



APPED

FEB 2010

NWA LIGHTNING'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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Lightning Board Changes

Due to recent restructure at Walmart, our club president Mike Skersick is relocating and will resign with immediate effect. His position is filled by Vice President Chad Guentz who will be interim president until June elections.

Wayne Henry is becoming the new vice president with immediate effect as a result of Guentz reposition.

Skersick became president for NWA Lightning SC in 2009 and has in short time led a new board to successful program revisions and absorption of the Centerton Soccer facility (former Ingram).

"It's been a rewarding experience for me being involved since the beginning and watching us grow

into what we are today, so I plan to continue watching you take it into the future," Skersick said and adds in advise to the new and remaining board members, "remember to always use our club's 'Mission Statement and Guiding Principles' in every decision you make."

The club want to thank Mike Skersick for his efforts, positive leadership and hard work leading us to where we are today.

Additional board changes as of February, we have added five new members: *Barry Moehring, Cherie Seyfarth, Kevin McCarthy, Matt Gregory, and Steve Grom*

We welcome you on board!

IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE AWARE OF

Spring Training Start Feb. 15

Our spring season training officially starts February 15.

If you have not requested your twice per week training schedule with our DOC, you need to do so ASAP.

Your team will be allocated two practice sessions per week at our facilities.

As always it is important for you to follow our park standards in

order to maintain good standing to practice and play at our parks:

There are no agilities at any time at Sugar Creek or Centerton Soccer Parks. Only Tactical and technical drills. If there are trouble spots like soft, wet grass or standing water - work around vulnerable areas.

Pick up trash after every appearance, game or practice and leave the park in presteen condition. ■



Our own Dial Spring Classic is played April 24 - 25 this year. Please help us spread the word to teams you would like to come and play.

CHAIR SALE



Now you can watch the soccer games in best club spirit.

NWALSC Arm Chair Features:

Embroidered Lightning Logo, Two Locking Positions, Arm rest with cup holders, Durable and Light Weight Black, Steel frame with breathable material Blue & Gold w/ Black Piping. Cost \$25 per chair

For questions please contact: nwalightingchair@yahoo.com 855-0769 or 501-425-9917

Who's where this spring season?

In the February and March issues of Zapped we proudly present all the high school players we have registered in our club and where they are playing this spring.

Our club have 61 girls representing eleven different high schools in Arkansas and Missouri. It is the highest number of high school players our program ever have filled

Bentonville High School tops the list with 31 Lightning club players, followed by Heritage with nine, and Rogers High School with seven club players.

Seven players in our club compete for Missouri High Schools.



Heritage High School's goalie and field player Ashley Schimmel saves a goal for the War Eagles last year

Bentonville High School

PLAYER	Lightning Team
Margaret Power	U18 Strikers
Hannah Nilsson	U18 Strikers
April Miller	U18 Strikers
Kennedy Cable	U18 Strikers
Rylea Wallace	U18 Strikers
Sarah Dias	U18 Flash
Hailey Meyer	U18 Flash
Shiba	U18 Flash
Mary Adams	U18 Flash
Kelsey Cadina	U18 Flash
Maddy Goss	U16 Strikers
Emily Aguilar	U16 Strikers
Taylor Parsons	U16 Strikers
Brittani Reagan	U16 Strikers
Holyn Marshall	U16 Strikers
Jennifer Long	U16 Strikers
Chelsea Michaels	U16 Strikers
Adrianna Torres	U16 Strikers
Lauren Presley	U16 Strikers
Lauren Perry	U16 Strikers
Jacky Miller	U16 Strikers
Kalyn Hunter	U16 Strikers
Taylor Estrada	U15 Strikers
Lauren Cowgur	U15 Strikers
Lauren Powers	U15 Strikers
Maggie Young	U15 Strikers
Madison Sanders	U15 Strikers
Taylor Lee	U15 Strikers
Paige Thielbar	U15 Strikers
Jordan Murray	U14 Strikers
Lexie Chitty	U14 Strikers

Heritage High School

Morgan Huffard	U18 Flash
Ashley Schimmel	U16 Strikers
Lindsey Gregory	U16 Strikers
Carley Thompson	U16 Strikers
Audrey Rodriguez	U16 Strikers
Ellen Lundy	U15 Strikers
Allie Johnson	U15 Strikers
Julie Whitlow	U15 Strikers
Emily Henbest	U15 Strikers

Rogers High School

PLAYER	Lightning Team
Mary Eoff	U18 Strikers
Michelle Mayne Nicholls	U18 Strikers
Kelly White	U18 Strikers
Lauren Patanus	U18 Flash
Meagan Johnson	U15 Strikers
Kathryn Schmandt	U15 Strikers
Adrienne Martinelli	U14 Strikers

Harber High School

Maggie Fohner	U18 Strikers
Maggie Gartner	U18 Strikers
Emma Gartner	U18 Strikers
Sara Lachance	U15 Strikers

Shilo Christian High School

Ali Dougherty	U15 Strikers
Paulina Doubleday	U15 Strikers

Glendale High School

Katie Brewer	U18 Strikers
Emily Williams	U18 Strikers

Parkview High School

Shelby Stewart	U18 Strikers
Jessica Maerz	U18 Strikers

Fayetteville High School

Sarah Correll	U18 Strikers
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Neosho High School

Paige O'Neill	U15 Strikers
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Russelville High School

Alyson Frost	U16 Strikers
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Ozark high School

Paige Hemphill	U18 Strikers
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In the next issue we will follow the boys players from NWA Lightning and map out what high school they are representing this spring.

If we have missed any player or mis-labeled the school you play for, please correct us and we will republish.

Battle at Sugar Creek

March 13th John Brown University and Missouri Southern State University will play an off-season soccer game at Sugar Creek Soccer Park.

Kick-off is scheduled for 2:00 PM and will feature two teams with positive outlook for the 2010 fall season.

The JBU Golden Eagles very capable NAIA team defeated MSSU in the fall pre-season 1-0, and finished the season with a 12-5 record last year. Their end of season ranking was 23rd in the country. The Golden Eagles are only graduating 4 seniors this spring and returning a very strong team.

Two years ago The MSSU Lions were ranked NCAA Top 20 for several weeks but had a rebuilding and injury prone year in 2009.

2010 looks more promising for a speedy and well coached Lions team with Freshman former Lightning and Bentonville High School All American Cortney Sanders.

Sanders was high school player of the state her senior year as well as high school all american.

New for the Lions in the fall is speedy outside midfielder and forward from



Lightning's U18 girls team, Rogers High School's Kelly White.

"It looks like we'll have a strong roster and talented freshman class, Coach Trevor Wachsman said. ■

Cortney Sanders

Travel With Style



The U13 Boys team is heading up a team and club fund-raiser with car flags. Order now and you can show your team and club's color in a cool unique way!

Price: \$12 each or 2 for \$20

Order online at:

nwalightningflags@yahoo.com

Travel To Sweden



NWA Lightning SC's U16 and U14 girls teams will travel to Sweden in the end of July for two

weeks of soccer and cultural exchange.

The teams are playing in 2 tournaments back to back in Umeå Fotbolls Festival and P18 "Girls Only" Cup.

The teams will also visit the Torshälla girls team that came to Bentonville for two weeks in October playing with the '95 and '96 teams.

This is team number 6 and 7 from our club that Jakob Nilsson is taking across the pond to his native country. ■

NWA Lightning Soccer Office

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College Bound Strikers

NWA Lightning's player development success continues. Over the last three years players from our club's girls teams have continued signing with colleges.

This year's graduating class may be the largest college bound group yet on the girls side in our club. Here are photos and captions of some of the players that have signed. Not in picture but committed to university soccer play are CMF Jessica Maerz is signing with Lynn College in Florida, and goalie Page Hemphill is signing with Southern Baptist University. Rylea Wallace Forward, of Bentonville High School is signing with Oklahoma Baptist University. Four players on the team are still undecided. ■



**Margaret Power - Junior, Defender
Bentonville High School
University of Arkansas**



**Sara Correll - Senior, Defender
Fayetteville High School
University of Central Arkansas**



**Shelby Steward - Senior, Forward
Parkview High School
Missouri State University**



**April Miller - Senior, CMF, Defender
Bentonville High School
Southeast Missouri State University**



**Mia Mayne Nicholls - CMF
Rogers High School
Missouri State University**



**Kelly White - Senior, Forward, OMF
Rogers High School
Missouri Southern State University**



Senior Lightning Players Awarded

High School All Americans

April Miller, Centerton and Hannah Nilsson, Bentonville of NWA Lightning Soccer Club's U18 girls' team and Bentonville High School travelled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to receive prestigious All American Awards.

Miller was selected the 2009 Gatorade Player of the Year in the state of Arkansas and was awarded All American status along with 49 other top female players in the country.

Nilsson was one of 36 student athletes awarded the Scholar All American Award for her level of play while maintaining academic excellence.

Miller and Nilsson started playing soccer in the Bentonville Soccer League. And at first they played against each other.

"I remember April on one team and Hannah on the other, really the only players that could stop each other," April's father Gary Miller recalls. "April's team won the Bragging Cup 2-1, but I must admit Hannah's goal was prettier than April's..."

After their soccer start with Bentonville Soccer Club Miller and Nilsson joined the Craven Whitlow coached FC United '90 girls team, playing up two age groups.



ABOVE - April Miller and Hannah Nilsson



LEFT - April playing her first year of travel soccer with FC United.



RIGHT: Hannah Nilsson scores at the second state cup she and April Miller won as U11 players for FC United in a very muddy Jonesboro. Photo by Christe Hampson



Their U10 year, Miller and Nilsson again played up an age group as there were no U10 age group in the state. Hannah's father Jakob Nilsson became the coach for the '91 girls team, and then the year after the '92 girls team.

Since the BSC/FC United merger and creation of NWA Lightning, Miller and Nilsson have racked up a total of 6 US Youth Soccer state championship titles and played in three straight Southern Region Championships. This spring they are gunning for state cup number 7. Their teams have played against top teams and state champions from over 23 different states and three different nations.

Miller, a technical and brutish midfielder who was highly recruited by a number of NCAA Division I schools, has committed to South-

east Missouri State University in Cape Girardo. MO. SEMO belongs to the Ohio Valley Conference.

"Having coached April since she was 10, I knew she was special since day one. Not just the technical side or athleticism, but the drive and hunger to be the best," Jakob Nilsson, coach for the U18 girls said.

Hannah Nilsson is a left footed center midfielder who also is a physical presence on the field at 5'10", but more importantly a smart player and a mature leader for the high school team according to her high school coach Kris Henry.

"Hannah has great field vision and distributes the ball extremely well," Coach Henry said and added, "Besides playing at an absolute top level in the state she

TOP LEFT: Hannah takes a corner kick at the 2009 State Cup final against LRFC - a game Lightning won 4-0.

TOP RIGHT - April Miller at the same state championship game. Photox by Craven Whitlow

has maintained over 4.1, scored 30 on her ACT, while being very involved at the school and among other things serving as President for DECA."

Nilsson has not yet committed to where she will attend college. One of several schools recruiting Nilsson is SEMO, where April Miller is going. Could there be four more years of Nilsson/Miller soccer excellence together? ■