

Historical Timeline

November 15, 1953: first organizational meeting of WNEPSSA

Attended by

Winslow Taylor of Avon Old Farms

Chick Jacobus of Kingswood Academy

Henry Benton and Bill Callahan of Monson Academy

Axel Forslund and Harold Wyman of Mount Hermon School

Pete Richardson of Pomfret School

Frank House and Ed Flaccus of Loomis School

Paul Sanderson, Jr. and Don Rawson of Suffield Academy

Phil Shaw and Roger Thurston of Wilbraham Academy

Wil Babcock of Williston Academy

Primary goal: promote and develop soccer in Western New England

Methods:

- 1) annual fall clinic in the early fall with co-operation of local colleges
- 2) standardization of soccer regulations
- 3) oversight of league play

1950's The first soccer coach of Pomfret School was John Dempsey, then mayor of Putnam, CT. who went on to become the Governor of the state.

1954 First season of WNEPSSA league play; Deerfield Academy coached by Art Williams joined with the initial ten schools. Annual dues are \$15. Games are played in four fifteen-minute periods with no overtime, unlimited substitutions. Teams must play at least five games in the league to get league standing.

1959 Kingswood Academy coach calls for a system of rating officials to promote more uniformity in enforcing rules.

Saylor System defeats Suffield Academy. Suffield ended with a 10-1 record but Deerfield with 6-1 took the title. Paul Sanderson, the Suffield coach, said, "I was sure we were in. But when the fellows got through with those adding machines, there we were in second place."

1960 First mention of the use of game report cards; coaches are asked to send a postcard after each game naming the outstanding players, and noting the score of the game, a rating of officials, and comments.

1961 "Chick" Jacobus of Kingswood Academy gets 100th coaching victory. "Chick" Jacobus of Kingswood Academy is elected President of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

- 1961 The President of the Congo sent 12 young men to the United States for their education and two of them ended up on Lloyd McDonald's Watkinson team: Phillipe "Rubber Legs" Nsoki who led the team in 1964 with 29 goals; and Dennis Kabuya, a midfielder whose defensive abilities contributed to the "Rams" 13 wins, most of them shutouts.
- 1962 Windsor Mountain is the first co-educational school to win the WNEPSSA League; smallest enrollment of any school to win; first Berkshire County team to win.
- 1963 Paul Sanderson of Suffield and William H. Brine, Jr. publish first issue of USA Scholastic Soccer Report which not only includes news of WNEPSSA but also soccer news from California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, all of New England, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, DC.
- 1964 Art Williams of Deerfield Academy is awarded the Larry E. Briggs Award for Contributions to Soccer in the Western Massachusetts Area from the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association.
- "Chick" Jacobus of Kingswood Academy is again elected President of the National Soccer Coaches' Association.
- Paul Sanderson Jr. of Suffield Academy, is named Chairman of the Secondary School Committee and Secretary-Treasurer of the NSCAA.
- 1966 Jackman Stewart of Berkshire School organizes tour to World Cup in London for interested WNEPSSA coaches.
- 1968-69 Ray Brown of Williston Academy takes soccer players on People-to-People tour of Europe attending clinics and playing in matches in England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. WNEPSSA seeks to expand knowledge of the sport as it is played in Europe.
- 1969 Both Berkshire School coached by Jackman Stewart and Suffield Academy coached by Paul Sanderson had undefeated seasons with equal records: 12-0. Berkshire won the League Championship "by a whisker" based on the Saylor System. Sanderson and Stewart convinced their school administrations that a final game should be played to determine the "Real Champion." The first ever prep school post-season game was played in November at Berkshire (Berkshire being the higher seed as determined by the Saylor System.) The game ended in a 1-1 tie.
- 1970 Jackman Stewart of Berkshire School and Ray Brown of Williston Academy organize a tour to World Cup in Mexico for interested WNEPSSA coaches.

- 1970 Coach Steve Balsler takes his Hoosac players to Ireland for two weeks during the summer to gain experience playing European soccer with Irish teams.

League games shall be played in two 35-minute halves with no overtime. This change made the WNEPSSA League a pacesetter in putting U.S. soccer in line with world soccer. College soccer adopted this change soon after.

Coach Richard Hunter lives in a motel in Wallingford throughout the season in order to lead the soccer squad one more time. Having left the Choate faculty the previous June, Hunter returns by special request of Headmaster Seymour St. John after eight lettermen respectfully asked that Hunter coach them. The 1970 Choate squad shares top League honors with Kent, the first time there are co-champions. Hunter is quoted as saying he would have preferred no "partridge in his pear tree." Kent coach is Robert Partridge.

- 1971 Earliest mention of the call-in system. Coaches are asked to report scores immediately after Wednesday games to one of five key men, who then report the scores to the WNEPSSA statistician so that weekly rankings of league standings can be published.

WNEPSSA makes its first attempt to write a history of the league; there is a 60% return of surveys needed to publish an accurate WNEPSSA history. Bob Partridge of Kent School and his wife Louise undertake the task of compiling the history.

WNEPSSA votes to name its own All-Star teams, later known as WNEPSSA Select.

WNEPSSA invites area public high schools to participate in the program of the fall Clinics.

WNEPSSA considers naming two league champions: one for a Large Schools Division and one for Small Schools Division; from the minutes: "It was also determined that a school could possibly be considered as a small school champion and the total WNEPSSA champion also."

José Violante is a place-kicker for the varsity football team at Worcester Academy and starting inside forward for the soccer team. He later plays the same dual role for Brown University.

- 1972 Small Schools Soccer Cup Championship is inaugurated for the school finishing highest in the Saylor ranking at the end of the season; for schools with fewer than 100 boys in grades 9-12; a school cannot win the Hay Cup *and* the Small Schools Cup.

1972 Jackman Stewart of Berkshire School leads a group of WNEPSSA soccer players to Europe under the auspices of the ASSIST program.

1973 The Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association is formed under the auspices of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Selection of All-State teams, and nominations for All New England and All American status are among its tasks. WNEPSSA players are eligible for nomination for these awards provided their coaches are members of CSCA.

League games shall be played in two 40-minute halves with no overtime.

(From the program for the Clinic in 1973 "Recently the WNEPSSA was directly responsible for the National Soccer Coaches Association rule change which resulted in the abolition of periods and the return to the international rule of two continuous halves.")

WNEPSSA lends a hand to WWNEPSSA (Women's Western New England Prep School Soccer Association) as the sister league organizes for girls' teams.

Coaches Jackman Stewart, Michael Van Buren and Morgan Schafer take 35 WNEPSSA players to Hungary to become exposed to the European style of soccer and training methods.

Regulation changes: Any 32 panel, two color ball be permitted in association games, not just black and white; no substitute is allowed for a player ejected from a game by a referee.

WNEPSSA adopts a pre-game team salute to address reports of "ungentlemanly behavior." From the minutes: "At the time of the coin toss, the starting eleven of each team should accompany their captain out to the center of the field and line up facing each other on opposite edges of the center circle while the officials are conducting the coin toss. [a diagram is shown in the minutes]. After the officials have finished their business, the captains will shake hands and, as they are, the two starting teams should meet in the center of the field to shake hands also, each player shaking the hand of that player opposite him. The teams can then either return to their benches for a final brief word or go directly to their positions."

From the minutes: "Mr. Sanderson reported on the progress, or lack of it, on the publishing of a WNEPSSA handbook. He made a motion, which was seconded and carried unanimously, that \$500 be appropriated from the treasury to cover the costs associated with the publication. He requested coaches to send in updated material from their schools."

Paul Sanderson, Jr. is honored. From the archives:

"A little over nineteen years ago, in a gloomy basement room in one of the main buildings at Suffield Academy, the soccer coaches of the charter schools of this

association met together for the first time. The meeting had been convened by the man who started it all, the newly appointed coach of the Suffield soccer team, the man whom we are here to honor tonight.

“Little did anyone then anticipate the way that this organization was to grow during the ensuing years. But to borrow a phrase from a martyred leader of national renown, Sandy had a dream; and only like those who have the dedication and the drive to make their dream come true, Sandy started in on one of the most vigorous campaigns in scholastic sports. Though others of us have taken our turns at the responsibilities involved in perpetuating and improving the association, there was always one spirit, whether on or behind the scene, which provided more inspiration than any other, and that was the spirit of Paul Sanderson.

“To Sandy, soccer has always been far more than just the thing that one did in the fall. As it is to sports enthusiasts of almost all other nations, soccer to Sandy is the sport of sports. And if we ever reach the day when soccer shall at last have found its proper place in the vanguard of organized athletics in this country, it will be partly due to the dynamic energies of the super-coach you see here at this table. You are not really leaving us, Sandy. No one that has done all that you have done could ever do that.”

Written by Frank House; read in his absence by Bob Partridge

1974 Current and former presidents of WNEPSSA Jackman Stewart and Ray Brown organize a trip to World Cup soccer competition in Germany to expand their knowledge of the game; Stewart, Brown, Paul Sanderson, Scully Scandrett and Geoff Wilbraham attend.

Initial participation of WWNEPSSA in WNEPSSA's annual fall clinic at Berkshire.

1974-1977 Paul Sanderson becomes the founder and president of the Hartford Bicentennials of NASL (North American Soccer League). He brings Giorgio Chagnalia to the Bicentennials and then later trades him to the New York Cosmos.

1975 \$500 earmarked for a publication of a history of WNEPPSA, data to be compiled by Mrs. Partridge. From the minutes: “Jack Stewart reported that the WNEPSSA history was in the hands of Paul Sanderson of Suffield Academy and would soon be sent to the printer. The membership recognized the great amount of effort by Mrs. Partridge in compiling and typing the book. When the book is finally completed, each school will receive one free copy with additional copies available at a nominal charge.” It appears that the book was never published.

- 1975 Jackman Stewart steps down as varsity coach at Berkshire School; is honored by WNEPSSA.

WNEPSSA and officials' organizations agree that league matches will have two 40-minute halves.

Paul Sanderson, Jr. brings the Polish national team to play an exhibition game in Hartford, Ct.

- 1976 March: Headmasters, Athletic Directors and varsity soccer coaches of WNEPSSA member schools are polled as to interest in a post-season tournament.
November: Post-season is tournament play inaugurated; The Stewart Cup inaugurated honoring Jackman Stewart of the Berkshire School for his many years of service to WNEPSSA

From the minutes: "...we will use the same call-in system that we have used for the past three years. Below is a list of 'key men' and the schools they are responsible for. The key men will get in touch with each coach before the season begins and make an arrangement for getting scores reported either Wednesday nights or early Thursday mornings so that they key men can get all scores to David Coughlin at Hotchkiss by 10:30 AM on Thursday mornings." Five key men reported to Dave Coughlin.

- 1977 NEPSAC Athletic Directors rule that no cleated shoes be worn in soccer or in any outdoor sport.

George Parker, President of the Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association indicates that the organization will add a private school category to their classifications so that WNEPSSA players may earn All State honors and be proposed for All New England and All American status.

WNEPSSA invites the top teams from the Southeastern New England (Rhode Island) league and the Gummere Cup (Boston area) to post-season tournament play along with the two WNEPSSA teams.

- 1977 League Championship Cup is to be called the Hay-Sanderson Cup in honor of Edward N. Hay of Philadelphia and Paul Sanderson of Suffield Academy.

Interest is revived in presenting a Small Schools Cup for schools with fewer than 100 boys for the small school team placing highest in the Saylor System at the end of the Season; Schools may not compete for both the Small Schools Cup and the Hay-Sanderson. Only two small schools expressed interest.

From minutes: "It was voted to continue to play 40-minute halves with no overtimes in varsity contests. Junior varsity teams will continue to play 35-

minute halves with no overtimes.”

1977 Outstanding Stewart Cup Championship game: Pomfret School vs. Williston Northampton School. Game is tied 1-1 after 80 minutes of play; after two ten-minute overtimes, score remains 1-1; by agreement of the coaches, the game is to be decided by penalty kicks for each team alternating in groups of five; the game is finally decided as darkness falls during the third round on the 30th penalty kick with Williston the victor.

1979 Small Schools Cup to be awarded the following season to the WNEPSSA school with 160 boys or fewer with the highest Saylor ranking. No tournament for small schools will take place.

Berkshire coach Jackman Stewart receives London Football Coaches' Association Scroll "In recognition of his services to soccer."

1981 Amendment to the card system: "Each coach is required to note on the card the best player on the field and the best player on the other team. ...any card not returned would result in the card which is returned counting twice." Coaches cautioned against naming as outstanding player of the contest, a player from a team which is soundly trounced.

Junior Varsity games will have 40-minute halves.

Plaques are given to Geoffrey Wilbraham and David Coughlin commemorating the 100th wins of their coaching careers.

Small Schools Cup is named in honor of Lloyd McDonald, retiring coach of Watkinson School.

1982 Red and yellow card infractions are to be noted on the "cards." Concerns are raised with respect to increasingly unsportsmanlike conduct on the field.

Select Team members from Connecticut schools plus the highest ranked honorable mention players will be given All State recognition by the Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association, provided their coaches are members of the CSCA.

1983 The Select Team membership is increased to 33.

Proposed: 45 minute halves for varsity games only. Approval to be sought from NEPSAC.

A post-season Small Schools tournament is approved for the next season.

1984 It is recommended that only a hand-sewn ball be used, not a molded ball.

Ray Brown attends Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Association meeting to promote representation of WNEPSSA players at the State, Regional and All American levels.

1984 WNEPSSA continues to pressure AD's for 45-minute halves (no overtimes) for varsity games.

Motion to give a Sportsmanship Award passes.

1986 First WNEPSSA All-Star game is played at the conclusion of the regular season. All-Star participants are selected among those players most frequently receiving commendation on the game report cards. College coaches are invited to attend the All-Star game.

Bob Andrian is presented a plaque for outstanding service to WNEPSSA during his extended presidency.

The rules and by-laws of WNEPSSA are revised.

Brooks School coached by Dusty Richard becomes the first non-WNEPSSA team to win the Stewart Cup by defeating Bill Scott's Suffield squad 2-1.

1987 A rise in the issuing of red and yellow card violations is noted.

League requirements are reinforced:

1. There must be a faculty timer.
2. Two ball boys are to be used.
3. Restraining rope must be in place.
4. There should be a team salute at the start of a match.

Small Schools post-season tournament is cancelled because of scheduling difficulties

The WNEPSSA tournament is sanctioned as the New England Championship by NEPSAC.

John Coffin of Canterbury is honored for 20 years of "distinguished service as dedicated coach and executive committee member who epitomized the spirit of sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct..."

1989 Increase in red and yellow card violations results in the following stipulations for a player to be considered for the Select Team:

"...a player who accumulated two red card violations (two ejections) or five points

in card violations on the basis of two points for an ejection (red card) and one for each yellow card violation with a maximum of two points per game could not earn a place on the Select Team.”

1990 Special recognitions:

Kevin Hundley for earning his 100th win

Dick Peller for 15th year of coaching in WNEPSSA

Scott McCarty and Gary Cook for completing 10 yrs. of coaching in WNEPSSA

Geoffrey Wilbraham for completing his 30th year as head coach at Westminster

Dave Coughlin receives a bowl marking his retirement as head coach after 29 yrs. as coach of Hotchkiss variety soccer.

1991 Shin guards now required.

Dues raised to \$50 per year.

Yellow cards issued to coaches are on the rise.

20 plus college coaches attend the All-Star game

Middle-Sized School Post Season Tournament proposed; sanctioned by NEPSAC.

Because of the difficulties involved in determining the winner, it was decided to abandon the idea of naming a Most Sportsmanlike Team

Coach Dick Peller is presented a bowl upon his retirement from coaching soccer for sixteen seasons at Northfield Mount Hermon School.

1992 The members are still trying to get a history of WNEPSSA done.

A competition is announced to design a logo for WNEPSSA.

A bowl presented to Roland Young of Deerfield Academy upon his retirement from coaching soccer after 18 years and for his unfailing support of WNEPSSA.

Bowls are presented to Raymond Brown of Williston Northampton School and Geoffrey Wilbraham upon their retirements from coaching varsity soccer, and for service in WNEPSSA extending back to the 1960's.

1993 Western Connecticut Officials Board reported as greatly disturbed by the sudden decline in the behavior of the WNEPSSA teams they serve. The past season officials from the Western Board doled out three times as many cards to WNEPSSA teams as they did to public school teams.

1993 All teams must play a minimum of 8 WNEPSSA games to qualify for one of our three league titles (Large School champions, Middle School Champions, Small School Champions). Coaches must declare whether team will compete for L title (Large School), M title (Middle School), or S (small title) at the start of the season in September.

A WNEPSSA logo is presented by Ray Brown: an outline of the Hay-Sanderson Cup.

A Distinguished Service Award is presented to Peter Gooding, former soccer coach and current Athletic Director at Amherst College, for gracious hospitality (Amherst had hosted several WNEPSSA tournament finals) and generous commitment to the league. (Gooding served twice as clinician for Fall Clinics).

1994 A player receiving a yellow card must come out of the game and sit the bench for a period of time decided at the coach's discretion.

The By-laws are revised to include the following: "When a visible clock is used, it shall be the official time for the entire contest; however, when a visible clock is present but not used, the referee's watch – and only the referee's watch – will be used for the entire game."

NEPSAC (New England Preparatory School Athletic Council) is interested in forming the New England Preparatory School Soccer Association (NEPSSA).

Trophy for the top Middle School in the league is awarded for the first time. The Brown Cup is named for Raymond L. Brown, long-time soccer coach at The Williston Northampton School, past president of WNEPSSA, and long-time statistician and member of the Executive Committee. As a post-graduate at Williston Academy, Ray played in the league's first year of competition in 1954.

In the post-season contest for the Stewart Cup, Mark Turco of Phillips Academy at Andover scored the lone goal against Loomis Chaffee in the 113th minute during the third overtime as darkness shrouded the players and the action. The respective coaches, Bill Scott and Bob Andrian had agreed to declare each other Co-Champions if the third overtime had also ended scoreless.

1995 Two All-Star games initiated: Small School All-Star Game; and the Middle and Large School All-Star Game.

The first Connecticut Prep School Senior Bowl, organized by Bob Andrian and Scott McCarty, is played during Thanksgiving vacation at UConn with some 35 college coaches in attendance

NEPSSA (New England Prep School Soccer Association) is formed and

represents NEPSAC's desire for all sports to form regional associations that will "take care of their own business except for tournaments." WNEPSSA lauds the formation saying that the organization will provide another opportunity to promote the game of soccer, to showcase WNEPSSA players in an East-West all-star match; and to foster good sportsmanship.

- 1996 Jack Stewart donates and endows the NEPSAC-Stewart Cup. According to Bill Scott, current soccer coach at Phillips Academy at Andover, "On an autumn afternoon in 1996, Jack and Ellie Stewart surprised me by arriving unannounced at a training session at Phillips Academy. In Jack's arms was the original Stewart Cup. It actually looks nothing like a cup at all. It is a large trophy with a soccer player perched on top of a pedestal kicking a ball. Jack handed it to me and said, 'I want you to have it.' He went on to say that he was replacing the original with a proper 'Cup' as the original trophy had no more room for putting school names on the bottom. Jack was pretty sentimental and I was pretty stunned that he wanted me to have the trophy. Andover had won the Stewart Cup in 1994 and 1995."

To improve Sportsmanship, the following resolution is passed: "If the player with the ball notices that a player from either team is down with an injury [for which the referees have not yet stopped the game], the player in possession should knock the ball out of bounds; the subsequent throw-in should be comfortably received by the team originally kicking the ball out of bounds."

If a player receives a red card for any offense, he must sit out the next scheduled game; if a player receives a second red card, he must sit out the next two scheduled games; if a player receives a red card for fighting, he must sit out the next two games; if a player receives a second red card for fighting, he must sit out the remainder of the season.

WNEPSSA undertakes a consideration of 45-minute halves.

- 1997 Gary Cook ends his eleventh year as president of WNEPSSA amidst the thanks and plaudits of the membership.

If there is an electronic scoreboard/clock used at a match, it is the official time throughout the entire match; ideally, the timekeeper is a faculty member from the host school.

NEPSAC encourages all leagues and districts to conduct 90-minute matches.

Rules of play to be enforced:

1. The new keeper rule prohibits a keeper from playing a throw-in with his hands.