



The 5th Law

The VOICE of the Manitoba Soccer Referees Association

Volume 1 - Issue 3

MAY 2011

NEWS

Boot Camp Soccer Game

Never mind Champions League, the MSRA Boot Camp Cup was the place to be on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. on a rainy afternoon, where no one cared about the weather because they were indoors at the U of M field. Another successful campaign was staged by the MSRA which saw Germany face off against Italy (uniforms courtesy of John Di Biase) with match official Frank Major.

Much fun was had by all who attended this event which was a fund raiser for Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association. We are proud to advise that \$230.00 was donated to this great charity. The Executive Director of MRDA, Peter Manastyrsky, attended the event and stated "I would like to thank the MSRA for donating \$230 towards our program from the scrimmage game held on April 30th. The children in the program appreciate the support from the MSRA and will continue to smile while riding on their horse."

It was great to see long time referees Germano Aburto and Chris Golden face off against each other on opposing teams. The Golden Boot award went to Willie Laidlaw of Germany (now that just doesn't sound right does it) who had the highest tally of goals for the afternoon.

A BIG thanks to all who attended for an afternoon of fun, friendship and fundraising. Thank you to John Di Biase for providing jerseys, Dennis Petrelli for providing game balls, and congratulations to Lisa Sansregret and the special events committee on a job well done.



NEWS

Red, Yellow, and Black

By Rob Beaudoin

MSRA Referee currently officiating in Germany

We take a lot of abuse

As a ref, I often find myself feeling very alone.

From the verbal garbage thrown at us by coaches and fans, to the border-line gestures of dissent from the players that we see in our everyday matches, it appears that many people might have you believe that soccer officials are a dishonest and crooked lot. Sadly, many of the discouraging remarks we deal with, often come from cowardly voices whose faces and names cannot be ascertained. Thus, sometimes it feels as though we are nobody's friend when we are on the pitch.

Yet despite the abuse we occasionally have to put up with, we are expected to officiate each match thanklessly and impartially, all for the greater good of the game and everyone involved in it. It isn't always easy.

Being out, while still in.

In 2006, I, Robert Beaudoin, monolingual English speaker and hobbyist referee, began living in Germany. Ending up in this part of the world was rather coincidental. To be clear, I certainly didn't choose this country, nor would it have been my first choice if I had been allowed to select where I could have gone. Nevertheless, I found myself in the midst of one of the strongest soccer nations in the world. So, with nothing else better to do with my free time when I first got here, I contacted the local football association and enquired about my chances of refereeing here.

Continued on Page 3...

Visit us @ www.manitobasoccerreferees.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Hector Vergara who received the Sport Manitoba Official of the Year award at the Sport For Life Gala held on April 28th, 2011.

The MSRA would like to welcome the following inter-provincial transfer Referees.

Kelly Hallock – Provincial Referee from Alberta
Olivier Ndicunguye – District Referee from Quebec
Danny Griffin – District Referee from Florida
Hyungmin Kim – District Referee from Ontario

We hope to see you out at some of the MSRA events soon. Welcome to Manitoba and have a great season.

APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to Hector Vergara for his appointments to the following MLS games:

May 14: Chicago Fire vs. Toronto FC @ BMO Field
 May 28: Vancouver Whitecaps vs. New York Red Bulls @ Empire Stadium



May Trivia

During the taking of penalty kicks to determine the winner of a match, can a substitution take place?

- No, it is expressly forbidden.
- Yes, but only an injured goal-keeper may be substituted.
- Yes, substitutions are allowed at any time.
- No, as the penalty kicks are not a part of the match.

Send your answer to fifthlaw@live.ca
 Correct answers will be entered to win a
 \$20 Gift Certificate from Red Card Soccer.

REFEREE PROFILE

KYLE LAGIEWKA



Birthdate: January 25, 1978

Home Town: Winnipeg, MB

Year Joined the MSRA: 1994

Current Class: Provincial

Awards: MSRA Most Improved Referee, Outstanding Contribution to the MSRA.

Highest Appointments: 2010 MSA Cup Men's Final / 2009 U16 Boys Club Championship Gold Medal Game

Career Highlights: Refereeing Lucania vs. Honduras Men's Pan Am team (this was an exhibition game set up in 1999 when Pan Am games were in Wpg), 2009 U16 Boys Club Championship Gold Medal Game, 2010 MSA Men's Cup Final.

Who has been the biggest influence in your career and why? Willie Laidlaw and Hector Vergara. When I first joined the MSRA, they were the FIFA officials in the province. I took every opportunity to observe and absorb as much as I could from them. I really appreciated their professional approach, but at the same time, understood that it's also about having fun.

Reason you became a Referee: when I was 14, I did it to make a little extra cash. Once I joined the MSRA, I really enjoyed the camaraderie amongst the officials and really enjoyed the time working with the various individuals.

Favourite Referee Memory: Lucania vs. Honduras, 2009 U16 Boys Club Championships Gold Medal game, my first game with Assistants (Van McLean and Dilip Singh), and having Marcelo Paolucci try to assist me with calls on the field (Lucania player that was always around me on the field telling me what I could've done better) – he was quite funny at times.

Most Difficult Game: 2010 MSA Cup Men's Final

Future Goals: National A/R or FIFA A/R; assist in mentoring new officials as they come aboard.

MSRA SPECIAL EVENTS

Champions League Final - May 28, 1:45 pm

For the first time the MSRA is hosting a Champions League Final Event at 4Play Sports Bar. Don't miss your chance to partake in this event. Tickets are \$10.00. Please email Bryan Mintenko to reserve your spot as we are limited to 50 people in the skybox (overflow will be in the restaurant). There is nothing like the big game! Did I mention the appetizers and various prizes, door prizes, who guesses the most fouls prize? Don't Mesi out on a Devilish good time!

MSRA Appreciation Night - June 11, 6:00 pm

In June, saddle up with your mate or a friend or come on your own to the Assiniboia Downs MSRA Appreciation Night. This night includes a spectacular buffet dinner and live racing from the private room that overlooks the race track. Tickets are \$25.00 for 2 and \$15.00 for one. Please email Bryan Mintenko. For new referees or returning referees, this is a great chance to meet other members from our association and our chance to say thanks for all of your hard work. Don't miss out on a sure bet for a good time!

Red, Yellow, Black... Continued from Page 1

Perhaps it was a romantic hope, or maybe I was just delusional, but I had hopes that I would be able to get away from all of the pettiness and negativity that often pesters the game. After all, they do take the game much more seriously here.

Being that I couldn't speak German, I assumed that I would not have to deal with any verbal salvos, nor tirades of profanity that many players seem to express nowadays. No, I simply wanted to ref, to only be a quiet part of the beautiful game. Besides, if you don't understand what someone says, how can it bother you, right?

Boy, was I ever wrong.

The first time I took to the football field with my whistle in this country ended up being quite an experience. Since then, not every match has ended like that first day. But this contest was a derby

between a German speaking team and a Turkish speaking team (another language I (still) know very little about.)

I was nervous, I was excited, and I was amazed. In attendance that perfect late fall Sunday, were approximately 1100 excitable fans; locals and neighbours who regularly paid admission to come see their community's team play every weekend. They had drums, they had beer, and they had an atmosphere which they had created by singing a litany of songs.

What they didn't have though, was a love of referees, and it quickly became apparent that I was walking into an extremely explosive situation. The league, in trying to prevent a mishap from occurring immediately upon my arrival, had sent a representative to accompany me that day. His job was to show me how they do things here, and I was pretty sure he wanted to see if I actually knew what I was doing.

After a very brief and confusing introduction to one another in the parking lot, we were immediately met by a security detail at the club's entrance. Rather hurriedly, I was shown about the facility, and eventually escorted into my private changing area within the confines of the club house.

Although I did not understand much of what was said to me that day, I did understand the pantomime and gestures by my 'guard'. He quite clearly said, 'keep the door to my room locked at all times'.

"Hey Ref, we know where your car is parked!!"

Apparently this was the first thing some fan yelled at by me as I first walked with the teams out from the dressing rooms and on to the field. Translated to me by family after the game, I was told that this is a common phrase they use when yelling at a referee.

The irony is that they actually did know where my car was parked that day. Clubhouses have a park place reserved for officials, right next to the entrance and in plain sight of everyone coming and going into their facility. It was a friendly touch, or so I had thought, when I had first pulled into the stadium grounds that day.

12 cards later

The game was fast, it was physical, and it was played by two teams who wanted to win that day. It was obvious that they did not respect one another. In fact, they barely showed enough respect to me while I was enforcing the rules that day, too.

At times, I wished I would have been able to speak with the players. But in looking back, I doubt it would have made a difference. You see, yellow cards don't matter to the players in most leagues here. In fact, neither do yellow / red dismissals. There simply are no consequences that follow after you get one.

It wasn't until after the game that I learned about this wonderful piece of trivial information. Would it have changed how I managed the game? 11 cautions and one sending off already seemed like a lot, at least until you realize that you don't need to fill out any paper work.

They spoke English.

Half way through the second half, a player from the home team was fouled. It wasn't a serious foul. However, it was undoubtedly still quite painful for the player.

Any foul that day probably would have been painful, as we were not playing on a grass pitch, but rather a clay one (like a tennis court). I had assumed playing on a clay pitch wasn't as new for them as it was for me. Yet from the number of players I had to send off because of bloody knees though, I really wasn't sure.

In this case, the fouled player needed no medical attention. After my whistle, he got up rather calmly, walked the pair of steps towards the offender, and proceeded to kick out the back of his legs.

It was an obvious dismissal, and there were no objections from the player when he was confronted. However, like most send offs, the player's teammates surrounded me, begging me to reconsider my decision. It took me a second to realize that some of the players were now speaking English. I apparently had a magic red card.

"Hey Englander, good game."

I learned a lot about myself, and about being an official that day. The home team lost 4 to 2, yet I still received a number of English 'well dones' from many of the players after my final whistle that day. It was a small token of acknowledgement, even if they thought I was British. Of course, I still had to be escorted off the pitch and into my dressing room, where I was kept for an additional 30 minutes after I had changed so all of the fans could leave. Was it that dangerous, or were they being overly protective?

I suppose for some people, we refs will always be a target. We will always be the one who the fans feel they can hurl insults and snide remarks at. Coaches will still blame us for being biased, and players will use as an excuse when they do not win. Sadly, this corrosive mentality seems to be appearing more and more within the game. And for some individuals, if they had it their way, they might even have you believe that we referees lack any sort of integrity at all.

Regardless as to where you do it, and how often you take to the field, every one of us must have our own reasons for having become an official. Yet, if you remove the gamesmanship, the simulation, and can ignore the lunatic fans, it's obvious to see that refs are there to enforce the rules of the game fairly and honestly; always to the best of our own ability. What many people fail to see is that without officials, the game would be crippled.

It's important to keep in mind that although we occasionally have to put up with some nonsense, it still is just a game. And quite frankly, I am happy to be a part of it, no matter where I might be in the world at the moment, and what language the players speak.

Have a request for something you would like included in the next edition of the Fifth Law?

We welcome any ideas or contributions from our members!!!

Contact The Fifth Law at fifthlaw@live.ca.

Look for our next edition in July 2011.