



Spring 2018



This is an exciting time for Ela Soccer. We continue to make improvements to the Soccerplex in anticipation for our June opening. Having our own 58,000 sq ft indoor training center will allow Ela Soccer to offer our players additional programs to further enhance their training and soccer experience. From the larger fields to futsal courts to new strength and conditioning camps and clinics to drop in soccer, our players will benefit greatly from the Soccerplex. Stay tuned for more information on our grand opening celebration.

Our recreational players kept kicking through the winter with over 500 players participating in the Skills Academy and Indoor League. We are looking forward to offering the indoor league at the Soccerplex next winter and are excited to see the program grow even further!

Our competitive teams have made great progress over the winter and are looking forward to a great Spring season.

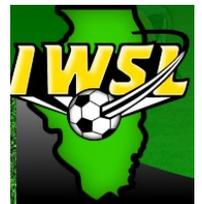
The end of Winter is also an exciting time for our high school players as they begin to commit to playing at the next level in college. To date Shelby Mephram has committed to play at Benedictine College and Raffael Consalvo has committed to play at Elmhurst College. Speaking to Coach DiTomasso at Elmhurst, he was very impressed with Ela Soccer's ability to develop players with both the technique and vision to play the game at high speed. We all wish Shelby and Rafa the best of luck at their Colleges next year.

Also one of our former players made the jump into the professional game! Giles Phillips played for Ela Soccer and for Carthage College (with our coaches Adam and AJ) and recently signed a professional contract with the English Club Queens Park Rangers in London.

Add to that the seven players chosen to represent Illinois as part of our state Olympic Development Program (ODP).

It was a Winter full of achievements for our club. We look forward to hearing about even more success this Spring.

-Doug Anderson, President



## Upcoming Events

April 24—Tye Dye Event

April 24—Rec & HS Boys Picture Day

May—Tryouts

June 3—Rec All Star Games

# The Campaign Continues

With a very long TO DO list every donation goes a long way - from flooring to bathrooms to gutters to paving to general repairs and cleaning - your support helps!

Thank you to all the families below for their contribution as well as all the families who have made anonymous contributions.

The Arendarczyk Family, the Block Family, the Bobrowski Family, the Chang Family, the Croonborg Family, the Garrow Family, the Gast Family, the Goodman Family, the Khomenko family, the O'Neill Family, the Pacheco Family, the Pasquesi Family, the Tisci Family, the Uhryniak Family, the Verden Family, the Virgilio Family, the Weger Family, the Wing Family, the Wormley Family, the Yoo Family, and the Zordani Family.

**Sneak peek before & after:**



To contribute go to [www.elasoccer.com/soccerplex](http://www.elasoccer.com/soccerplex) or call the office.

## Open Tryouts

### 2018-2019 Competitive Season

High School Girls—May 5th & 6th

Academy—May 10th

2011--2004 Boys—Week of May 14th

2011-2004 Girls—Week of May 21st

High School Boys—June 9th & 10th

# Thank you!

The recent Ela Night Out events were a huge success! Your support helped raise over \$1,000! Thank you to everyone for attending and a very big thank you to Chipotle Deer Park and Culver's Lake Zurich!



## College Scholarship Program

In 2012 the Ela Soccer Club College Scholarship was introduced to support our senior athletes who are attending college. To be eligible for consideration for the \$1000 scholarship, applicants

- must be a graduating High School Senior
- must be accepted to an accredited college for Fall 2017
- must be a current player of Ela Soccer Club.

Seniors wishing to apply can request an application by emailing Jackie at [Jackie.marais@elasoccer.com](mailto:Jackie.marais@elasoccer.com). Applications are due April 30th.



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## Get to know... Coach AJ

**1) What do you love about being a coach?** I love being a coach because I enjoy watching players grow, develop and learn not just as soccer players but as people too. I love being able to connect with kids and help them reach their ultimate goals no matter how near or far they may be.

**2) What position did you play growing up?** I played center back all my life, got rotated around to outside back and goalie, but mostly just center back in college.

**3) Who is your favorite coach and why?** My favorite coach growing up was probably Rob Salazar, he's in the kickboxing hall of fame and always pushed us and seemed to get the best out of me.



**4) What would your players say is your coaching catchphrase?** My coaching catch phrase I don't know if I have one. I would be very interested to see what my players would respond to that question. *(ed note: Any players of coach AJ should shoot us an e-mail and let us know, we're sure he has one!)*



**5) If you could go on vacation to anywhere in the world, where would it be?** If I could go anywhere in the world right now it would probably be to go back to England because the soccer culture there is just so rich. Everyday theres some kind of soccer being played it seems like.

**6) Any advice for players hoping to play in college?** My advice to players wanting to play in college would be to be open minded and set their goals. Even if they are the worst player on their current team, if they stay driven and motivated and work hard, they can do whatever they put their mind to. Don't pigeon hole yourself into one position. Being a well-rounded soccer player and having a little utility as far as position never hurt and I feel it makes an individual more well-rounded and understand the game a little bit better from all views.

## College Night

We hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> annual College Talk Night this year on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Coach Eddie Garza (Northern Illinois University) and Coach Ian Jindrich (Big Cat Goalkeeping) both presented on the college recruiting process, sharing their insight on the importance of doing the research, asking the right questions, and setting yourself apart from other athletes. Both coaches stressed how vital it is within the recruiting process to prepare the right way - by working hard in school and on the field, by learning as much as you can about the program and the coach you are hoping to play for, and by being the kind of player coaches want to recruit—friendly and outgoing, strong and confident, a leader on the field and in the classroom.

The night focused on picking the right school and program for you. What kind of school do you see yourself at? What are your interests outside of soccer? Can your school/program provide you with the academic, athletic, and social life you want for the next 4 years? Along with setting yourself apart from your teammates, and researching the programs that interest you, it is important to know what it is that will keep you happy and excited about soccer and school over your college career.

If you are interested in playing soccer after high school, we are excited to help you get there. We are here to help you navigate through the process as smoothly as possible, and answer any question you may have about recruiting or playing in college. Who better to help than the coaches and staff that already know you?

Bridget Frei, CAP Coordinator

# College Commitment Interviews

## Congratulations Shelby Mephram and Raffa Consalvo

### Shelby Mephram

**1) Where are you committed to play soccer next season?** I have committed to play soccer at Benedictine University.

**2) What made you decide to play there?** I decided to play at Ben U because it has smaller community, which I have always grown up with and like a lot. Also, when communicating with the Coaching staff they were always so open and welcoming making me feel a part of the family. They were very dedicated which I admired.

**3) What was the recruitment process like for you?** The recruitment process was a lot of contacting coaches and getting myself out there, such as doing ID camps. Once I narrowed down the colleges I wanted to go to I started directly emailing coaches showing interest. Staying in contact with the coaches throughout the season, updating them on games, was very important.

**4) How long have you played for Ela?** I have played at Ela for 3 years.

**5) Who is your favorite coach and why?** My favorite Coach would probably be Coach Paul. He has been my coach for the past 2 years and he has always pushed not only me but also my team to the full potential and best we can be.

**6) What is your favorite soccer memory?** I have so many soccer memories with my team, but one of my favorites is being able to go to Indianapolis with them. Being able to do the Escape room down there with the whole team and Paul was so much fun. Another memory would be going to all our team dinners to noodles and Buffalo Wild wings!

**7) What advice would you give to younger players looking to play in college?** Never give up even if things become challenging because those challenges will make you that special player coaches are looking for in college. Also remember school is just as important as soccer.

**8) What would you like to do after college?** After college I would like to get a job and probably my own place. I will most likely also get a dog because I really like dogs. I also will try to come back and help out with soccer!



### Raffa Consalvo

**1) Where are you committed to play soccer next season?** I will play at Elmhurst College.

**2) What made you decide to play there?** First of all, I could study engineering which is what I wish to continue forward with and also because of Elmhurst's Soccer team. The way the athletes showed themselves, the coaches and the team overall. I also feel I have a good relationship with their coach, Coach DiTomasso, which will make the journey much more fun!

**3) What was the recruitment process like for you?** Definitely stressful throughout it all. Whether it be in the beginning of the process trying to get in front of coaches and get your name out there or close to determining where you'll spend the next four years at with a couple options to choose from.

**4) How long have you played for Ela?** I have played for Ela since I was 6 years old playing with the u8 academy team. This year will be my twelfth year.

**5) Who is your favorite coach and why?** Picking one favorite coach is very tough because I've had many coaches throughout the years and have learned a lot from all of them especially since each coach has his own style of play. If I were to pick just one, I would have to pick Coach Gin because we see eye to eye on many points of the game. He expects so much out of me and is always pushing me to become better. Also because he was there when I first started out playing for Ela and had high expectations for me once I reached this period of my life.

**6) What is your favorite soccer memory?** My favorite soccer memory has to be in 2016 when the team went to Regionals Presidents Cup Final in Indiana after losing in the group stages the year before in the same competition. We won the final 1-0 after I scored the winning with about 10 minutes to go and looking back, I still remember hearing the parents go crazy and that feeling of accomplishment is something so addictive, it forces you to want to win all the time.

**7) What advice would you give to younger players looking to play in college?** For players that may be just beginning the recruiting process or still have a ways to go, I would say that playing this sport is a commitment just like anything else and if you are willing to put this in front of many other things and it's what you love to do, you will find ways to be successful. Also know that you are going to college to learn, not just to play soccer. Finding the perfect balance is difficult but it all comes back to whether you are willing to make sacrifices to play the sport you love and receive an education at the same time.

**8) What would you like to do after college?** After college, I will be continuing to play soccer wherever I can and possibly, depending on what route I want to take, go back to school and receive a masters or be a part of an internship and gradually move up the ladder from there.



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