

NorthStar News

The Newsletter of NorthStar Soccer Ministries



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IMPACT 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	

Above is Roderick. A very exciting U10 age player from Hemphill Elementary. He loves soccer. He found that out in Spring 2018 when NorthStar launched our after-school outreach program at Hemphill School. This past season and he was a huge presence in NorthStar Intramural U10 League. He also guest played with our U12 boys team. He watches soccer at home and is constantly working on his dad and grandmother to make sure he is at every practice and game.

Recently Roderick was 'Evaluated' for our combined U10/U11 'Travel Team' to play in the Fall. 'Combined' because it will bring players from different schools and different sections of NorthStar on to one team that—instead of playing in the NorthStar Intramural League—will graduate up to play against other clubs in the Central Alabama Soccer League. We expect to play for a year in CASL (which is recreational league level) with a goal to build a team that is ready to play State League a year later as a U12 team.

This Spring ministry intern Ross Brown intervened with Roderick when he got mad after a play he didn't like. Roderick calmed down, realized his reaction was over the top and said, "Sorry coach, sometimes I just get mad." Coach Ross, "It's okay Roderick. I understand. I have anger problems too." Roderick, "You do? Can you teach me what to do about it?"

Needless to say, Ross was pleased to share ideas with Roderick. For Roderick NorthStar Soccer is fun, skill building, team devotionals and valuable mentoring relationships. **Thank you for your part in making this IMPACT on Roderick's life possible!**

For more on Roderick's new Fall team turn to page 4.

Spring Season 2019 Highlights



Above: Intern Ross Brown coaching NorthStar Hemphill U10 against a team from Sylvan Springs. The Hemphill School team played in our NorthStar Intramural League—meaning they play against other NorthStar teams—but, this season we opened up NorthStar Intramural to several individual teams from outside. It helped those teams build a season and it help our teams have more teams to play.



Upper Left: NorthStar U12 girls playing against Briarwood in Central Alabama Soccer League. For the Fall we are pushing NorthStar Intramural up to cover U12 age group because it makes it easier to bring in new players who aren't ready for league play. But this girl has the skills. She is ready! Not to worry. In the Fall we will have a spot for her on our U14 girls 'Travel Team.'



Left: Boys U10 Academy team (Travel Team) competing in Hoover Havoc Tournament).

Bottom: U10 Girls Academy Team—

Left: Volunteer Anna Martin leading U10 girls in skill training

Center: 3 volunteer skill trainers leading U10 girls in devotional after the skill session

Right: U10 Academy Girls weren't quite ready to play Academy games so we rolled them into the NorthStar U10 Intramural League where they got to school the boys with their rapidly developing soccer skills!





Above left: NorthStar Intramural League U8 division. East team (red shirts) playing against guests from Holy Rosary (light blue). Gray shirt is a NorthStar West player joining the Holy Rosary Team temporarily for the game. Holy Rosary operates a small soccer program on their field right outside of Mark's Village public housing community in the Gate City area of Birmingham. It's only a five minute drive from our game field at Cornerstone School in Woodlawn so it made sense to start a partnership. We look forward to Holy Rosary teams continuing to participate in NorthStar U8 and U10 leagues in the coming soccer year and the prospect of combining players for older/higher level teams in the future.

Above middle: Coach Jerrell leading his U8 East team in a game against U8 West.

Right & Below: Check out our 2018-2019 Sponsors. **Please show your appreciation in any way you can!**

- Major support — Competitive & Academy (Travel Teams) Uniform Sponsorship provided by **Ingram Equipment Company**
- Sponsorship for the Hemphill School outreach program provided by the **Alabama Soccer Foundation**
- Sponsorship for Girls Intramural teams was provided by **Clothes Horse and Isabel's Consignment Shops!** With U6 program sponsorship (both funding & volunteers!) provided by **Junior League of Birmingham**.
- Full team sponsorships provided by **ACCi** and **The Arbor**. With A1 Products and Substation Engineering each providing single season sponsorship.
- Thank you to the individual contributions in support of teams and church and individual contributions providing staff support! **Check out page 5 for 2019/2020 sponsorship and volunteer opportunities!**



JUNIOR LEAGUE
BIRMINGHAM



**Clothes Horse and Isabel's
Consignment Shops**



**Substation
Engineering**



Ingram Equipment Company
Environmental Equipment Experts

Team Highlight — U10/U11 Boys ‘Travel Team’

This is an exciting team with great prospects for development. This past spring our **Hemphill School** team did very well in the NorthStar U10 Intramural League. Roderick (front page article) plus 3 other Hemphill boys will be key players on this team combining players from all three NorthStar sites (plus a few others!). Still working on final commitments but we will have at least 4 boys from **Tuggle School** who were part of our West side U10 teams plus another West boy from a different school. There is a possibility of 3 boys from our East side program. Rounding out the team we have 2-3 players from outside NorthStar whose parents are excited about the program and want their kids to be part of the NorthStar experience this fall.



West (Tuggle School) players on the left. Tuggle Elementary School is a few blocks north of Parker High School—just west of downtown Birmingham. Our west side program is based next to Legion Field Stadium. Tuggle school is about 25% Hispanic and the rest African American. The area zoned for Tuggle (where ED Paul Neville lives) ranges from low to moderate income families with pockets of more middle income sections.

Our Hemphill program (players in the picture above, plus Roderick from page 1) takes place on school grounds immediately after school (a unique model we would like to expand in order to get more kids participating—if we could figure out the staffing challenge). Hemphill serves the West End neighborhood, with one of the highest poverty concentrations in the city.

Interestingly, both schools feed into Parker High School. In four or five years these boys could be high school teammates and leading their school to new accomplishments!

What is a ‘Travel Team’ anyway? It’s an inexact term that we hear sometimes for various sports in the community. We are growing our *NorthStar Intramural Program*—which now includes teams from 3 NorthStar locations plus guest locations playing games on a NorthStar field. ‘Travel Team’ for us means 2 things: players are coming out of all of our primary locations (and maybe beyond) to join the team; the team plays in a league outside of NorthStar. In some cases the team will play in Central Alabama Soccer League (CASL), which is the local recreational level soccer league. So, the commonly used term ‘competitive’ would not be the right term to describe our teams. But, developing these teams into ‘competitive level’ that is, getting them to the point of being able to successfully compete in the Alabama State League is our developmental goal for players and whole teams. Definitely the goal for the team above.—and one we think is highly achievable for this group. Our goal is to develop those boys individually and as a team over the coming year and to have them ready to compete as a U12 Division 2 State League team a year from now.

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Registration is happening now for Fall Travel Teams. For the girls we expect between 2 and 4 girls 'Travel Teams' ranging from U9 through U14 ages. For the boys we are working toward 3 travel teams—the U10/U11 featured at left plus one younger team and one older team.

Team Sponsorships are \$3,000. For that amount your company logo can go on the front of the jersey or the pocket.

Sponsorship could be your business or an individual or group effort. Team sponsorship helps make our 'Travel Teams' possible! Additional sponsorships are needed to cover the intramural program —individuals or groups also make great sponsors!. These sponsorships can vary according to the needs of the sponsor. Junior League of Birmingham is returning as a U6 program sponsor and Alabama Soccer Foundation continues to sponsor the Hemphill program site.

Uniform Sponsors (\$8,000) get prominent recognition with a company name or logo of your choosing across the front of the jerseys. There are two uniform sponsor opportunities—Travel Teams (which will be Ingram Equipment again) and Intramural Teams (your company this year?).

Field sponsorships to help us with badly needed field improvements are **\$5,000** (no limit on numbers of these). These sponsors will have individual banners at the field (uniform and team sponsors will also be recognized on a sponsorship banner).

Partial sponsorship contributions are also welcome. Individuals are encouraged to contribute in support of team sponsorships at whatever level you are able to give! We have individuals contributing \$50 or \$100 per month to help sponsor a team. This Fall we will be able to match your contribution to a specific team and (new) send you occasional updates on your specific team!

For more information or to sponsor a team contact Annette Martin at 803-389-6463 or jefnet@msn.com.

Sponsorship checks may be mailed to NorthStar Soccer Ministries at P.O. Box 11512 / Birmingham, AL 35202 or paid through our website www.northstarsoccerministries.org



U10 girls Academy team—Spring 2019. Director Paul Neville (left side of picture) was head coach but full team of coaches allowed him to spend time with other teams as well. Next to Paul on the back is parent/Board member/coach Teneasha Washington. On the right side is BSC Student/volunteer coach Lindsey Giglio and on the far right is former NorthStar player and teen volunteer Jordan Wright. (we love having players to return to give back!). This was an east/west sides combination team with most players were students at Cornerstone (East) or Princeton Elementary (West) and a few from other schools.

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 impact the lives of 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 Fall 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 pneville@northstaryouthministries.org for more information.



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www.northstarsoccerministries.org

SPRING SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AND FALL OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE!



Our cause is transforming lives of youth in the inner city and removing barriers that keep them from flourishing. There are lots of ways to contribute to this cause. NorthStar's role is providing a Christian Soccer Club with quality skill training and mentor opportunities. If YOU need a good way to get involved in the cause and NorthStar is a potential fit—contact us today!

Take a look inside for examples of involvement opportunities.

Contact Paul Neville at pneville@northstaryouthministries.org or 205-322-9296 to get involved!