued over skill development; kick and run soccer; coaches fighting over the best players; schools and various youth leagues competing for the players' time; and a general lack of a systematic, progressive, centrally directed player development plan. Sounds familiar?

The professional clubs lamented the lack of skill of the players entering their youth teams but were not willing to invest time and money on younger players if they weren't allowed to own them until 15. It must be said that the system did produce many players for the professional teams and the English league was always competitive and exciting to watch and English clubs did well in European competition. But the player development system with its volunteer driven culture was over-structured, over-coached, and did not encourage individualism or creativity. The system did not have any room for the truly gifted individualist to emerge. English soccer simply was not set up to produce magicians the like of Ronaldinho, Zidane, Totti, Henry, Kaka or Berkamp and the national team suffered as a result. Of course, success is a relative term. For England, elimination at the quarter final stage of a World Cup is considered a failure, since England expects to win every tournament they enter. For the USA, getting to the quarter finals stage is considered a huge success.

The English governing body has finally acknowledged this problem and that's why the academy concept was born in the 1990's. Starting in the late 1990's, the professional clubs were allowed to sign players as young as 8 into their academies. But to qualify as an Academy, clubs had to follow a set of criteria. The FA set out the Academy criteria and mandated that every Premier League club must abide by these criteria. It's too early to gauge the success of the Premiership Academies, since they have been in existence less than a decade. Most of the current generation of players in the English leagues grew up in the old system of volunteer coaches and School soccer. Beckham played his youth soccer for a team coached by his own dad. The bulk of the English National Team that played in the 2006 World Cup grew up in the old system. It will take another 5-10 years before we can evaluate their academy system. But judging from the performance of the Liverpool U-18 team that came to Atlanta in the past two years and from the emergence of young players like Wayne Rooney, it looks like the academies are producing more creative players who are technically more versatile.




## Coaching Session: Driving, Chipping & Receiving Long Balls

The thing I like about this activity is that while it might seem that three players are involved and the rest are standing around waiting, if you have 3-4 in each line, they won't be there very long because as soon as the ball is served, that player must sprint cross field to go to the end of the receiving line.

As soon as the player receives the ball and lays it off, he goes to the back of the shooting line. As soon as the ball is shot, the player retrieves the ball and goes to the end of the serving line. If done at full speed, the issue isn't players standing around but rather, players struggling to get to the next line before it's their turn.

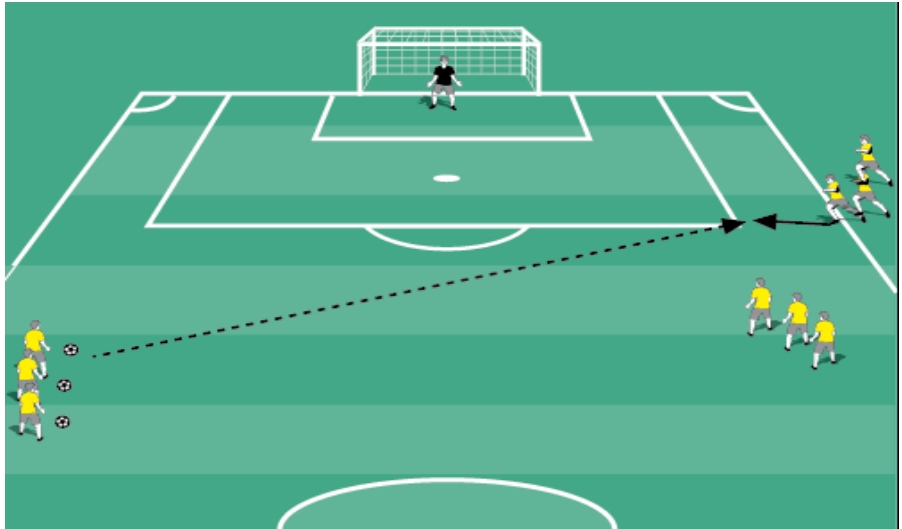
The thing I really like about this activity is it forces players to be able to play an accurate long ball (sometimes floated, sometimes driven), it also requires the receiving player to move and constantly adjust to the flight of the ball. At the same time, the shooting player must move while the first ball is in flight and adjust to where it's going in order to put themselves in a position to get the shot hit.

If the long ball is poorly hit, or the receiving player doesn't handle it properly, all three players change lines. The shooter doesn't wait till he gets the perfect ball so this encourages all players to move properly to increase their likelihood of success.

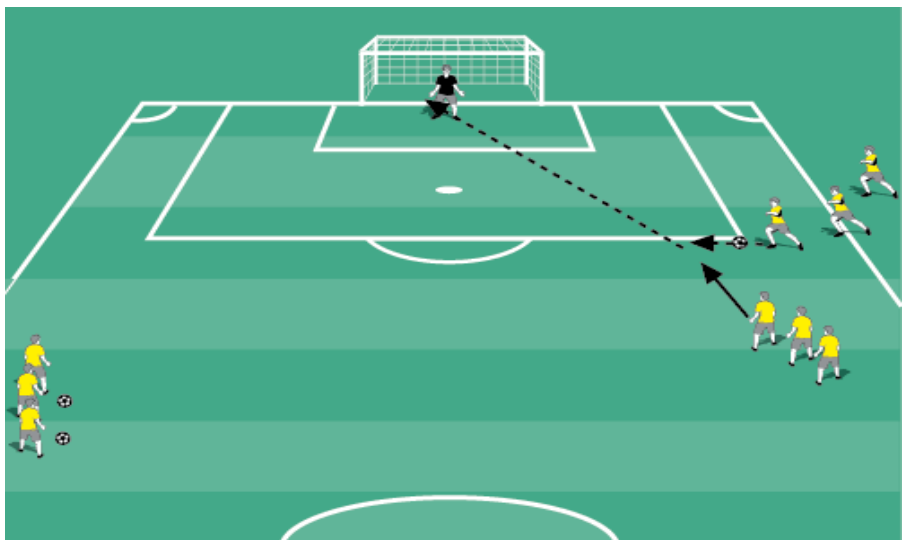
Make sure you do this from both sides and keep it moving quickly and everyone will benefit. 

*From World Class Coaching.*

Start a keeper in goal and three lines of players. One is out on a sideline, even with the 18, one is closer to the top of the 18 and the other is out wide on the far side with balls.



**The player with the ball serves a ball across the field to the player starting out wide who comes to meet the ball.**



**The player who receives the ball is limited to one touch so they must knock the ball down to the third player who has one touch to shoot.**

Keep updated on all West Region Soccer activities at [www.westregionsoccernb.org](http://www.westregionsoccernb.org)

### 2009 CSA NCCP Community Coaching Courses



#### Community Coach Child

Date: 13th June  
Venue: Oromocto  
Fee: \$70.00

#### Community Coach Youth

Date: 11th & 12th July  
Venue: New Maryland  
Fee: \$95.00

To register for any or all of these courses, please contact Macky Singh [macky@westregionsoccernb.org](mailto:macky@westregionsoccernb.org) or visit the West Region Soccer website [www.westregionsoccernb.org](http://www.westregionsoccernb.org) to download the Registration Form.

## Player Profile: Dayle Colpitts



Dayle Colpitts in action

**Dayle Colpitts** is currently the goalkeeper for the Fredericton District Soccer Association (FDSA) U18 Girls Premiership team. She has been attending CSA Atlantic National Training Centre (ANTC) for the last two years. Following is an interview with Dayle regarding her soccer experience thus far.

### What is your experience attending the WRS Winter RDP?

The RDP is a skills based co-ed soccer development program. The program pushed me to work on skills in a competitive environment with quality coaches. I really enjoyed the RDP program.

### Tell us about your experience attending the CSA ANTC?

My experience attending ANTC has been extremely positive. ANTC is a high level competitive environment. It has given me the opportunity to learn, train and compete with many new athletes and coaches. My experiences at NTC have been very beneficial for me.

### Do you have any advice to young players?

My advice to young athletes would be to set goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them. Think about what your goals are and write them down. They don't have to be big even little ones are important. As you achieve each goal check them off. It is really awesome when you start to see check marks beside your goals.

If your goal is to play soccer at a high level, then you need to train everyday. There is no substitute for hard work. There are so many options to play elite level soccer year round – RDP, premiership, provincial teams, Canada Games (every 4 years) and higher, NTC and National teams. Take advantage of all your opportunities. 🌐



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### "Inspirational Quotation"

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

*Michael Jordan (Former NBA basketball player)*