

# Kids get nothing but soccer here



## By a hair

David Vass, 13, demonstrates how a goalkeeper must do everything in his power to stop that ball. Sometimes that's not

If you have kids between the ages of 8 and 18 who have been bitten by the soccer bug and are serious about the sport, you might consider sending them to a "soccer school" where they can get a full dose of the fundamentals.

The Manitou Soccer Schools, only a small part of the same company's soccer camp, holds four one-week sessions every year.

This year, director Jeff Stephen set up a school on a special request from the Richmond Hill minor soccer team.

The schools are run along similar lines to a hockey or power skating school or several other clinics that offer intensive instruction in all aspects of a sport or hobby.

For \$40 — which covers Monday to Saturday — pupils get to live and breathe soccer for six hours a day.

At last week's school in Crosby Park, there were 34 kids aged 8 to 14 from the Richmond Hill area.

This time, there were no girls enrolled, but Mr. Stephen pointed out they are most welcome to participate.

Here is what the students get during their five days of professional instruction: fitness sessions, special

goalkeeping clinics, tactics and teamwork, tournament play, use of special skill development drills, lectures and films and a special referee's lecture on the laws of the game.

For this past session, Mr. Stephen brought in goalkeeper Murray Greenberg from New York for the goalies' clinic. Chris Bellamy of the Ontario Referees' Association also attended the school for the referee clinic.

All the school sessions are run in conjunction with the Ontario Soccer Association.

All players are grouped according to their age, size and skill level. The emphasis is on the development of soccer skills, physical fitness (at least 20 minutes is spent in this area alone), soccer knowledge, sportsmanship and fun-filled competition.

The one-week school is a capsulized version of the Manitou Soccer Camp, which a child can attend for five days or one, two or three weeks.

Besides the intensive soccer training most of the other outdoor sports, including tennis and horseback riding, are offered.

This is an overnight camp and it is the only soccer camp in Canada.

Players are provided with uniforms and their own individual soccer ball.

Such visiting celebrity coaches and players that are schedules to attend the soccer camp this year include: Graham Leggat (British player for four teams, played for Scotland's International Side and took over as coach of Toronto Metros in 1971; Alan Churchard; Dick Howard (former goalkeeper for Toronto Metros and Canada World Cup); and Chris Bellamy, an Ontario Association referee.

Jeff Stephen brought two teams down from the camp in Parry Sound to play the Richmond Hill team during last week's soccer school.

Richmond Hill won the first game 1-0 in a shootout on a goal by Robbie Stel (the game had been tied 2-2 on goals by Carl Koteff).

The local boys also won the second game, by a score of 3-1. Goals were by David McKee (2) and Jon Byers.

enough. Here, he gets practice at the Richmond Hill Soccer School. (Photos by B. Hogg)



## Twinkle toe

Carl Koteff, 13, works on his control at the soccer school last week. (Photo by Bruce Hogg)

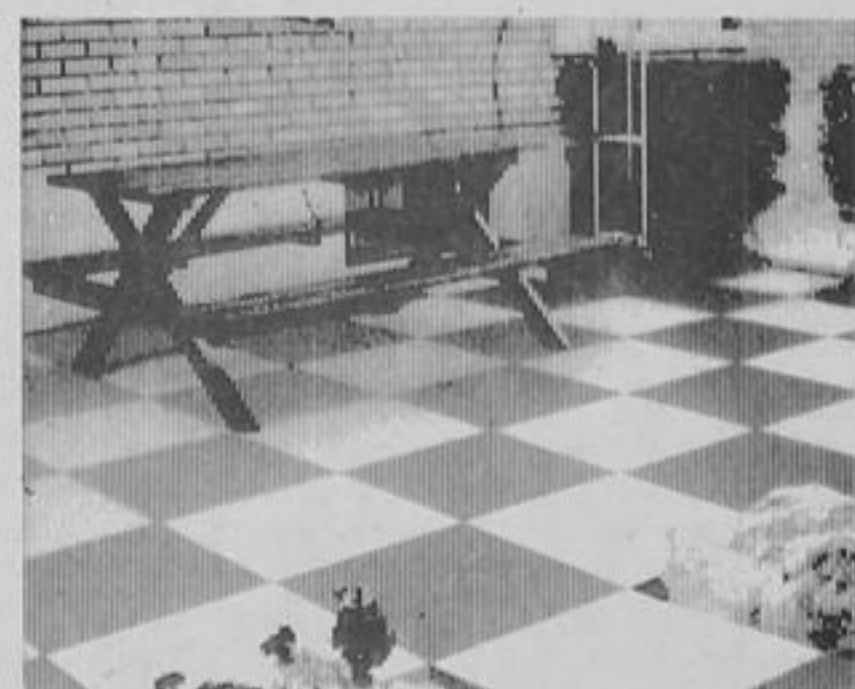
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