

Soccer moms from page A1

er in his native Belfast, Northern Ireland, guides the second squad. Their coaching partnership extends 16 years when Magee once coached Stomber's daughter.

"He's taken over the 'A' team because my legs are giving out," said Magee, 75. "I sort of advise him now."

The Farmington Angels go back to the early 1980s, which was then an open women's team with college-aged players. The squad ran off to three league titles and won a regional championship in its halcyon days.

Those women are replaced by others who became married, had children and started careers.

"I want my children to see me play so they know they don't have to give everything up when you get older and have a family," said midfielder Beth Miller, 33, whose ankle was propped up on the bench after she twisted it. Miller has a girl, 8, and a boy, 5,



Keeping limber: Connie Tripp stretches during a break.

who both play soccer.

Sue Temby's two girls also play. They watch their mother's games and line up before mom for money before kickoff. "Don't

spend it on junk," she tells one daughter, who collects the currency but seems to ignore the wisdom attached with it.

The 1976 Livonia Stevenson graduate enjoys the exercise and competitiveness over 30 women's soccer offers.

There's also the camaraderie and friendships that develop through such sporting endeavors. But family and job responsibilities limit those bonds to the playing field.

"We play and go home," Temby said. Added a teammate, "We have families and we have kids, and we're all busy."

Sometimes those things under the heading of real life interfere with soccer. The Farmington Angels 'B' team was left with only one substitute as only seven players showed up. The team they played featured a full contingent and, to make matters worse, one of the Angels' regulars turned up in goal for the opposition.

Magee, whose rests both hands on his cane, kept a close eye on players who quickly became

winded and substituted accordingly.

"Where are our reinforcements?" asked Patti Lindstrom, 46, breathing heavily after coming off the field.

Lindstrom, who is a teacher at Longacre Elementary in Farmington, didn't start playing the game until she was 25.

"A lot of the girls have better skills than I do," Lindstrom said. They didn't have soccer when I was younger.

"Some of these girls played in college. That's why the quality of the game has come along. Of course, it's the quality of the coaching, too."

Magee cautioned Lindstrom not to play too far up before sending her back onto the floor.

The effort to conserve energy paid off as the Angels led at half-time thanks to goals by Claudia Loumas, a nurse in the intensive care unit at University of Michigan Hospital, and Darlene Houdek. During the break, the weary women congregated at the bench for instructions.

All Magee could talk about is the opposing team's tall leggy blonde forward, but he wasn't leering. His interests were pure-

ly strategic. "You have to watch her; You can't let her get through," Magee said to the team's defenders.

The fact he's surrounded by attractive women - many half his age - doesn't cause any strife with Mrs. Magee at home, either.

"She's wonderful," he said. "She says 'as long as you're enjoying yourself and having fun, go ahead (and coach).'"

Houdek, a 1980 Livonia Bentley graduate, responded with two more goals as the Angels B side triumphed.

"It's good exercise and it's challenging to get around the players, which I'm not always able to do," Houdek said.



In control: Sue Temby, whose daughters also play soccer, works the ball up the field during her game.

It's something their mothers didn't have a chance to do; hurdle those obstacles or experience the camaraderie associated with playing team sports. "I wish she had something like this," Schrauden said. "It's a generational thing, I guess."

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