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Danville Area Soccer Association Kicks Off 30th Anniversary Celebration

DANVILLE, ILL. (September 22, 2013.) — The Danville Area Soccer Association (DASA www.danvillesoccer.org), will host a day of celebration in honor of its 30th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013. The event will include a presentation by Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhower, followed by a full day of soccer and family activities at the Danville Area Soccer Complex on Winter Avenue.

“The DASA is a testament to the strength of this community,” remarked current DASA board president Adnan Abdelghani. “It started because a group of local families wanted a place for their kids to learn the game of soccer, and it has grown into an organization that serves families across Vermilion County, from Georgetown and Catlin to Westville, Danville, Oakwood, Bismarck, Hoopston and Watseka.”

In all, the DASA serves over 1,500 players every fall and spring, offering parent-child soccer for preschool-age children and competitive co-ed and girls teams for ages 4-14. In 2012, the league added “Super Soccer” activities, opening the sport up to developmentally challenged children and their families. DASA is entirely parent-driven; coaching, field maintenance, concessions, game day setup and cleanup are all managed by volunteers. “We are incredibly thankful to have so many dedicated people — they are the heart and soul of this soccer club; we couldn’t do it without them,” Abdelghani said.

Two of this year’s coaches, Shelby Jennings and Ron Soderstrom, have been with the league for many years. “I started off as a player in the league,” noted Jennings. “And when I had a child of my own, it just seemed natural to give him the same chance to play that I had.” Jennings coaches a co-ed U12 team from Danville.

“I started coaching when we still played soccer at Northeast Elementary,” Soderstrom commented. “I didn’t know much about soccer then, but I learned as we went. I was fortunate to coach my oldest son to a championship. And now that my oldest is in his twenties, I’ve come back to coach our youngest son’s U8 team.”

Not only are parents and coaches key to keeping the soccer league vibrant; so are the City of Danville and the many donors who have given the league a solid financial footing. Major donors have fields named in their honor and include the Darby family, the Halloran family, Pepsico, Autozone, and the Goodwin family, as well as over 90 other area families and organizations. All will be recognized as part of the anniversary celebration.

The Danville Area Soccer Association anniversary celebration will begin with a brief ceremony at the soccer complex on Winter Avenue, at 9:00 a.m. Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhower will kick off the festivities, and special activities for families and children will continue throughout the day.

When asked about the importance of the 30th anniversary, Abdelghani concluded, “It is a day for us to thank everyone who contributes to this great organization.”

About Danville Area Soccer Association

The Danville Area Soccer Association (DASA) is a not-for-profit corporation that sponsors and promotes soccer in Danville and Vermilion County Illinois. DASA runs a recreational league for girls and boys from 4-14, and runs a competitive traveling soccer league (Vermilion County Soccer Club). Over 1,500 children play soccer as a part of DASA every year at the Danville Area Soccer Complex, including DASA fall and spring leagues, Central Illinois Youth Soccer, High Schools, Danville Area Community College, and many adult league games, pick-up games, and practices. For more information, please visit <http://www.danvillesoccer.org>.

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