



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 31, 2009

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www.ssbra.org

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ED MAKES SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE BOARD ASSISTANT REFEREE SENT OFF IN MIDDLE OF A MATCH SHAHRAM'S BIG SBS GAME PERFORMANCE COMMENTED ON BY REFEREES

Due to a last minute change, the monthly meeting was held in the cafeteria rather than the library at North High on the last day of March. Everyone who found the new venue (58 of whom signed the attendance sheet) got somewhat of a surprise upon their arrival, as President **Ed McClure** was there to start things off. After a few words, he turned things over to Secretary **Warren Howell**, who had a lot to say. By a show of hands, he found out that most of the Members had received duplicate USSF 2009 badges, for reasons that are unknown. He then revealed that there were now a record 203 names on the roster, showing an upward trend when compared to the 175 names that were there in March 2008. Warren then made some forgettable remarks about how, with the larger number of Members, that the fines and honorary Members would soon be going onto more formal lists in order to better keep track. He then asked for any newcomers in the crowd to stand up and introduce themselves, with four brave souls doing just that and receiving a warm SSBRA welcome in response.

Growing impatient to take back the floor, Ed then got everyone's attention by announcing that, because he was moving to Turkey, he would be resigning his position as President in mid-term, effective July 1. As a result, the

office of President would also be up for election in May, with Ed suggesting that Warren Howell would run and, if elected, resign his current post as secretary (that term is also set to expire in 2010). As if that was not enough, he then told us that **Paul Kelly** had chosen not to run for re-election for Vice-President at the May elections. Treasurer **Steve Brandon**, when asked, did not indicate that he would not seek re-election in May. The Members are reminded that nominations are made in April for those candidates that will appear on the pre-printed ballots in May, though other candidates can also be nominated right up to the time of the election. For the elections at the 7 PM annual general meeting on May 26 (held the last couple of years in the parking lot of a P.V. pizza joint), the elected offices are:

- President: up for a shortened one year term, to replace the resigning Ed McClure
- Vice-President: up for a normal two year term. Paul Kelly will not be running for re-election
- Treasurer: up for a normal two year term. The incumbent is Steve Brandon
- Secretary: TBD, may need to elect a replacement for a one year term if Warren Howell is elected President. Otherwise, not up for election till 2010
- Member-at-Large: not up for election till 2010

While everyone was thinking all that over, Paul Kelly announced that the LiveScan folks would be at the April meeting to take the fingerprints of those who wish them to do so. This would be going on during the regular meeting, with each participant required to fill out a form and pay \$15 (editor's note: this has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts). **Veto Galati, Larry Savell** and some others had a few words to say, and in answer to a question Ed explained that SSBRA would not be paying the \$15 because not all of the Members wanted to get LiveScanned, for various reasons.

Webmaster **Lee Jordan** then shared with us what he had found out from his recent research. While initially two years ago USSF told us that the new uniforms would be mandatory this year, the new policy is that we may continue to use the old style, and mix-and-match with the new style, till further notice. At that point, with the encouragement of his friends in the crowd, **Manny Fineberg** got up and told us about the excellent referee gear available at soccerone.com He showed us a new product, write-on cards and game report cards, had some of his famous socks for sale, and contributed a prize to our raffle – you can get to the site also via a link at SSBRA.org.

Treasurer **Steve Brandon** needed little encouragement to start talking, mentioning that he had created a full report (see below) on the monthly finances, which showed \$9094.36 in the bank as far as anybody could tell. All this talk of finances inspired **Derek Taylor, Alvar Kabe, George Heggie** and **Ed Beverly** to say a few words about the \$15 expense for each of the Members who were going to go through the LiveScan program. The way-too-many late and no-show referees were also commented on, with no one having a kind word to say about any of them.

Assignor **Bill Cook** offered again a CSL book for anyone who wants one. He also reminded us to look at SSBRA.org for any and all info you might need, and told us again that **Larry Stern** would be handling most of the assigning chores while Bill was in Bakersfield for State Cup. Larry told us about his efforts in the training area and encouraged anyone with an idea or suggestion to let him know. **Larry Yee** is scheduled to make a presentation in April, and he is trying to get an MLS Chivas player to come talk to us at some point too.

At that point a formal and well-organized presentation was given by webmaster Lee Jordan on the various 7v7 match rules and how, in general, to run those matches. The main points are that each league has it's own regular and playoff rules and quirks, and it really is the responsibility of the referee to arrive on time and know the rules of the matches he/she are doing that day. Lee pointed out that the mechanics and how to handle the players is much different than our regular 11v11 games anyway, and so the referees have a lot to learn and pay attention to during these matches. He also suggested that we treat the contests as "friendly but serious," letting the players call the game themselves as much as possible but being ready to step in quickly when needed. Since many of our Members have significant experience with these games, there was a lot of discussion, with **Ralph Quiroz, Dan Ayala, Ed Beverly, Derek Taylor, George Heggie, Larry Savell, Andy Kmita, Steve LaGraff, Vasilios Sakellariadis, Veto Galati, Rudy Chavez** and others all expressing themselves.

Not able to resist, Larry Stern then added some comments, mentioning that he is of the opinion that there are too many “second whistles” for free kick restarts. As he reminded us, the team taking the kick is entitled to a quick restart without letting the defense setup (barring substitution, bookings, injuries or some other problem), and the referee should not interfere.

Vice President Paul Kelly reported that the Grievance committee had met to hear a complaint from a Member, and as a result his punishment for a recent incident was withdrawn. After that the raffle was held, and since **Vince Delmonico** was not in attendance, it went smoothly without complaints and whining, though a prediction that **Scott Ziegler** would win all the prizes did not come to pass. With that, the meeting was adjourned, the Board met quickly to approve applications for 6 new Members, and everyone went about their business.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 24, 2009

- Three applications for membership were accepted
- Seven Members were fined for recent separate late or no-show incidents
- Because of all the fines, Warren will start up a formal fine/suspend matrix to help keep track
- The observer program was discussed and is going well
- The Board reviewed how the grievance committee process reversed a decision about an earlier incident
- Two \$50 awards going to Sportsmanship award winners
- Lee will make a 7v7 presentation at the monthly meeting
- Larry and **Gabriel Goldsman** will attend the instructional course in May
- A “bad” PSL O/40 game was gone over
- The Board approved getting a Chivas player to make a presentation at a future meeting
- Paul will try to schedule a Livescan visit at the April meeting
- Four possible candidates will be contacted in regard to attending the youth camp later in the year
- It was decided that the upcoming trip to the Tri-Cities tournament was not a good idea
- Ed will resign as President as he is leaving the country for an indeterminate period on April 11. Paul will not stand for re-election as Vice-President. The Treasurer will also be elected in May. Warren will run for President, and the status of the year remaining on his term as Secretary is to be determined
- Gabriel reported that a Member suggests that a how-to-be-a-referee letter be created. It was felt that looking at material already available on ssbra.org was sufficient
- Bill told us that he is encouraging the city of Torrance to build a brand new soccer complex on an existing site, which could impact the soccer scene in the South Bay for years to come

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND TRAINING. LARRY YEE FROM THE STATE ASSOCIATION WILL BE MAKING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR OUR MEMBERS. IT WILL ALSO BE THE TIME TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER FOR THE ELECTIONS THAT WILL BE HELD IN MAY. IN ADDITION, PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AT THE APRIL MEETING, AND THESE TOO WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE MAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.



Bill Cook (on the left) gets some help from Warren Howell showing off the deluxe carrying case he was presented with at the February monthly meeting (photo courtesy of Gabriel Goldsman)

A Local Tragedy (recent news item)

A 19 year-old Chapman University (Orange CA) soccer player died after collapsing during a pickup soccer game. **Bryce Turner**, a sophomore midfielder from Louisville Kentucky collapsed about 9 PM and was treated almost immediately by student trainers and paramedics on the Orange campus. Turner was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, where he died that evening. The cause of death is still being determined.

Turner played for the Panthers for two years, and head coach **Eddie Carrillo** recalled him playing every game his freshman season. The coach described him as an outstanding student and strong player who put the team first.

Maybe He Should Have Just Opened the Cage and Let It Fly the Coop (from Referee magazine)

A soccer referee in the United Kingdom had to eject a parrot from the sidelines of a match between Hertfordshire and Hatfield Town. The caged parrot, which was a fan's pet, was causing confusion on the field because it continually imitated the referee's whistle. "Every time I blew my whistle, the bird made exactly the same sound," said referee **Gary Bailey**. "The players all stopped, so I had to ask the owner of the pet to move the bird."

Something to Watch For and Take Seriously in Our Games (recent news article)

'Minor' Head Injuries Can Turn Serious

By **Danielle Dellorto**

A blow to the head that at first seems minor and does not result in immediate pain or other symptoms can in fact turn out to be a life-threatening brain injury, experts tell CNN. It's very common for someone who's had a fall or been in a car accident to appear perfectly lucid just after the impact but then to suddenly, rapidly deteriorate, **Dr. Carmelo Graffagnino**, director of Duke University Medical Center's Neurosciences Critical Care Unit, told CNN.

"A patient can appear so deceptively normal at first," said Graffagnino. "But they actually have a brain bleed and as the pressure builds up, they'll experience classic symptoms of a traumatic brain injury." Such injuries are known as epidural hemorrhage. Blood gets trapped between the skull and the hard layer of skin between the bone and brain, known as the dura mater. As the blood flows from the ruptured artery, the fluid builds and punctures the dura. Patients are often unaware they've fractured their skull. In these cases, the fracture generally occurs just above the ear, in the temporal bone. "There is an artery that runs above the skull and can get torn and begin to bleed above the lining of the brain," Graffagnino says. "At that point all the pressure is pushed on the brain, causing it to swell but there is often no room for it to move inside the skull cavity. And as the pressure continues, it reduces blood flow to the brain and a patient would begin to feel the symptoms." The condition is commonly referred to as "talk and die" syndrome among neuroscience physicians and surgeons, because the patient can decline so rapidly.

Graffagnino says the initial fall or injury doesn't have to be hard at all. The delay in symptoms can range from five minutes to three hours after the accident. If an individual isn't medically evaluated after a car accident, sports injury, or just a slip in the driveway, recognizing the signs of brain injury early is critical. Nausea, severe headache, glossy eyes, and sudden sleepiness, are all common symptoms. Getting to a hospital within the first few hours is critical to prevent permanent brain damage, experts say. An emergency room team can quickly determine the severity of your injury. Immediate treatment is essential after a brain injury because the initial damage caused by swelling often is irreversible.

Certain medications can increase a person's risk for hemorrhages, especially for the elderly. Doctors say even a small bump on the head can be dangerous for patients taking blood thinners, among other prescription drugs. "Talk and die" syndrome also can result from a subdural bleed, which develops between the brain and the dura. These bleeds can "squish the brain," Graffagnino said, and cause injury at a slower rate. A person can often feel normal for several days before feeling any symptoms. "You don't have to see external injury to have injury to the brain," said **Dr Philip Stieg**, chair of neurosurgery at NYP/Weill Cornell.

To evaluate a person's response after a minor trauma, Stieg recommends checking the size of their pupils and asking questions such as the patient's name and what year it is. In the hours following, Stieg recommends monitoring the person's cognitive skills and to "bring them in to get a CAT scan" if there is a change in behavior.

"The most important thing to do to lower your risk is to wear a helmet when you can, and don't brush off an injury because you feel 'fine' at first," Graffagnino said. "The thing that's going to save a life is for friends and relatives to recognize the first glimmer of a symptom. The quicker we can stop the bleed, the better."



"Gosh, you seem to know a lot about soccer.
I like that in a coach."

Bleeding Can Be a Recreational Sport in Massachusetts (recent news article)

In a preseason manifesto sent to all his team's AYSO GU8 players and parents, coach **Michael Kinahan** of Scituate MA urged the players to hit the field like "a **Michael Vick** pit bull" and eat "undercooked red meat" and be prepared to endure "bumps, bruises and even bleed a little." He told the parents that he wouldn't tolerate them sitting on the sidelines "in their L.L. Bean chairs sipping mocha-latte-half-cappuccinos" and not cheering. He wrote, "I believe winning is fun and losing is for losers." He named his team of young girls "Green Death."

Soon he was an ex-coach, after parents complained to league officials. "I stand by my comments," he told the Boston Herald, "this isn't two hours of free baby sitting."

They Went Ahead and Played the Game Anyway (recent news article)

A stampede at a World Cup qualifying soccer match in the Ivory Coast killed at least 22 people and wounded 132, authorities said. Fans at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny arena pushed against one another shortly before the game between Ivory Coast and Malawi, Interior Minister **Desire Tagro** said. "They started pushing to get in because the match was about to start and each and every one of them wanted to get in," Tagro said. **Olle Kambire**, a reporter for the daily newspaper Super Sport, said a wall collapsed under the weight of the fans as they pushed toward the field. "We saw people falling... Then there was panic and a stampede," he said.

Ivory Coast won the match, 5 – 0.

Tales from the Pitch (Submitted by Rudy "Chokehold" Chavez, discussing the Law-5 SBS 7v7 team)

I know there are many referees just yearning to know how things are going. During the last session on a cold rainy Friday Night, our fellow brothers and sisters from SSBRA won a hard fought battle in the semi final match 2-1.

This was followed with an even harder game in the finals that followed immediately after. With nothing to lose

and an international group of veteran players on Law-5, we were matched well against a much, much younger group of kids on the opposing team. After exchanging missed opportunities with the opponent, they scored the first goal to lead 1-0. This leads to the veterans then displaying finesse and patience, skill and dominance, with **Ki Nam Kim** scoring the tying goal. After several more intense minutes of just phenomenal soccer, never before seen on the fields of Aviation, the opponent scored to make the score them 2, Law-5 1. Half time score was 2-1 them (I forgot the team name).

At the start of the second half, we called upon our conglomerate of international experience and tied the score at 2. Many opportunities were missed by both teams in the second half with the Law-5 team missing 2 crucial penalty kicks in the second half. With time running out, the other team scored the game winner with less than 30 seconds to go and with that, Law-5 suffered a defeat at the hands of the other team. Fun was had by all and everyone congratulated **Shahram Danbeli** on another excellent job of refereeing the final.

PS. We did not receive a single favorable call from him all game.

I remember, the other team's name is Harbor FC (winter champs). Now with better news...

Into our next session which started in mid February, our team is currently 4-0, with 21 goals for and only 4 goals against. More updates to follow as the season progresses.

Please pass on to the members that a 3 game package can be purchased for free, which includes free seating anywhere in the stadium, free parking and an opportunity to meet the players and coaches of Law-5, before, during and after the game. Bring your cameras for unforgettable moments under the stars. Autograph sessions immediately follow all matches.

With Some Coaches This Could Be a Good Idea

Host of Family Fortunes (UK): We surveyed a hundred people and asked them to name a way of toasting someone. Michelle?

Contestant: Over a fire.

How to Stand Up Without Looking Down (written by **Brian Goodlander**, from Referee magazine)

Officiating attracts people who are self-confident. That quality is necessary to survive when every decision you make is questioned and analyzed. Officials who lack self-confidence face even more questioning and dissent. The danger comes when that self-confidence grows into arrogance. Arrogance is the bane of many officials. Arrogant officials become less effective due to their lack of accessibility. The challenge: Obtain and maintain self-confidence but do not develop arrogance. Below are some tools.

Body language. That's the first thing players, coaches, fans and fellow referees see and respond to. Classic errors in body language are crossed arms, hands in pockets, hands on hips and hands behind the back. All those positions and postures send a message of arrogance, lack of confidence, boredom or insecurity. A neutral position is the best way to control your body language. Practice standing with your arms at your side. A relaxed position tells players you are sure and confident but willing to listen to concerns. Most referees are not aware of their body language. Assessors are helpful in identifying negative body language. Videotaping your match can be helpful.

Strong signal mechanics. Signals are your primary body language message. Strong, proper signals tell everyone that you are confident of your decision. A lazy signal or downcast eyes during a signal tell the opposite. Stand tall,

push your chest out somewhat, make yourself big and present a strong, crisp signal. Act as though you expect respect. If you act professionally, you will be treated as a professional.

Eye contact. Eye contact says mouthfuls. Talk directly to players — look them in the eye. If you inform players about unacceptable behavior and might book them for misconduct, look them right in the eye. You want to know they understand what you said. Downcast looks in those situations tell the players that you are not sure of your decision — it's open for debate. It tells them you're intimidated. Dissent cautions can be avoided by the referee's eye contact.

Knowledge of the Laws. Without a complete and thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game, you can't expect to be effective. You may do everything right during a game (work well with partners; use your voice, whistle and body language to show confidence; look the coaches in the eye) but misapplying the Laws can destroy your hard work in a moment. Players, coaches and fans are more educated about the Laws. They will know if you make a major breach.

Tone of voice. Effective referees use their voice to control a match. They verbally display their thoughts about situations and events. Even in the most passionate moments, referees need to be calm and understanding, yet strong and confident. Master your voice and you will succeed, not only as a referee, but in many other aspects of life. Use a soft, understanding tone when communicating at a personal level. The tone should become stronger and shorter as the message is more severe.

Don't hear too much. If you are sensitive to everything said, you spend more time deciding on its meaning and intent than refereeing the match. That results in inevitable loss of game control. Effective referees learn to filter the unnecessary comments from information that requires action. You can begin to sense and predict play, frustration and potential backlash. Remember that referees should deal with premeditated dissent while ignoring emotional dissent.

Be willing to listen. Effective referees know when to listen to a player or coach. Often they just want to vent. As long as the conversation is respectful, allow it. That can happen during a dead-ball situation or as you run near a transitioning player — more important when the conversation follows a controversial foul decision or booking. If the player's tone and body language are controversial, use your own tone and body language (calm, strong voice and a gentle wave down with both hands) to calm them. If they do not respect you and are taking advantage of your accessibility, end the conversation. High-level players often respond positively when you allow them to voice their thoughts and concerns.

Don't obsess. Referees make mistakes. They wonder if they made the proper decision. Effective referees reverse erroneous decisions. They don't obsess over errors during the match. Referees who spend time replaying the events in their heads while play is in progress start a vicious circle of errors. Obsessing causes you to miss the next situation and the next — it compounds until the players and coaches no longer believe anything you decide. Still, learn from the errors. After the match, discuss them with your teammates, mentor or assessor. Smart referees do not repeat their mistakes.

Become more accessible and more effective. Confidence is necessary for a referee but confidence that develops into arrogance is one of a referee's worst enemies. Therefore, stay confident without crossing the line.

Thought of the Month (attributed to politician Rudy Giuliani)

“We don't all agree on everything. I don't agree with myself on everything.”

More Tales from the Pitch (written by **Bob Foster**, submitted by Lee Jordan)

So in my son's U19 game yesterday, with the high winds blowing, a scenario right off of the USSF test actually arose. Blue team (my son's) is taking a goal kick against the wind. Having just retrieved an errant shot that sailed over the fence, I was now standing even with the top of the PA on my way back to midfield. The ball never clears the area, and is blown backwards over the goal line with no one touching it. Amazing. The AR signals corner kick, and the CR agrees. The White team asks the CR if he's sure it should be a corner kick. CR says yes, it is a corner kick, since Blue kicked it out. Several of the players offered their "opinions", but the AR and CR are adamant and tell White to take the CK. I bit my tongue, but I'm pretty sure that the restart is to retake the goal kick. I'm just glad the ball didn't blow backwards into the goal – that probably would have been awarded as a goal.

So what does White do? He sets up to take the corner kick, yells "Keep, here it comes", and kicks it right to the Keeper. All of White's teammates let the ball roll by, the Blue players do the same, the Keeper collects the ball, and the game continues. I can't tell you how impressed I was with that simple act of sportsmanship. As the White player runs by me, he catches my eye, rolls his eyes as he mouths "that guy (the CR) is crazy..." smiles and that was that. Having reffed and coached players on both of the teams over the past several years, it was great to see that sometimes the players do actually get it and do the right thing.

If this was a referee he would be more likely to find a flag in there.....



"Found it ... Good heavens! It's the size of a soccer ball! Oh, wait ... It *is* a soccer ball."

Here are Some Links to YouTube Soccer Videos

- [ussoccer.com YouTube Page](#) (front page)
- [U.S. Soccer Referee Department Playlist](#) (all referee videos)
- [U.S. Soccer Referee Position Paper: March 26, 2009](#) (Serious Injuries)

And Still Another Tale from the Pitch (from Surendra “Jorge” Menon, as told to W. Howell)

A group of SSBRA referees were recently assigned the pleasant duty of spending a week-end in Bakersfield to preside over some “olders” State Cup matches. Gabriel Goldsman was one of these lucky fellows, and was on the field during a bright sunny day getting ready for the next match. In the middle of his preparations, several of his SSBRA friends arrived at the venue and came over to greet him, with Gabriel offering comments and laughter of his own in return. Still talking, but with game time approaching, he squeezed a generous portion of sunscreen onto his hands, in order to apply an even layer to his face, and have enough left over to spread on his arms as well. Alas, only 2 – 3 seconds went by after slapping it on his face before Gabriel realized that something was wrong, as it felt like his face was on fire! Looking at the tube he was using, he noticed that he had used Ben Gay instead of sunscreen, and it was having the warming and relaxing effect for which it was intended. Yelling something that sounded a lot like @#!*\$%&\$, Gabriel raced to the nearest water fountain. Actually, “raced” does not begin to do it justice – he was moving at a fast pace never seen before, making better time than he had ever made during any of his matches or fitness tests. Anyway, he got to the faucet and started vigorously splashing water on his burning face, only to find that the mixture of the Ben Gay and water set off some kind of chemical reaction, making the burning worse and now even causing his hands to sting. Our hero was in dire straits for sure, but at least his face muscles were relaxed, and eventually the pain and redness subsided enough so that he was able, with difficulty, to do his game. Surendra also had problems doing his match, as he could not stop laughing long enough to give the game the serious attention it deserved.

Even More Tales from the (Oregon) Pitch (by Patrick Duffy, submitted by Lee “Red Card” Jordan)

State Cup semi-final, U-16 boys, I believe. The referee sends off the red team's best player (I don't remember the reason), but the red team still wins, advancing to the finals the next Saturday. Since it was the semi-finals, all of which were held at the same site, the state youth association's administrators were all buzzing about and many saw this game, so they knew the player had been sent off. Their assignor collected the team rosters after the game at the referee tent.

Fine and dandy, the sent off player can't play in the final. But since they were losing their best player, the red team decides it's worth taking a flyer on protesting the red card, which protest is submitted on Monday morning, by the dawn's early light. Now the State Cup's referee reports are submitted on line, not at the game site or otherwise. By Monday evening, the referee has still not submitted a game report. That makes it tough to handle an appeal, since you don't have an official explanation of the reason for the card. The assignor tries to contact the referee to get the game report done, unsuccessfully, albeit making repeated efforts, personally and through intermediaries. By the end of Tuesday, the temperature in the state office is rising over this. The tournament director, an employee of the state association, calls me and asks what to do. I told her that, by the letter of the soccer law, the protest committee would have a hard time denying the appeal since they don't have an official report that the player was even sent off.

By Wednesday, things are frantic, to the point of going to the referee's house. Now the reports of what happened are a bit different here, depending on whom you speak to, but allegedly, the assignor said something to the effect that “I just need a report. Don't worry about the cards.” Remember that the assignor had the rosters, so the referee didn't have the information he needed, like player names, to complete the report. The referee did the report and listed no cards given to anyone (I believe there had also been some cautions and those weren't reported either). The protest committee decides, even though some of them were at the game and saw the red card given, the referee didn't report it, so they have to accept the protest. “Maybe he decided that he shouldn't have given it, like the red team said, so he didn't report it.” State final played on Saturday, with the red player playing. The assignor even put the referee from the semi-final on the game as AR2! The player scores the only goal of the game on a penalty kick. The red team wins, 1-0 and they're off for youth Regionals, in Hawaii.

Or at least they're planning to go, so they buy airline tickets, non-refundable airline tickets, and put down deposits on hotel space, etc. All is happy until Monday, when the team that lost in the finals protests the acceptance of the semi-final protest. Despite serious questions about whether the losing team has standing to protest a decision about a game in which they weren't involved, the state youth board goes through a long agonizing hearing and deliberations about this. The local newspaper picks up on this and has a good-sized article written by the columnist whose job it is to create controversy, so people will buy papers to read about these horrible injustices, etc. which appears on the front page of a section of the paper. After great deliberation, the protest of the losing team is upheld.

Students, if a game is successfully protested, what is the only legal solution in soccer? Right, a replay is ordered, sans the sent off player. The losing team wins the second time. Now they're going to Regionals and the parents from the other team have some very expensive airline tickets that are non-refundable and non-transferable. Are they happy? No, they are not. There are threats of lawsuits, appeals to USYS or USSF, etc. A second newspaper article appears reporting what happened, which only stirs the pot further. The state youth association is forced to buy the unusable tickets from the disappointed parents and, I think, compensate them for their lost hotel deposits, etc. Remember that we're talking about not just the players and coaches but also the parents who were going as chaperones, not wanting to have 16 year old boys in Hawaii unsupervised. I believe the out of pocket to the state association was in the range of \$16,000 to \$20,000. The tournament director gets fired, allegedly over this fiasco, and she sues the state association. The lawyers are still doing their thing, with no resolution so far. All because the referee's game report didn't include a red card.

Here's a Reminder That We Can All Use (submitted by **Tom Bobadilla**)

Good morning everyone.

Safety of the players is the TOP PRIORITY for referees at all times. Please share this concept with your referees and we will share this with the instructors and assessors as well. Injuries have a higher probability to happen in amateur soccer, in both youth and adult games.

One specific challenge/issue is that a lot of referees wait until a player kicks the ball out of the field to stop play. Referees need to stop play right away and not wait for players to kick the ball out. Often, respectfully said, players do not have the skill and/or awareness to kick the ball out of play.

When in doubt, please stop play and make sure everyone is OK.

Thank you.

Tom Bobadilla

Yet Another Tale from the Pitch (from Gabriel "Ben Gay Face" Goldsman, as told to W. Howell)

A couple of weeks ago Gabriel was the center referee of a men's game in a league that is not assigned by SSBRA, using ARs that are not, nor ever have been, Members of SSBRA (you will have to ask him directly as to why he would take such an assignment...). On a quick attack, the "blue" striker took a pass and got past the second-to-last "red" defender, causing the "red" team to start yelling for an offside call. The "blue" striker scored, and the yelling for offside continued. But, Gabriel did not think it was offside, and the AR did not raise the flag, so he let the goal stand. The "red" GK and defenders continued the argument, and the AR made a comment in reply, immediately after which several members of the "red" team rushed the AR. Gabriel intervened, cautioning the "red" GK etc. and restoring order. Looking around to re-start play, Gabriel noticed that the AR had thrown his flag to the ground and walked to the far side of the field. Upon being asked what was going on, the AR told Gabriel that if he (Gabriel) did not send-off the "red" GK, then he (the AR) would not participate further in the match. Gabriel thought that was a good idea, and ordered the AR to leave for the day, which he did. Gabriel completed the match without an AR on that side and without further incidents.

SSBRA TREASURER REPORT, MARCH 31, 2009 (submitted by Steve Brandon)

SSBRA's checking and savings accounts were reconciled for the month of February 2009. In addition, the February transaction registers for Petty Cash and Stamps accounts were prepared as well.

SSBRA's dues payments for Fiscal 2009 are as follows:

SSBRA 2009 Dues Paid Thru 03/29/09		
	Count	Fee
Waived Dues	16	\$ -
Regular Dues	148	\$ 8,880
Non Internet Dues	1	\$ 70
Bank Deposit Error		\$ 5
Total Dues Paid	165	\$ 8,950

The cash and related account balances as maintained by the Quicken database are summarized below.

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	2/28/2009	3/29/2009
Checking	\$ 1,389.17	\$ 1,806.41
Savings	4,625.65	6,770.65
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Stamps	41.16	27.30
Totals	\$ 6,155.98	\$ 8,704.36
Advances:		
PSL	\$ -	\$ 390.00
Manhattan Bch	2,875.00	-
Total Adv.	\$ 2,875.00	\$ 390.00
Checking	\$ 4,264.17	\$ 2,196.41
Savings	4,625.65	6,770.65
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Stamps	41.16	27.30
Adj. Totals	\$ 9,030.98	\$ 9,094.36

I issued the third installment of Manhattan Beach checks for the periods 2/23/2009 thru 3/16/2009. The cumulative payments are comprised as follows:

Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation - Winter Season 2009									
Category	Cks Issued 01/27/09		Cks Issued 02/18/09		Cks Issued 03/17/09		Winter Season Totals		
Games		65		90		66		221	
	\$	Cks	\$	Cks	\$	Cks	\$	Cks	
Referee Fees	\$ 1,885.00	27	\$ 2,610.00	29	\$ 1,914.00	24	\$ 6,409.00	80	
Assignor Fees	162.50	2	240.00	2	165.00	2	\$ 567.50	6	
Treasurer Fees	45.00	1	48.00	1	40.50	1	\$ 133.50	3	
Postage	5.88	n/a	10.08	n/a	9.66	n/a	\$ 25.62	n/a	
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 2,098.38	30	\$ 2,908.08	32	\$ 2,129.16	27	\$ 7,135.62	89	
Billed To Manhattan Beach	2,112.50		2,925.00		2,145.00		\$ 7,182.50		
Net Surplus to SSBRA	\$ 14.12		\$ 16.92		\$ 15.84		\$ 46.88		

During the month I used Treasury monies to pay referees for 3 sets of PSL matches that were canceled and/or forfeited. Hence, I'm waiting for reimbursement from PSL.