

Soccer 'IV' all seasons coming

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

WHEN THE NAMES of Detroit Express soccer stars Brian Tinnion and Angus Moffat appear in association with a new indoor soccer facility, the most common assumption is that the players are just figureheads, there for endorsement purposes only.

But for the last two weeks Tinnion and Moffat, along with Don and Triah Meier — all partners in the IV Seasons Soccer Unlimited Corp. — have worked around the clock transforming an abandoned indoor tennis facility in Farmington Hills into what they hope will become the home of indoor soccer in Southeastern Michigan.

"I don't think I've gotten more than four hours sleep a night in the last 10 days," Tinnion said.

TINNION IS the head coach and player for the Detroit Express Soccer Club. Moffat, his partner, is also a member of the Express as a player and Tinnion's assistant coach.

Both are active in the soccer community, conducting soccer clinics, refereeing and coaching clinics, and building youth soccer programs throughout Michigan.

"The majority of the players you see on the national 19 and 21-year-old teams are from St. Louis, where they have had youth soccer programs from some 30 years. Or they are from California, Texas or Florida," Tinnion said.

"The key is they play soccer all year around. Their level of play is much more advanced because of that."

Thus, Tinnion, Moffat and the Meiers have been working to make soccer a year-round sport in Michigan. And their new IV Seasons soccer facility is just the start.

MOFFAT AND TINNION will be full-time fixtures at IV Seasons. They will be on hand to provide counsel for players, coaches and referees, as well as to run the soccer operations. The facility, located in the industrial corridor behind the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn at Grand River and 16 Mile, is the only exclusively indoor soccer facility in the state.

The playing surface is a carpet similar to the one used in the Pontiac Silverdome. It is a form of astro-turf. Plexiglass dasher boards form the perimeter of the field and tall netting encloses two-thirds of the field's length. The balls in play, it resembles an indoor



Brian Tinnion (left) and Angus Moffat plan to bring indoor soccer to the Farmington area by the end of the month.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

hockey rink — minus the ice, of course. The facility houses separate locker-room and shower facilities for boys and girls, as well as separate areas for players and spectators. Also, IV Seasons features a multi-purpose room in which clinics will be conducted. The space will also be used to play back videotapes of the day's games.

The primary users of IV Seasons, the Meiers said, will be youth soccer leagues. Leagues will be formed for boys and girls ages eight to 19. The leagues are divided according to age in two-year increments. IV Seasons will run leagues in eight-week seasons continuously throughout the year.

"WE ARE real excited about being in this area," said Don Meier, the principal owner of IV Seasons. "People have just been coming out of the woodwork to help us out."

The Farmington Hills location is the second for IV Seasons. For the past 18 months, IV Seasons was located in Utica. Meier said there wasn't much sup-

port for soccer in that area.

"We just couldn't get anyone to support us out there," he said.

But, soccer is growing at a blistering pace in this region. Communities like Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Walled Lake, Northville, Garden City, Westland and, of course, Farmington and Farmington Hills, are all strong sup-

porters of youth soccer.

And IV Seasons hopes to accommodate all of them. "We'll take anyone and everyone from Flint to Toledo," Meier said.

The first eight-week season begins Oct. 31, and Meier said the leagues are filling up.

"BECAUSE WE had such short notice, we won't have as many teams as we would like. But the response has been very encouraging," Meier said.

The fee for each eight-week session, which amounts to eight games, is \$550 per team. That breaks down to about \$34.69 per player if teams carry the maximum of 16 players on their rosters.

Sound expensive? Think about this: The equipment expense is minimal. All that is needed to play is shorts, a T-shirt and a pair of tennis shoes. Also, the fee per player breaks down to about \$4 an hour.

"It's not more than you would spend to go to the movies," Meier said.

Indoor soccer is a fast-paced, exciting game, with a lot of scoring. Because of the relatively small field (185 feet by 85 feet), all players see action and everybody gets to touch the ball. The indoor game is often compared to ice hockey.

"The indoor game will improve the quality of outdoor soccer in the long run," said Tinnion. "It makes you think quicker, it improves your awareness and technique, but most importantly, it helps you realize the importance of conditioning for the outdoors game."

TINNION SAID indoor soccer is the soccer game of the future in America. "Because of cable television, indoor soccer is getting a lot of exposure in this country. You hardly ever get to see outdoor soccer on television," he said.

Meier expects IV Seasons to be the catalyst for the growth of both indoor and outdoor soccer in Michigan.

"I have been working with the soccer community for two years now, and with Brian and Gus in the organization, we have a management team that is as good or probably better than any other," he said.

IV Seasons is not only for the serious soccer player. They are in the process of organizing co-ed, over-35, industrial and other "fun" leagues through the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

Teams or individuals can register for IV Seasons soccer action by calling 471-0111.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

MARY BOWMAN, the Sumi-E painter that introduced Japanese brush painting in classes throughout southern Michigan, will be demonstrating the art from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, in I-Browse. The Farmington Hills artist will be in the bookshop at the request of manager Mark Winkelman, a long-time devotee of Sumi-E who has sold Bowman's newspaper there for more than two years. Bowman's new collection of newspaper for the holidays will be on display by the time she begins her demonstration.

MISSING a set of keys, a blue umbrella or glasses? We have them here in our office on Farmington Road. Just come in and pick them up.

THE CITY OF Farmington Hills will celebrate its tenth anniversary during the week of Oct. 17. Groups may contact city hall to make reservations for a special open house tour during the week of Oct. 17. The city also is inviting everyone to a reception at Vladimir's from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and/or dinner at the Bolotoff Inn at 7:30 p.m. These events are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 23. Tickets for each event may be purchased at the Department of Special Services for \$6 and \$20 per person respectively. Hurry, tickets are on sale and seating is limited.

THREE CANDIDATE debates have been scheduled prior to the Nov. 8 election. The West Bloomfield-Farmington Branch of the League of Women Voters is sponsoring two "Meet the Candidates" nights.

The first forum featuring Farmington City Council candidates is scheduled for 8 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Farmington Hills candidates will be featured at the League's second debate scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 16 Mile.

A third candidate forum sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Senior Adult Program, featuring only Hills candidates, is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Mercy Conference Center, 24600 11 Mile. Although open to the public, this debate is designed specifically for senior citizens.

A BURGOMASTER will officially open Mercy College of Detroit's Oktoberfest celebration 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday the College's Conference Center. Tickets are \$7 per person and may be purchased by calling MCD Office of Alumni Relations at 692-6164. All tickets will be held at the door. Mercy College is at 8200 West Outer Drive at the

Southfield Freeway, south of Seven Mile, in north-west Detroit.

JILL MORAN, Andrew Perrin and Deborah Williams of Farmington Hills, have been named to the dean's list at Kalamazoo College.

ROBERT EARL ATKINS Jr. of Farmington Hills was awarded a bachelor of science in speech degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

ST. FRANCIS Knights of Columbus would like to invite you to join them for a Sunday afternoon of Irish music and entertainment Oct. 23. Doors are open at 1 p.m. for refreshments at reasonable prices and superb Irish foods, with the entertainment by "Pat's People" beginning at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3 in advance or at the door. For more information, call 476-1100.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Parks and Recreation Commission Volunteer Program offers rewarding opportunities for personal satisfaction. Established three years ago, the program now reaches into many of the activities provided by the county parks system. Although some of the programs are seasonal, others run throughout the year and are constantly in need of volunteers. Volunteers are also needed to staff special events throughout the year, such as the "Halloween Happiness" party and camera hike for the mentally impaired. Volunteer coordinator Andrea Dean said the program "is good for the community and gets people involved in the parks system." She also pointed out the valuable experience to be gained through performing volunteer work in certain areas. No experience is necessary to be a volunteer. Dean said just a basic interest in the activity. For more information, call 858-1441.

INDIVIDUALS in the community are encouraged to collect Heinz Baby Food labels to help fund research at Children's Hospital of Michigan. The H.J. Heinz Company will donate three cents to Children's Hospital, or the The Ticker Club Inc. The Ticker Club raises funds to support Children's Hospital's Cardiology Department. The clipped labels should be banded together with a note indicating the number of labels per band and mailed or delivered before Dec. 31, to the Development Office at Children's Hospital of Michigan, 3901 Beaubien Blvd., Detroit 48201. Tear-off address labels to the hospital are also available at area food stores for convenience in returning the Heinz labels to Children's Hospital. They can also be obtained at the hospital, along with flyers and posters on the Heinz label program. Requests for these items along with questions can be directed to John Hawkins, 494-5375.

- Buy only 6 to 11 bottles (1/2 case)...get a 20% discount
- Buy 12 to 23 bottles (one case)...get a 25% discount
- 24 or more bottles (2 or more cases)...get a 30% discount

We've not seen a better opportunity to stock up for fall and the holiday season. You can mix or match your orders, but sorry, no special orders. Many new arrivals are included: Patils Chateaux, Paul Baccus selections from Beaujolais and Maconnais, Loire wines from Andre Roussey, Classic Rhones, estate bottled Burgundies, new German estate bottled wines from Italy, Veronese, Chianti and varietals, sparkling wines including Champagne, Mousseux, Sparkling Saumur and Spumante, California Boutique wines... Imported Port and Sherries in Hudson's Wine Shop Northland, Eastland, Westland, Oakland, and Flint through October 24.

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