

**Contact: Todd McGann  
Executive Director/COO  
Washington Youth Soccer  
253-476-2237 (phone)  
todd@wsysa.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington Youth Soccer Boys and Girls Competitive Coaches of the Year Named**

*FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON* (Monday, April 28) – Over the weekend Washington Youth Soccer bestowed awards and special recognition upon its most dedicated volunteers and coaches at the 2008 Annual Awards Dinner. Held in conjunction with SoccerPalooza, Washington Youth Soccer’s highly attended community event, more than 500 guests attended the dinner held at the Tacoma Convention Center to celebrate the accomplishments of state-wide nominees in eleven different award categories. In order to pay tribute to the different levels of coaching and play within the state, this was the first year that the Coach of the Year award was split into two categories: competitive and recreational. The 2008 Washington Youth Soccer Competitive Coaches of the Year award winners were Jeff Orwick of Spokane Valley, Washington (Girls) and Emerson “Skip” Robbins of Seattle, Washington (Boys).

Aptly described by one of his colleagues as a “major soccer force in Spokane,” Jeff Orwick has been a positive role model for his Girls Under-19 River City Soccer Team since they were young. Backed by years of experience as a referee and a National “D” License coach, Jeff has encouraged his team members to not only become better players on the field thanks to focused trainings and participation at high level tournaments, but more importantly to become better people off the field. A true believer in sportsmanship and integrity, Jeff always has a way of making his players feel special – from encouraging their participation in extra curricular activities to attending college recruiting interviews with them; Jeff does it all. In addition to his role as “second dad,” to many of his players, Jeff has also served as the Club’s President for the past six years and continues to make a positive impact on the entire Eastern Washington soccer community.

For more than 24 years, Skip Robbins has been making a difference in the lives of young athletes, particularly for the players of his current Boys Under-17 FC Shoreline International Team. Thanks to his involvement and dedication to develop and strengthen each of his players’ skills, Skip’s team which once played at the recreational level has steadily moved up the ranks to find success at the District and State levels. With a team roster that represents the cultural beauty and differences of more than ten countries, teaching the world’s game to this “extended family” has transcended more than just the game of soccer for all of them. Characterized as a “life coach” and the “definition of soccer” by his players, Skip’s positive influence on these players, their families, and the sport has made a lasting impression.

Washington Youth Soccer would like to congratulate both Jeff and Skip on being named the 2008 Boys and Girls Competitive Coaches of the Year! For a recap on all of Washington Youth Soccer's 2008 Annual Award Winners, please visit [www.wsysa.com](http://www.wsysa.com)

### **About Washington Youth Soccer**

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 126,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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