

The



Connection

March 1993

THE BOCA STORY

1978 - 1993

A question I am often asked is "What does BOCA stand for?" Of course, I understand what people mean. They believe BOCA is an acronym for our organization, and they want to know what the letters are a part of. However, I'm always tempted to go off on them and spout my philosophy and vision of the "beautiful game" we call soccer. We 'stand for' individual expression of the player through his artistic demonstration of precise physical movement with the ball, while he attempts to entertain the fans, and at the same time remain in harmony with his team as it strives toward the synergism which is inherent in all great teams that have become greater than the sum total of its parts:

BOCA is a Spanish word for mouth, and its name of a world famous club from Argentina, BOCA Jrs. They are so named as they are located at the mouth of the River Plate. In 1977 and again in 1978, they were the winners of the Libertarderes Cup, symbolic of South American Club Champions. In 1978, they went on to win the Toyota Cup, the cup which signifies world club champions. 1978 was also the year Argentina won the world cup. Most of the National Team players were from the BOCA Jrs. World Club Champions and World Cup Champions in the same year is a rare double. If you research the history of the BOCA Jrs., you will find its rich with tradition. Their uniform is royal blue with a broad horizontal gold stripe across the Jersey. Their logo is a star studded crest worn close to the heart. There have been countless world class players who have worn their colors, the most famous is Diego Maradona.

1978 was a memorable year for Argentina and the BOCA Jrs.. and it was the year the BOCA Jrs. of New Jersey was formed. It was during a week while at a National Coaching School, that Phil Morretta and I began planning out the team. Our idea was to provide the most talented players in the shore an opportunity to play together and compete against the best teams we could find. We felt this was the best way for these players to continue their development. Until 1978, this had never been done in the shore. Phil and I both believed in the "Latin style" of play because of its emphasis on individual play and its commitment to entertaining fans. We also wanted a name for our team that was unique and symbolized our ideas. In 1978, "BOCA Jrs." seemed just right.

We then made a list of who we thought were the best players and would also fit into our plan. It was easy to come up with the list, as both of us had been coaching in the shore for some time, and once we explained our concepts, we had the players' full support. Our very first team was an under-19. We believed it was the best starting point to showcase talent.

Our team was an instant success. We won the league championship, won every tournament we entered, and made it to the State-Cup semi-finals before being beaten on penalty kicks. It was our only loss of the year.

The first five years, we were sponsored by the Berkeley Soccer Association, thus we made up the acronym - Berkeley Ocean County Americans. While we were a part of Berkeley, we expanded to include two division I teams, and a division II team. Through the early years, we had many successes.

our name and our reputation grew. We became well known throughout the state and the east coast. We've had many honors, and won many tournaments, but I think the best tribute to our early teams came from one single exhibition match in 1980. The Glasgow Celtic Boys were on their annual tour, and were being hosted by the Kearney Thistle. Our reputation was such, that other than the Thistle, we were the only club team asked to play against the Celtics. Up to then, they competed against only national, regional, or state teams. Well, we played them to a 4-2 loss, after having been ahead 2-0 at the half. You might say, "Big Deal!" But that match took place only three days after they had beaten the United States Under-18 National Team 11-1. It didn't take long for the word to get around that we had given the Celtics their best match. After the game, we were invited to the Scotts Club, where they were surprised to find out that our team were all American Born players. These "old Scotts" thought we were an ethnic club. To listen to these "old Scotts" praise our boys and give us such respect, to me meant more than any championships we had won.

Through the years, many state, regional, and even national team players have passed through our program. We've also had numerous college players at all levels. We changed club affiliation to become part of the Toms River Soccer Association, and Phil gave up coaching to concentrate on his refereeing duties. The name BOCA Jrs. came to symbolize flair, flamboyance, artistry, and entertainment. We've had lots of fun, memories, and lots of stories to tell. Along the way, I met two other men who share the same coaching visions and have the same optimism for the game, Dan Mount and Al Schwartz.

In 1990, we had an opportunity to place a franchise in the North East Soccer League. It's an excellent regional semi-professional league. It was a natural extension of what we had been striving for all along. It was a chance to provide high quality soccer for the shore, and for our players to continue their development, now at a higher level. It was Dan and Al which were the driving force behind the establishment of the Jersey Shore BOCA Jrs. F.C. as a club.

As a semi-pro team, we had a very successful first half of a year. We surprised many well established teams. However, the cost of running such a team proved too much. We tailed off badly during the second half of the season as we were unable to compensate the players.

In 1991, we dropped to a lower division. But money was still a problem, so in 1992, we took a year off. However, we have re-grouped and are preparing for a return to the super league in the fall of 1993.

In the meantime, we have developed a highly successful youth program as well as an over 30 program. We began in 1991, and already have two over 30 teams, two under-23 teams, two under-19 teams, one under-16, one under-15, and one under-14 team. We also expect to add two more youth teams and we've discussed starting a women's program.

Fantastic growth over a two year span, with many, many successes in leagues, tournaments, and state cups. One State Cup Championship for our under-16, and a runner-up finish for our under-19's.

This brings us up to date, but I believe the BOCA story is just beginning. We've added many more coaches who have the same enthusiasm and vision. Our goal is to have club membership, and someday our own clubhouse and fields, while we support a full semi-pro team. I believe we will accomplish these goals. If we stay focused and keep moving forward and make no compromises.

Walt Pericciuoli
BOCA Believer

BOCA U-15 (77-78)

TEAM PROFILE

The U-15 boys team is comprised from a select and diverse group of players around the shore area. The 18 boys on the roster hail from 9 different towns from Barnegat to Hazlet, N.J. The 18 boys all have terrific credentials, 5 of which have represented New Jersey on the ODP State Select Team and have Regional Camp experience. All the players have represented the Shore Area on the ODP Shore Area Select Team with 10 players currently holding State or Area Team positions.

The team, as U-14 boys last year, racked up a great record totaling an overall 28 wins, 21 losses, and 9 ties. They entered seven tournaments in the 91-92 year and posted a 15-10-5 record placing second in the Middletown Tournament, semi-finalists in the Oneonta Tournament and first place champions in the Mid-New Jersey Select Tournament. They went undefeated in 5 games playing 2 days against 5 league select teams from Morris Co., Inter Co. (Pa.), Delco (Pa.), and 2 league select teams from Long Island Jr. Soccer League beating one in the finals 1-0. Last year, the boys finished with a 11-10-4 overall in league play which included a 4-0-1 record in Major Junior Competition.

As this years BOCA U-15 team, the boys are training well and look forward to another successful year. In October, the boys played in the Virginia Beach Columbus Day Tournament for their second straight year, posting a 1-1-1 record. Overall the boys have great records against Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland champions and highly seeded teams.

The BOCA U-15 team is currently preparing for an active schedule

(77-78 cont.)

which will take them through league play, State Cup, a tournament schedule, (that includes the Westfield Cup, Ocean Tournament of Champions, the Pocono Cup in June) and culminating in their trip to the USA Cup 93 in Baine Mn. The team will have their first experience in competition with FIFA international youth rules. They are actively raising funds to help their parents pay for the trip to Minnesota.

The U-15 team are coached by Mike Carey and assisted by Larry Boff. Mike Carey is the BOCA Youth Programs Director, a USSF licensed coach of 12 years, has held positions on the State Coaching Staff, and League Board of Directors positions. Larry Boff is a USSF licensed coach and currently serving as Treasurer of the Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association League and part of the New Jersey franchise for the Weil Coever method soccer camps in the U.S.

BOCA 76-77 BOY'S TEAM BRITAIN BOUND

The '77 BOCA team will be touring England from April 7th thru April 16th. The tour will include London, Shakespeare country, Chester and the resort town of Blackpool where there will be a soccer festival!! Several youth teams affiliated with the English Football Association will be our opponents. The Halesowen Town Colts in Solihull; the Blackpool F.C. XI; Cheshire Country F.C. XI are scheduled as of now, along with some "English style coaching" from a professional youth coach. We will tour "Old Tafford", home of Manchester United and also Wembley Stadium where we will enjoy a premier league fixture; Queens Park Rangers vs. Nottingham Forest. The soccer festival in Blackpool, which is a resort on the Irish Sea, will give our boys the opportunity to not only play with British teams but observe their training and skills too!

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TRYOUTS
(cont.)

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 76-77

(cont.)

There are 50 boys left in the cuts for the under 17 team and we are lucky to have 3 of our boys still in the running:

Erik Burstein (goalkeeper)
Chad Beaupierre (defense)
Kobie Johnson (midfield)

GOOD LUCK!!!

What coach just celebrated his 52nd birthday???? He'll never tell!! How does he keep that wrinkle free baby face???? Could it be Oil of Olay...or is it that Grey Poupon!!

A thank you to all our parents and their friends for making our first fund raiser (at Yakety Yak on Feb. 12th) a great success! A very special thank you to Frank Santos who not only worked so hard on organizing the affair, but was a great host on the night of the event. This fundraiser along with a "candy sale" had contributed funds to each boy who participated. This will be a great help with spending money for their trip to England.

BOCA OVER 30 MEN'S TEAM

A round of applause to the BOCA II over 30 men's indoor team for a first place finish in the latest session. With former professionals and other high caliber players from the area, it's easy to see why they went undefeated. Posting a 6-0-1 record, scoring 48 goals for and only 12 against.

In the first close call 5-4, Dave Munson tore his achilles tendon. He is doing well and we all hope for a speedy recovery.

The only tie of the session was with Bankers of Edison, the previous champs, whom they met again in the finals and gave them a 5-1 beating. GO BOCA!!!

TEAM ROSTER:

Tom Wieboldt, Dave Leche, Mike Angelotti, Dave Munson, John Colles, Tom Reilly, Rob Bechloff, Don Schon, and Mike Fobian.

HIP-HIP-HOORAY

Congratulations go to Al Schwartz for being honored by the National Soccer Coaches Association for recording his 300th win in league play. This does not include any games played in tournaments or exhibitions. Al has accumulated these wins since 1970 coaching for Toms River United Youth, the Soccer Association and presently BOCA.

We are honored to have Al Schwartz as a BOCA coach and wish him continued success in his winning ways. Do you think that Al's secret to winning has anything to do with his daily dosage of garlic?

ROAST BEEF SANDWICHES WITH AL'S GARLIC BUTTER (Great for game picnics!)

1 3½-pound piece top round of beef
12 tablespoons (1½ sticks) butter
20 large garlic cloves, peeled
sliced French bread or rolls

Preheat oven to 500°F. Place beef in roasting pan. Rub 1 tbls. butter over beef. Season w/salt & pepper. Place remaining butter & garlic on large piece of foil. to form closed pouch. Place pouch in roasting pan. Roast beef 40 mins. Reduce oven temp. to 375°F. Continue roasting until thermometer inserted into center of beef registers 125°F (for rare), about 20 minutes.

Transfer beef to platter. Tent with foil to keep warm. Pour contents of foil pouch into processor. Blend garlic mixture until smooth. Season with salt & pepper. Thinly slice beef. Serve w/ bread & garlic butter.
Next issue:

Victor's FRESH Garlic Crabs
(Best if prepared in bathrooms of hotels and motels across the U.S.)

BOCA CLUB MEETING *****

* March 24, 1993 Wednesday
* 7:30 p.m. PIER ONE
* Rt. 37, Toms River

BOCA PARENTS & MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

DID YOU KNOW.....

-----that players are continuing to bring glass containers to the fields for practice or games? This has got to stop before someone gets seriously cut. The glass shatters when the players leave them either from the cold or grass cutting. We are constantly picking up pieces and the litter of glass is getting better, so please continue with no glass.

-----by now, the new rule that players are on one side of the field and the fans are on the other. This is league rule and one we are in favor of. Try and keep your comments positive and don't coach from the side lines. Negative remarks will not be tolerated by the refs, and may come to:

first - The coach having to tell you to shut up.

second - A caution and removal of the noise maker,

last will be termination of the game. Then with that YOU will explain to the team why they lost the game because of your behavior.

Let's enjoy the game and players of both sides and maybe just maybe find something funny in some of the calls that make some of us go berserk.

-----to please park on paved areas at Intermediate West. We all like getting a little closer to the games while staying nice and toastie in our cars. But you are blocking fire & security access and starting to annoy security and maintenance people, so please help by parking on the lots provided.

-----that college coaches have contacted BOCA for names of the U-19 high school graduates. They were:

Farleigh Dickenson Madison, West Virginia, Rider, Muhlenburg, Elizabethtown, East Stroudsburg, Kean, Stockton, Loyola, Coastal Carolina, Loch Haven to date.

FACTS ABOUT BOOTS (as the Germans know them)

When you receive your new boots, try them on indoors to check for correct fit. They should fit snugly without discomfort. Your toes should reach all the way to the front of the shoe. It is very important to keep your toenails trimmed to prevent cracking, ingrowns, and holes in your socks.

Because soccer boots are made of high-quality leather, they will stretch. Their initial stretching must be controlled to obtain correct fit.

When new, your boots are not "broken in" properly. Breaking them in takes a little bit of time and play. Do not expect to play an important match in them right away, as they will not "give." To avoid blisters, use plenty of petroleum jelly on your heels, toes and soles of your feet.

After you finish a training session or match you'll want to ready your boots for the next wearing. When you take care of your boots, you enhance their performance and extend their wearable life. Immediately after play, be sure to lightly knock any excessive mud & dirt off your boots. This is important because mud can draw moisture out of the leather and ruin it. When you get your boots home, make sure they are dry. You can accomplish this by filling them with newspaper, taking care not to overstuff them, and placing them in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight. If shoes are heat-dried they can dry out, stiffen, and age prematurely (dry rot). After they are dry make sure they are clean by brushing & wiping them inside & out. Use an old toothbrush to remove dirt caked into seams and crevices.

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New Laws of the Game

Several changes have been made to the laws of the game by FIFA and have been adopted by the USSF and all affiliated youth associations. These modifications are some of many that most of you will see through the 90's as FIFA attempts to modernize the laws of the game hoping to keep pace with today's players, fans, and coaches. The SPIRIT of the rule changes are to encourage more creative attacking play instead of a safe defensive struggle that is neither enjoyable to watch or fun to play. The rule changes are also imposed to force referees to punish serious foul play that crushes the spirit of the game. In short, the following are the changes you may not be fully aware of but should know.....

Serious Foul Play; The Changes are clear....A Referee MUST punish players who stop an obvious goal scoring opportunity by either handling the ball or committing any of the fouls such as pushing, tripping, holding, striking, or charging from behind. That punishment Must be a red card and the player sent off the field. There will still be quite a bit of discretion by the referee as to whether the foul inhibited a goal scoring opportunity as in a break-away situation or handling the ball to prevent the pass through the defense creating a clear advantage. The law changes are made to stop the so called "professional foul", allowing better scoring opportunities. The Referee must still have the courage to make the call when that situation arises.

Goalkeepers Use of Hands; The goalkeeper may NOT at any time pick the ball up with his hands when the ball is played to him with a pass with the foot from his own teammates. The ball may be played to the keeper, but the goalkeeper must play the ball passed to him in this fashion just as a field player. The goalkeeper may still use his hands on balls played to him by his teammates if the ball is received from a throw-in or headed to the keeper. Intent of the rule is to encourage defending players to turn the ball back into play and start the counter attack rather than simply kicking the ball to the goalkeeper playing it safe. It should also improve goal scoring chances.

Goal Kicks; The ball may now be placed any ANYWHERE inside the goal area when restarting play with a goal kick, rather than only on the side of the goal nearest to where the ball went out of play.

Player Cautions; Players being red carded (sent off) as a result of having received a second caution (yellow card), will now be shown both the second yellow card and the red card indicating the reason for the red card being issued.

Walter Pericoli and I concur on his prediction that FIFA will also do away with the throw-in in favor of a Free Kick (kick-in) in the future. They may be experimenting with a number of proposed changes at various tournaments that FIFA organizes throughout the 90's.

Mike Carey,
USSF Referee