

I wanted to send everybody a note to update you on a few matters affecting our program. Registration is going very well and we're getting a lot of new volunteers to coach and administer the program. This is so important as we're expecting 3000 children this year. Due to the efforts of all our volunteers we won the Positive Coaching Alliance's Honoring the Game Award. The following is the press release that appeared in the Naperville Sun.

Positive Coaching Award

March 9, 2009
Sun Staff

For its work in creating a positive environment for youth athletes, St. Raphael Football has earned the Positive Coaching Alliance's Honoring the Game Award.

The national honor goes to schools or organizations serving athletes of high school age or younger that embody PCA's principles in using sports to teach life lessons. Honoring the Game Award winners will be recognized by the PCA at the eighth annual National Youth Sports Awards Ceremony at Stanford University's Maples Pavilion on April 24.

» [Click to enlarge image](#)



The St. Raphael football team, led by long-time coach Jim Brown (not pictured), has been selected as a winner of the Honoring the Game Award. Brown and a guest will be recognized at Stanford University on April 24 during the Positive Coaching Alliance's eighth annual National Youth Sports Awards dinner. Submitted photo

"Winning an Honoring the Game Award is an amazing achievement because of the amount of work it takes to establish and maintain a positive culture in the face of so many negative influences," said Jim Thompson, PCA's founder and executive director, in a release Friday. "While we honor the youth sports leaders, the real winners are the youth athletes and families who benefit from a positive sports culture."

Several things keyed St. Raphael's selection:

- Outstanding service to the 2,578 children, ages 6 to 13, who participate in the organization.
- A mission since the organization's founding in 1963 to "create a developmental opportunity for children, coaches and parents that could be experienced while children have fun learning to play football."
- Ensuring safe, fair play by paying full-scale to Illinois High School Association referees, who are considered administrative staff and who meet with coaches to collaborate in creating a positive environment.

Annual Survey Results

Thank you for participating in our annual survey. We got some very good suggestions for improvement as we do each year. We plan to make a few adjustments as the result. We're very pleased with the overall

results as we improved in every category from 2007. That's significant because the results were very positive in 2007. Thank you for all your hard work and support in making this a program that operates in the best interest of the children. The survey is administered and compiled by volunteer Jim Ensign.

Here are the results on a 4 point system;

Category	2007	2008
Communications	3.4	3.6
Check-in	3.3	3.6
Coaching	3.6	3.7
Team formation	3.5	3.6
Camp	3.2	3.4
Culture	3.5	3.6

Fields and Elections

As you recall, we sent you an email earlier this year asking you to support the Park District and School District's proposal to convert a portion of the land on West Street to football/soccer/lacrosse fields to replace fields lost to the cemetery expansion. The proposal 1A passed both the School and Park Boards and is now before the City Council.

Since we're forecasted to grow to over 3000 players in 2009, we'll need new fields in 2010. The Park Board candidates who supported 1A field proposal and are running for re-election are Suzanne Hart and Gary Heide. They deserve our support. Additional candidates who deserve our support are Jim Ensign; Rich Janor; Kirsten Young and Tim Belgio. I'm not familiar with the other candidates running for election. Jim Ensign is our survey volunteer.

There are many fine candidates running for the city council. However, I believe the following candidates will support the Park and School District decision on proposition 1A; Jim Boyajian for a 2 year term; Kenn Miller; Paul Hinterlong; Judy Brodhead; Karmala Martinez; and Joe McElroy. It is important to vote in the election.

Thank you

Jim Brown