

Volunteer of the Month

In each issue of the CJN, this column will feature a volunteer from one of the many agencies or organizations that add to the quality of life in the Charlotte Jewish community.

Soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and soccer again in the spring. That's the schedule of volunteer youth soccer/basketball coach David Segal. Along with other JCC volunteer youth coaches, David mixes fun and enjoyment with the skills he teaches the JCC boys and girls. He was nominated for "Volunteer of the Month" by JCC Program Director

Cary Bernstein.

David coaches the under eight year olds, with some youngsters aged only four or five. His wife, Jaynie, is enthusiastic about the sports-minded Segal family. Seven year old Justin started playing soccer a year ago, and when the call was issued for coaches, David volunteered. Before he knew it, he was coaching two seasons of soccer and one of basketball! Five year old Jacob, who didn't care for soccer when he tried it as a four year old, is looking forward to playing this season.

Soccer games are usually Saturday afternoon, and practice is on Sunday afternoon for the younger children. The J's soccer teams are affiliated with other soccer leagues, while the basketball teams are "in house." When asked the name of the team, David explained that it depends of the color of the shirts each year. Purple shirts gave last year's team its name of "The Purple People," while the blue shirted spring soccer team was named "The Blue Icers." At press time, the color

of this year's soccer team shirts was unknown.

David was on his summer "break" when this interview was conducted. When asked why he coaches, David said he loves sports, played soccer as a child, and when Justin said help was needed, he gladly offered his services.

With each team composed of about fourteen children, and eight or nine youngsters playing at one time, there's a lot of action on the field. David calls it "a moving pile." He noted that the parents are very supportive, which adds to the enjoyment. Parents come to have fun too and often join in with their kids at the end of the practice session.

"We can always use more parent volunteers," David said. "For children this age, it isn't necessary to be a skilled athlete — a willingness to help and a good sense of humor are all that are needed. Call the JCC at 366-5007 to sign up you and your child for a JCC youth team sports experience!



David Segal

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