

The Youth Soccer Coach

By Mike Berticelli

*You donate your time for the good of our youth,
But you scream and you yell and are often uncouth.*

*The ref is just twelve and still learning the game,
But you call him a jerk and say he's not sane.*

*The parents are screaming and follow your lead,
As you sprint up the sideline at uncontrollable speed.*

*You jump as you yell, "Pass, pass the ball!"
You turn red as you bellow, Ref, make the damn call!"*

*"You're the left back now, get in your position,
If you don't, we might lose and ruin our tradition!"*

*Positions are needed so we look like a team,
Cause they're miniature pros, or so it does seem.*

*The fullback is bored, he picks at his nose,
While the others run wild and kick with their toes.*

*You scream for a goal, no matter how it goes in,
The skill doesn't matter, just as long as we win!*

*The parents go crazy as the ball nears the goal,
Their advice and instructions will soon take their toll.*

*You see, Junior feels pressure, he's not having much fun,
We tell him to pass, when to shoot and to run.*

*He came here to play and to use his own mind,
Cause soccer's the most creative game that you'll find.*

*Imagination is needed on the part of each child,
Solving problems on the field is what makes them go wild.*

*A week of long practice, while just standing in line,
Waiting to shoot, using one ball at a time.*

*This just doesn't cut it, and for some it's too late.
Make your practices fun, don't be the coach that they hate.*

*They come to "play" soccer, not to "work" at the game,
Their excitement is something we don't want to tame.*

*Maradona has moves that are beyond comprehension,
No coach taught those moves while threatening detention!*

*He learned from his friends and tried copying others,
While playing in games, without coaches or mothers.*

*Soccer is different, not like baseball at all.
We don't need positions, just give them the ball.*

*They first must learn skill, it's the meat of the game.
If they can't dribble or shoot, then who should we blame?*

*Skill must be learned through repeated trials.
If motivation is present, you will see them run miles.*

*Fun games are the answer to encourage repetition.
They laugh and they scream and enjoy competition.*

*Without the skill to dribble past an opponent at will,
Your players will win, but their growth will stand still.*

*I dream of the day when the parents just cheer
And losing the game doesn't bring out a tear.*

*When practice is fun, not dull and so boring,
And playing the game means more than just scoring.*

*I know you mean well and you donate your time,
But bury your ego and try something sublime.*

*Call all the parents and ask for their aid,
You're teaching their kids and not getting paid.*

*Your goal's to develop a youngster with skill,
Not a team that must win or some fancy new drill!*

*You see, players are not judged by their wins and their losses,
Instead they are judged by their shots, heads and crosses!*

*Scholarships are given to players with great names,
Not those on youth teams who never lost games.*

*A pro player gets paid 'cause his skills are real fine,
Not because his team never lost when he was just nine.*

*It's time to bring soccer to new heights in this nation,
The future's in players, not a coaching citation.*

*Let's start to say "dribble" and stop yelling "pass!"
You'll then see our players go to the head of the class.*

*I hope you're concerned, but not really offended,
It's the need for more skill that I have defended.*

*You're giving your all, from the good of the heart,
Why not make sure the kids get the right start?*