

Starfinder Summer Camps

Starfinder summer camps at Starfinder's Urban Promise Center in Manayunk and recreation centers around the city provided hundreds of youngsters with a meaningful experience that developed and enhanced their knowledge in soccer, character education, and nutrition education.

Year-round Starfinder Academy youngsters were treated to a series of four one-week camps in Manayunk during July. As part of Starfinder's outreach to the city at large, one-week camps were held at community sites in Bridesburg and Parkwood in August.

Starfinder and the Dr. Gerry T. Cousounis Memorial Fund joined together to send seventeen Roxborough youngsters to Camp Briarwood for a weekend. The camp featured intensive soccer training, other camp-related fun, and midnight ice cream in pajamas.

Rudy Fuller joining the Starfinder Team

Rudy Fuller, head coach of men's soccer at the University of Pennsylvania, has joined the staff at Starfinder as a soccer coach and program consultant. Rudy is remaining in his head coaching role at the University of Pennsylvania. Starfinder is thrilled that Rudy is sharing his expertise with the foundation. In addition, as a parent of two boys in the Starfinder program, he understands and values the educational and character development components that distinguish Starfinder from training centers and clubs that focus primarily on soccer.

Rudy will work closely with Jeanette Hibbs and Nick Chrisanthos, co-directors of academies and after-school programs, and with Robin McCarter, chief administrative officer, in enhancing Starfinder's program standards.

The university Web site states the following about Rudy:

"The James C. Gentle Head Coach of Men's Soccer, Rudy enters his 11th season at the helm of the University of Pennsylvania men's soccer program in 2008. In a decade at Penn, Fuller has elevated the Quakers' notoriety in the Ivy League and nationally. From renovating Rhodes Field to recruiting some of the best players in the country and stacking the Quakers' schedule with NCAA contenders, Fuller's club has established itself as one of the elite soccer programs in the country.

Prior to his role at Penn, Fuller played a major role as a student-athlete and coach in building a successful program at Georgetown University. While coaching at Georgetown, Fuller helped guide the Hoyas to the first two NCAA tournaments in their history and the NCAA Round of 16 in 1997.

Fuller has served on the staff of the Region I Olympic Development Program (ODP) and the Eastern Pennsylvania (EPa) ODP. In 2002, Fuller helped lead the EPa 1984 Boys ODP team to the National Championship, and his EPa 1987 Boys ODP team was a Region I ODP Championship finalist. Fuller has led the last six ODP teams to the Region I finals and has captured four titles. Prior to joining the Region I and Eastern Pennsylvania staffs, Fuller was a part of the Maryland ODP for 13 years, four as a player and nine as a coach.

Fuller served on the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee and was chair of the NCAA Division I Middle Atlantic Regional Advisory Committee. He also sat on the NSCAA/adidas College Ranking Committee for the Mid-Atlantic Region and is a member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Most recently, Fuller began serving as a scout for U.S. Soccer in the inaugural season of the Development Academy. In addition, he served as an assistant coach at the 2008 U-15 National team camp in St. Louis.

Fuller, a USSF "A" Licensed coach, graduated from Georgetown with a bachelor of science in business administration in 1993 and earned his MBA degree at Villanova in 2003. He founded and currently serves as the director of the Elite 300 Soccer Academy.

Fuller and his wife, Kate; sons Reilly (8) and Liam (6); and daughter Fiona (3) reside in Philadelphia.”

Expansion to Allentown School District

We are very pleased to announce that our after-school program will also be held in the Allentown School District this year. Starfinder is continuing its positive relationship with Philadelphia School District in offering after-school programs to schools in the city again this year.

Starfinder met with ASD during the summer to present the program, and the unique combination of athletics and character education was appealing to the school district. This year, the Starfinder will focus on grades four and five in Allentown, with plans to expand in the future. As part of the Starfinder out-sourced model, Starfinder coaches will lead staff development sessions for Allentown teachers, who will offer the program at the respective schools. Throughout the year, Starfinder staff will visit Allentown to observe the program and act as a resource for Allentown staff.

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