

# Michigan Soccer School opens Southfield clinic

By BRAD ANDERSON

For the second consecutive summer, the Michigan Soccer School will conduct a week-long soccer clinic beginning Aug. 9 at the Southfield Civic Center.

Wayne Pirman, who formerly coached the top-ranked Birmingham Blazers of the Oakland County Youth Soccer League, conceived and organized the school. Pirman was recently named head coach at Birmingham Groves and also serves as president of the Michigan Soccer Coaches Association.

Boys and girls from grades three to 12 are eligible for the camp, which Pirman claims does wonders for the participants' soccer skills and understanding. He also intends that the kids have fun.

"In the morning, we work strictly on individual skills," he said. "After noon, we stress small group tactics. Then, of course, we play."

Pirman just returned from the United States Soccer Federation National Coaches School, where 30 hours of training and 20 hours of testing earned him a Class B coaching license. While he was there, he managed to recruit even more coaches to help him and his original coaching staff of 12 people run the Southfield camp.

THE CAMP'S staff already includes past Michigan State star Nick Archer, who played with the Spartans when they were NCAA champions in 1957 and 1958. Other coaches are coming in from such far-away places as Massachusetts and North Carolina. Several past collegiate all-Americans will help out.

Pirman's own soccer credentials are strong. He grew up playing soccer in Philadelphia and was recruited by many of the top soccer colleges before deciding on Dartmouth. Since graduating in 1972, he has been involved in coaching in Connecticut and Michigan.

He recently worked out with the Boston Minutemen of the National Soccer League, yet still found time to organize the Oakland County Soccer League.

Pirman thinks the fine coaching staff he has rounded up for the Michigan Soccer School is the main difference between his camp and others.

"Our coaches not only have to know soccer well," he said, "but they must really be able to relate to the kids. A soccer coach is no good to us if he can't help a 10 or 15-year-old."

Pirman and a selected staff will, in addition, hold short clinics for youngsters ages five to 11 during the weeks of Aug. 16 and 20. These clinics, designed especially for "our youngest players," will run for two hours each morning and will also be held at the Southfield Civic Center.

Pirman hopes that, ultimately, camps like his will lead to increased proficiency by Americans in their soccer competition with the rest of the world. Currently, American kids cannot compete equally with the soccer powers of the world.

"The difference is purely exposure," Pirman said. "Kids in Europe are flooded with soccer. They see stars whose styles they can emulate. Our kids don't have an American star to look up to. They can't see top-flight soccer on TV."

With instructional camps like Pirman's springing up, soccer may soon become a much more popular sport in this country and general improvement in soccer skill will be the result.

For more information about the Michigan Soccer School, contact Pirman, 383 Pierce, Birmingham, or call him at 645-1089. Mike Ruddy, head coach at Roger School, is also available to answer any inquiries about the school at 652-1045.

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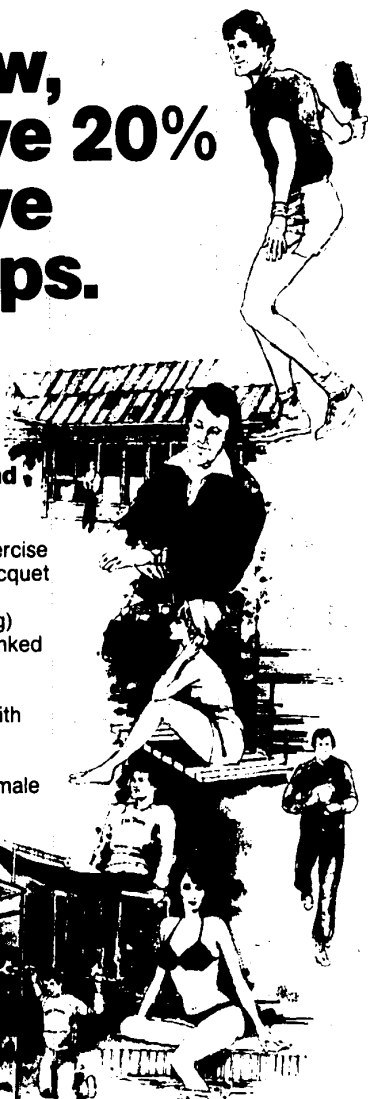
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