

***“THE
FORWARDS
DARTED LIKE
FLASHES”***

**THE HISTORY OF
SOCCER IN UTAH**



by

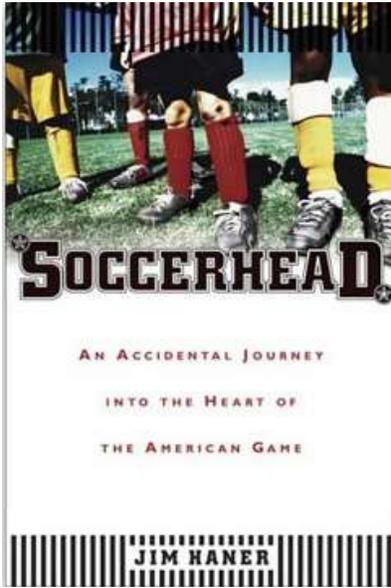
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INTRODUCTION

Like most Americans, if I thought about soccer—which was very seldom—I thought that it was a “foreign” game, that had only come to this country in the 1970s with Pele’. Football, baseball, and basketball, those were American games. Upon reading the book *Soccerhead: An accidental journey into the heart of the American game*¹, by



however, I realized how wrong I’d been. As he states, soccer is “...not a foreign game after all, ... it belongs to us by birthright, we owned it a long time ago, before we started forgetting everything we ever knew about our own history.” [p. 20] This collective amnesia about the history of soccer is as true in Utah as it is in the rest of the country, for I found a curious thing as I started to research this history: if you look at any history of Utah, even a history of sports, soccer seemingly does not exist. Noted Utah sports historian Dr. Larry Gerlach of the University of Utah claims little knowledge of Utah soccer history. Likewise, histories of

communities in Utah such as Eureka, in Juab County never even mention soccer, focusing instead on baseball teams. Yet as will be seen, Eureka was a powerhouse of soccer in the early 1900s and teams from there won the state championship on a number of occasions. Daily articles—sometimes more than one article a day—appeared in the Salt Lake and Ogden newspapers and in other newspapers around the state. The same is true for histories of counties and communities along the Wasatch front; they rarely mention soccer, even though games would draw thousands of fans throughout the 1920s and 1930s, and soccer writers such as William Service and H.O. Turville wrote detailed articles that appeared frequently in the *Salt Lake Telegram* and *Salt Lake Tribune*. Soccer is not mentioned in the *Utah History Encyclopedia* or any of the other general histories of the state. And it works both ways: the standard works on the history of soccer in America, Fould’s *America’s Soccer Heritage: A history of the game*² and

¹ *Soccerhead: an accidental journey into the heart of the American game* by Jim Haner. New York : North Point Press, 2006.

² *America’s soccer heritage: a history of the game* by Sam Foulds, Paul Harris. Manhattan Beach, California : Soccer for Americans, 1979

the *Encyclopedia of American Soccer History*³ by Roger Allaway, do not mention Utah. The National Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum, in Oneonta, New York, had no files on Utah soccer history in their otherwise comprehensive soccer research library, save for one obscure article in the 1924 edition of the *Spalding Soccer Football Guide*. So most of the research for this history for the period of the early 20th century through the 1930s came from newspapers through the University of Utah's Utah Digital Newspapers Index. For the later years, oral histories with players and officials in Utah, as well as the list of championship teams and the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame, maintained by the Utah Soccer Association.

Soccer is an ancient game. A form of it was played in China, in ancient Greece, and on both sides of the Atlantic for hundreds, if not thousands of years. In England in the late Middle Ages, whole villages would get together for a wide ranging game of kicking a stuffed leather ball over hill and dale; the games would go on for hours and sometimes result in mayhem and even deaths. It got to the point that the Mayor of London banned football in 1314, and King Edward II followed suit a few years later. Football was officially suppressed but the passion for the game was so strong that it continued to be played, even on pain of imprisonment. When the Jamestown settlers came to this continent in 1609, they found the Native Americans playing something similar, in which villages would play on a field that was up to three miles long, using a ball made of stuffed deerskin, and wagering everything they owned on the outcome. These games would go on for several days. It was left to the Victorians in England to bring some dignity to soccer, as they tried to do to just about everything else, and the F.A., the Football Association, was formed in 1863. A similar governing body soon followed in this country, and within a decade college students and immigrants were playing soccer on the east coast of the US. With so many immigrants coming from England to Utah, soccer followed them, and the first team in Utah was formed in Salt Lake City in 1882 (by contrast, soccer was not introduced to Brazil until 1888.). From the 1890s to World War II, soccer was as big a sport in urban Utah as any other, and was played by people as diverse as roughneck miners in hardscrabble camps and school kids in small communities such as Monroe, Richfield, Vernal, and even Panguitch.

³ Encyclopedia of American Soccer History by Roger Allaway, Colin Jose, David Litterer. Lanham, Maryland : Scarecrow Press, 2001.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, mining communities dominated soccer in Utah. Teams from Eureka and Carbon County battled it out for the Daynes Challenge Cup, first awarded in 1906, with teams from Salt Lake, Ogden, and Provo. Eureka was a powerhouse of soccer for many years before World War I, and won both the Daynes Challenge Cup and the inaugural Schubach Cup. World War I stopped play, but after the war, soccer revived and the center of the action shifted to the Wasatch Front. All through the 1920s, competition intensified for the state championship, between teams of immigrants from Europe. The first was the Caledonians, a Salt Lake based club made up of immigrants from Great Britain: Welsh, Scots, and British. Next came the Vikings, formed by Norwegians Marthinus Strand and Pete Ecker in 1922, that contained most of Utah's famous skiers, such as Alf, Karre, and Sverre Engen; Einar Fredbo, Halvar Hvalstad, and Axel Andresen. AC Germania, a German-speaking social club, formed a *fussbalmannschaft* in 1927, followed quickly by Hollandia. These clubs fought against teams sponsored by the railroads and smelters, along with squads from Ogden and Park City.

By the 1930s, the “golden age” of Utah soccer, the immigrant teams had come to dominate soccer in Utah. The Caledonians were the first to rise to stardom, followed by the Vikings in the middle years of the decade, and then AC Germania took over during the later 1930s. These three squads controlled the league all through the years of the Great Depression and the first months of World War II. Now they also had new cups to play for, with the introduction of the Strand Cup and the *Salt Lake Telegram* trophy. Even though they were the powers in soccer, they were not the only teams fighting for the prizes. Hollandia was still a contender, as were the Ogden Blue Pines, the Park City team, and a new entry, a powerful, fast team from Bingham. Other teams at the time were sponsored by Barr Chevrolet, a local dealership, Singer Sewing Machines, and the Oregon Short Line Railroad. Games were played at Ogden's Lorin Farr Park, at Cummings Field and later Rice Stadium on the University of Utah campus, and at Fairmont Park in Salt Lake City, and drew crowds that numbered in the thousands.⁴

World War II again interrupted soccer's development in the state, with the only people playing the sport being German and Italian POWs in their camps. A few of the players from the champion teams of the 1930s still

⁴ In the course of research for this history, I compiled a list of over fifty teams in Utah, and that only covers up to World War II.

played, those that were not in the military or working in war industries. But the war almost killed off soccer in Utah altogether. The sport stayed alive in Utah largely through the efforts of one man, Hermann Neumann, a member of AC Germania. Neumann was a tireless advocate for soccer, even a “fanatic” about the sport. He made himself a pest at school board and county commission meetings, always badgering local officials to create soccer programs for Utah’s youth and set aside soccer fields. He started a high school program at West High School, and with the help of Arthur Zander, another AC Germania member, was successful in creating a Utah high school soccer league by the 1950s that included teams from South, East, West, Highland, Olympus, and East high schools. He also organized all-star teams to play against squads from neighboring states in exhibition games.

In the 1960s, soccer underwent a revival in Utah. It was still played by immigrants and sons of immigrants, but a new element had been added: Hispanic and other ethnic teams. The Incas, a team composed mostly of immigrants from South America, became a favored team in the 1960s, joined by two teams of Greek immigrants that made for some hard-fought contests. The Vikings and AC Germania were still active, and indeed are the only two clubs formed in the 1920s that are still in existence today. Dedicated players would meet every Saturday at Fairmont or Sunnyside Park for regular games. It was in the 1970s, though, that soccer suddenly took off and became what one journalist called “the sport that ate suburbia.” There were three reasons for this: a new wave of Hispanic immigrants, from Central America and Mexico who brought their national game with them; the rise of the youth soccer movement; and the passage of Title IX of the US Code, which brought girls and women into the game. The Latinos who came to Utah in increasing numbers were just as passionate about soccer as the Europeans, and today comprise a significant percentage of people playing soccer in Utah. Youth soccer, which had simmered from early beginnings in the 1920s, exploded in the 1970s as baby boomer parents found a game that their children could play without fear of injury or rejection. Today there are over 47,000 young people enrolled in youth soccer programs, and that doesn’t even count the junior high and high school programs. Finally, Title IX—even though it was fought by Utah school systems—meant that girls who wanted to play sports finally had one to call their own, which led to not only junior high and high school girls soccer teams, but the highly successful college teams fielded by BYU, the University of Utah, and other Utah colleges. It was also in the 1970s that efforts began to bring a professional soccer team to Utah. The first teams,

the Golden Spikers, was quickly followed by the Utah Pioneers in the 1970s. They were both short-lived, as was the Salt Lake Sting of the 1990s. At the end of the 20th century, the Utah Blitzz showed real promise of bringing professional soccer to Utah, but despite winning national championships in 2001 and 2004, was ultimately caught up in world events and sadly, only lasted a few years. It wasn't until Major League Soccer granted an expansion franchise to Real Salt Lake in 2004 that professional soccer finally took root in the Beehive State. From those early days to the present, soccer has always had a home in Utah.

SAINTS, SOLDIERS, AND MINERS: 1890 - 1917

Here's a quote from a newspaper article about a soccer game:

"The team immediately took the ball into the visitor's territory and gave their custodian a merry time. After about ten minutes play from an open scrimmage in front of the visitor's goal Manlove put one through which completely beat Brown, their custodian. After this reverse the team seemed to pull themselves together and the other team's stronghold was in danger several times, but King was equal to the occasion and saved his charge twice in splendid style. Here a brilliant combined run by the forwards carried the ball into the other teams' front yard and a corner kick was awarded to the opponents. ...The kick which was taken by Bramley rebounded off the goalkeeper but was immediately after sent between the uprights by Smethurst. At the call of half time the score stood 2 goals to 0."

Except for the dated language, that passage could describe any game played today by Real Salt Lake, or the Lady Utes soccer team, or a match between two youth soccer teams in suburban Salt Lake. But it actually appeared in the *Eureka Reporter*, in the April 7, 1905, issue, describing a



game between the Eureka miners and the Salt Lake Rangers. The Eureka AFC⁵ went on to win 5-0, and was on their way to winning their first state championship two years later. By the time that game was played, soccer was well-established in Utah. Soccer came to Utah, as it did to most other places in the US, with immigrants. In the east coast and Midwest, immigrants and thus soccer

⁵ AFC: Association Football Club. Soccer was then known as Association Football, to distinguish it from American-style football.

were tied to industry, such as textiles and manufacturing. Utah's soccer experience was different in some minor but significant ways, for many of the immigrants came not for jobs but for their religion. The LDS church recruited heavily from England and northern Europe in its early years, and many early pioneers from the UK and Scandinavia brought soccer with them. The first known team in Salt Lake City was formed in 1882, and a later article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* showed a photo of a Salt Lake soccer team dated 1892. But converts to the LDS church were not the only immigrants who played soccer; many mining towns in central Utah, Carbon County, and Park City, had teams composed of Welsh, Cornish, and Scottish miners who were natural soccer players. In the 1890s there was no organized league play, but that did not stop enthusiasts from finding each other and playing soccer. For instance, the US Army's Sixteenth Infantry regiment, stationed at Fort Douglas, would issue a challenge in the local newspaper to any local teams. One such game, reported in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on December 12, 1893, was played on the Fort's parade ground between All Hallows College and the infantrymen. Even though the college boys were "very young and light," the game was "very close, resulting in favor of the soldiers one goal to nil. The article concluded "The best of good feeling prevailed and the teams propose to meet again in the near future."

In 1894, the Ogden Junior Football Club challenged the Weber State Academy to a game on Tabernacle Square, although there is no record of how that contest turned out. The festivities surrounding the 50th Anniversary of the coming of the pioneers to the Salt Lake valley included a number of soccer games. In July 1897, one such match was played at Beck's Hot Springs between a Salt Lake team and one from Diamondville, Wyoming, a coal mining town near Kemmerer; the winner played a team from Park City. The winner of all the games got gold medals from the Jubilee committee. The next year, the Salt Lake Y.M.C.A. played a game with the Salt Lake Rovers, the first named team to appear in the record. The Diamondville eleven came back in 1899 to play the Y.M.C.A. team.

Not all games were played in Salt Lake City, however. An article from the *Salt Lake Herald*, written in April 1900, describes a game played in Manti "some years ago":

"Among the outside Odd Fellows who have graced Salt Lake with their presence during the last two days are Drs W. J. and E. T. Hosford of Manti. These two brothers commonly go by the name of

the Siamese twins among the fraternity owing to the fact that they both wear mutton-chop whiskers and speak with an English accent. When these two doctors first located at Manti, some years ago, they endeavored to awaken an interest in the rurals to the extent of forming a football club. So successful were they in their project that some five year ago it was Manti's proud boast that it had a team that could lick creation. The enthusiasm spread to adjacent settlements for a time rivalry waxed strong in Sanpete, to spread even unto Springville. The Temple city proceeded to wipe the ground with all comers and develop affluence from the attendant gate money until one fine day they visited Salt Lake and played a game under Association rules. Manti went home again. In speaking of the lamentable affair at the Kenyon last night Dr Hosford said that from that day to this the interest in Association football had died a natural death with no immediate prospect of a speedy resurrection."

Economic and labor troubles kept the game from taking hold in the mining camps of Utah until a few years into the 20th century, but after that it took off among the tough Welsh and Cornish miners in little camps in Juab County and Park City, in the smelters and mills in Salt Lake, and in the coal camps in Carbon and Emery Counties. But the best team of the decade came from Eureka, in the Tintic Mining District of Juab County. The miners from Eureka—they never had an official name that has survived, although they sported natty maroon jerseys emblazoned with a big "E"—became a powerhouse in the years before World War I and dominated the sport in Utah for a number of years. An article in the *Salt Lake Herald* in March 1905 described a typical game, played in Eureka between the Salt Lake team and the "home team": "After some desultory

Eureka's Championship "Socker" Football Team



exchanges between the opposing halfbacks, Salt Lake pressed hard upon the Eureka stronghold. King, Eureka's goal keeper, saved two hot shots in brilliant style. The Eureka's ...assumed the aggressive and for some time made it hot for Claybourne, the Salt Lake custodian." The game was played in the midst of a rain storm, and by the second half the field had become "heavy," or muddy, wearing out both teams. It ended in a tie, with no score on either side. Even so, the 300 fans enjoyed the game. This was typical of play between the local teams during this period. The railroads would often give half price fares between the venues, and later would field their own teams.

Competition between Eureka and Salt Lake went back and forth, but more and more the Eureka team came to govern the series, often with lopsided scores like an April 1905 game against a "picked team" from SL, which Eureka won by a score of 7 to 1. Games were also being played in Salt Lake City at the time, between teams from All Hallows College and the Salt Lake Rangers. Other soccer



Salt Lake Association Football Club, 1905

contests took place around the same time between teams sponsored by the

Oregon Short Line, Bingham, the Highland Boy mine, Murray Smelter, and Park City. The Brigham Young College in Logan had a team, as did the soldiers from Fort Douglas. In May 1905, an "exceptionally strong" team from Provo, sponsored by the Jesse Knight Woolen Mill, played the Eureka miners. The headline in the *Eureka Reporter* after the game read "Provo bumped hard Tuesday"; the score was a humiliating 11 to 1.

But the main action was still between Eureka and Salt Lake AFC. By the end of 1905, Eureka stood at the top of the Utah State League, undefeated. Their opponent for the state championship was the Salt Lake

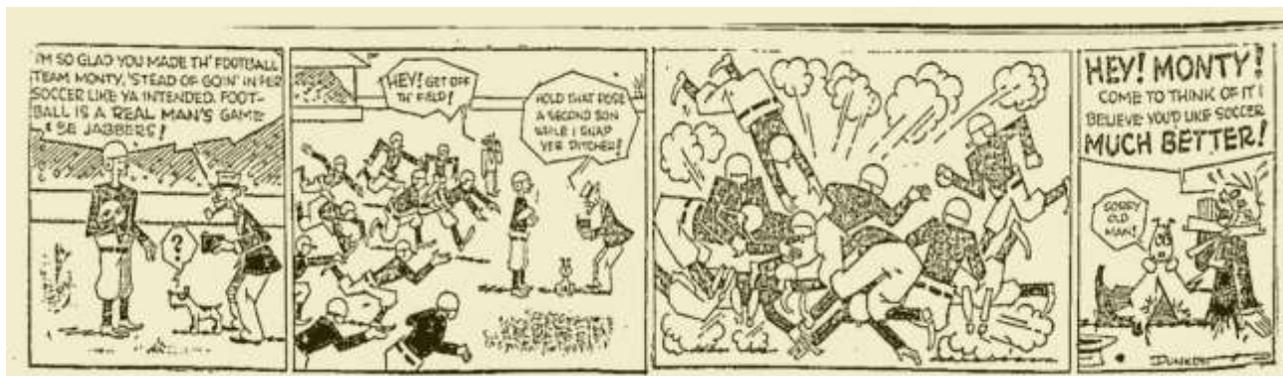
AFC, also undefeated, although Eureka had scored more goals. In a game played on Cummings Field, at the University of Utah, on Christmas Day 1905, before a “small but



appreciative crowd,” the two teams fought for the championship. The crowd was small not only because it was a holiday, but because the conditions were so bad. “The weather was anything but pleasant and the ground being covered with ice and snow made good playing an extremely difficult task.” Still, the undefeated miners controlled the game from the opening whistle and won the championship, 3 to 0.

Cummings Field, University of Utah,
1910
(University of Utah
Special Collections photo)

Just as Eureka was poised to win the state championship, two British all-star teams, the Corinthians and the Pilgrims, were touring the US to “demonstrate to the American public the advantages of association football as a sport over the game played by the college teams [i.e., modern American football]. Sir Charles Kirkpatrick and the Pilgrims stopped in Ogden on their way across the country and the captain of the team said “I cannot see much merit in the football game as played by the American colleges. It is involved, unscientific, and puts a premium on brute strength. The game we play is skillful, scientific, and easy to understand.” Well! The reactions to this were soon to come, and one was published in the *Salt Lake Herald* in November 1905. Written by a New York sports writer, the first article was headlined “New York Sporting Writer Declares Soccer Football will never be popular in this country.” The same writer later penned another article titled “Let American Football Alone.” Printed in the *Herald* a few days later, it took a chauvinistic tone, saying “American intercollegiate football is a purely American game. We don’t want to be English, don’t you know?” [SLH 11/19/05] This attitude among Americans was a portent of soccer’s troubles in the future.



After their defeat by Eureka, the Salt Lake AFC regrouped, reorganized, and came back the next year ready to play. By this time, the teams had something to play for, the Daynes Cup, inspired by the trophies awarded in the English F.A.'s tournaments. It was donated by J. Fred Daynes, founder of Daynes Jewelry, a prominent Salt Lake City businessman. According to his grandson, who still lives in Salt Lake City, Mr. Daynes was a very civic minded man and wanted to do something for the city in which he lived, so he designed and created this trophy and donated it to the Utah soccer league.



Daynes Cup

Described as “an elaborate piece of silver, worked with masterly skill,” the cup remained the goal for Utah teams for decades, even after the introduction of other trophies in later years. Eureka played the Salt Lake AFC for very first Daynes Cup championship (which, until 1939, was the same as playing for the Utah State Championship) in a game held in May 1905, but this time the miners went down to defeat, as Salt Lake won the cup, defeating not only Eureka (by a score of 4 to 3), but Park City and Ogden, as well as teams from Sunnyside and Castle Gate in Carbon County.⁶

For the rest of the decade, the two teams traded the Daynes Cup back and forth, with Eureka winning it again in 1907. At the conclusion of

⁶ The original Daynes Cup, sadly, was at a local jeweler to have more names added in the 1980s when the store was robbed and the cup was stolen. The base of the cup is at the offices of the Utah Soccer Association, but the cup itself has never been recovered. Of the four other soccer cups mentioned in this history, only two are still in existence: the Strand Cup is in the Alf Engen collection at the Alf Engen Ski Museum in Park City, Utah, and the Van Dongen trophy is in the possession of Willard Hansen. The other two, the Schubach Cup and the *Salt Lake Telegram* trophy, have since disappeared.

the 1907 contest, held in Provo at the “B.Y. University grounds, ...Uncle Jesse Knight in a fitting speech presented the cup to the Eureka team.” It was the last time Eureka was to enjoy such honors, for the Salt Lake AFC came back to win the cup for the next three years straight, and Eureka was never again a serious contender for the Daynes Cup. One reason for the winning streak might have been because the Salt Lake team had begun recruiting experts from the UK, such as Alex “Sandy” McWhirter, a Scot, who joined the team in 1907. “It is claimed for him that he wears medals as an exponent of the socker game,” wrote the *Salt Lake Herald*. The article went on to note that “Salt Lake socker [sic] players are jubilant over securing an expert of the game to play with the Salt Lake team this season.” A later article described him as a “rattling good socker player [who] will be seen in the lineup of the Salt Lake team.” Other teams trying to win the championship were Park City, a consistent loser, and Ogden, who would not win a championship until after World War I.



SALT LAKE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM IN ACTION.

March 1907 saw the introduction of the first of Utah’s soccer writers, William Service, described as a “well-known soccer authority” in a 1913 article. Service played professionally in Scotland for the Clyde team. After he came to Utah, where he worked as a bookkeeper for a planing mill in Salt Lake City, he continued his interest in soccer. Beside his detailed and thorough descriptions of matches in the *Salt Lake Herald*, Service was also the head of the Utah Association Football Union and worked hard on getting soccer accepted into Utah high schools. Others soon followed, such as

D.A. Lindsay and John Campbell, both of whom wrote who wrote in the *Eureka Reporter*. Lindsay was obviously partisan; in an article written in the *Eureka Reporter* in April 1908, he described a player from Eureka who had switched to the Salt Lake team as “traitorous.” Campbell also served as the manager of the Eureka team in the years leading up to World War I. Besides being sports reporters, all three men acted as boosters for soccer, never missing an opportunity to tout the benefits and thrills of the sport in their many articles.

Others were playing soccer besides those vying for the top state honors. A *Tooele Transcript* article written in March 1906 noted “Boys to play soccer says the headline[,] it has been the fathers of the boys up to now.” And an article in the *Ogden Standard Examiner* in 1908 described an informal game between teams from Ogden and Salt Lake on the Tabernacle Square in Ogden that was attended by over 500 people. Even though the game ended in a 1-1 tie, it was enjoyed by all. Provo’s “newly organized team” traveled to Eureka in 1908 for a friendly [i.e., exhibition or non-league] match, and despite “plucky” play, were beaten handily by the much more experienced miners, with the final score being 7-2. Another friendly was played between the Eureka team and one from Silver City, another mining town in Juab County. Even though the Eureka team was “hardly in good form,” they were able to down the Silver City eleven 5-0.

After their last win in 1909, Eureka was no longer a contender for the state title, even though they fielded teams up until World War I. There was still plenty of soccer being played, however, and miners and mill workers were still in the game. At the same time, soccer was enjoying a resurgence in Utah’s colleges and schools. The 1910 *UTONIAN*, the yearbook of the University of Utah, contained a brief notice about Association Football: “The fall of 1910 was productive of some little interest in soccer. Coach Bennion invited fifteen men, practically new at the game, to try their skill for the “U” against the Scotch and English stars who made up the Garfield [smelter, on the west side of the Salt Lake valley] and Salt Lake clubs. The superior strength and speed of the Utah boys matched the skill of their opponents and a two to two tie with Garfield and a three to four loss to Salt Lake resulted.”

In March of that same year, an article appeared in the *Salt Lake Herald* advocating the adoption of soccer so that Utah colleges would have a fall sport. It was written by H. W. Ansell, secretary of the Soccer Boosters club. Apparently the LDS church had banned American football from its

campuses, and Ansell was trying to get them to adopt soccer as a substitute. Exhibition games were also played on the Granite High School campus between teams of Salt Lake players, to try to interest young men in taking up soccer. Another advocate for soccer in schools was John Morgan, of Garfield, who, it was noted, “for six years had played on one of the fast teams of Liverpool, England,” and “during that time he never received an injury more than minor bruises.” Leagues between Salt Lake City grade schools were organized and a series played in the fall of 1910, but despite the efforts of Ansell and Morgan, American football was already too entrenched in the college sports system. Soccer at that level remained a playground activity, not a letter sport, for more than half a century. There was talk of establishing a University of Utah team in 1913; an article in the *Daily Utah Chronicle* mentioned playing against local teams “and the B.Y.U. eleven.” As part of a Thanksgiving celebration in 1916, the freshmen class soccer team challenged one of the local teams—“presumably a squad from Ogden,” the article noted--although there is no record of which team they played or what the outcome was.

Play for the Daynes cup did not slow, however. Fort Douglas, Provo, and Park City all put teams together, and played throughout the spring of 1910. In the championship game, played between Park City and Salt Lake, the “Park boys were outplayed and were defeated by a score of 5-3.” In a lament familiar to every sports fan, the *Park Record* noted that “It was defeat for Park City all round—and no logical reason can be given for it either.” In the winter of 1910, four Salt Lake City teams got together and formed the Salt Lake Soccer Football Association, which was to be a strictly city league. It consisted of the Salt Lake team, the Fort Douglas team, the Garfield United team, and a new one, sponsored by the Building Trades union. Park City and Ogden were purposely excluded, “so as not to conflict with Daynes Cup state play.” These four teams were soon joined by a team from the Oregon Short Line railroad.

Soccer was being played elsewhere in Utah, too. In June 1911 Carbon County teams from Price, Castle Gate, and Sunnyside played a series of games that were watched by large crowds.



Utah Fuel soccer team, Carbon County, early 1900s

In the first game, between Castle Gate and Sunnyside, “Sunnyside took advantage of an opening and quickly ...secured a goal,” followed by another soon afterwards. “It looked blue for Castle Gate, the swift Sunnyside forwards darted like flashes, [but] the bull dog tenacity of Castle Gate soon told, and if one may state, their hardier physical condition was wearing better under the strain.” Castle Gate won by a score of 3-2. The referee, Dick Parman, was from Hiawatha. The next month a team from Scofield played the Rio Grande Railroad team, surprise winners of that year’s Daynes Cup, the game ending in a tie. Winter Quarters also fielded a team that summer, which played the other local teams as well as visiting teams from Salt Lake.



Winter Quarters (Carbon County) soccer team, 1911

The next year Eureka tried to revive their soccer team. A February 1912 article noted “For a number of years Eureka had a soccer team that could beat anything in the state without the least difficulty but last year the sport was dead here.” No explanation is given as to why the Eureka team had disbanded, but the article went on to note that “...some of the old timers are busy and ... they will have a team which will make the fastest of them go home.” It finished by urging the community to “lend their support and do everything to encourage the players.” The next month, meetings were held to reorganize the team, a president and other board members elected, and a captain, Harry Heywood, was selected. At the meeting, “communications were read from the Utah State League” and Joseph Aspden, one of the “old timer” players, was selected to travel to Salt Lake to

represent the Eureka team. Aspden was “instructed to line up in favor of the Utah association becoming a member of the National football organization...” It was noted that “There is absolutely no reason why the Daynes cup should not come here year after year. Eureka’s team was the pioneer in playing the truly scientific game in the western states and the rest of the country took due notice of the fact. The available material is good, there are several young lads who have been taught the game here and they are to be encouraged, so let the whole town pull together for the success of the sport.”

Practices were held and the team was ready, but a new problem presented itself: transportation. The railroads were no longer willing to offer discount fares for teams and fans, and the Eureka team found themselves with no one to play. Provo and Salt Lake teams refused to travel so far and also refused to play on Sundays, the only day the miners had off. Even when they could find an opponent, the Eureka team was a shadow of its former glory. They were not able to compete for the Daynes Cup for the reasons stated above, and even when they did play, they were defeated by teams such as that from the Knight woolen mills in Provo. And to add insult to injury, townspeople in Eureka persisted in stealing the goal posts on the playing field. The team kept trying all through 1913, but was finally reduced to playing the “old war horses” of the former team. At least the younger team could beat them, and “considerable money changed hands on the game.” In 1916, Mammoth, a nearby mining town, fielded a team, and the Eureka players finally had a team to play against. The more experienced Eureka team defeated the Mammoth one—which did not have proper uniforms or equipment—by a score of 8-2 in a September game.

1916 also saw the advent Schubach Cup, which was fall season. The Daynes so the new cup gave over the state for the other September 1916, a arranged between Ogden, Caledonians and Arthur, same team as Garfield. At Eureka was able to revive the series and winning the tournament in November of



Schubach Cup

of a new trophy, the awarded for play in the Cup was for spring play, inspiration to teams all half of the season. In schedule of games was Salt Lake, Eureka, the which was basically the last the team from its fortunes, sweeping inaugural Schubach that year. For this feat,

they were awarded watch charms made of silver in the form of a soccer ball, engraved with the name of the player and the name of the donor. They also got to keep the cup in Eureka until the next season's play.⁷

By now, however, Europe was embroiled in war, and within six months of the awarding of the Schubach Cup, America was as well. A number of local soccer players joined the military, including Ed Simpson of the Mammoth team, who was not a naturalized citizen of the US. Others from the Eureka team were Jimmy Denver and former captain Fred Herring, who joined the Air Service. At the last recorded game before play stopped because of the war, Eureka was defeated by the Arthur team by a score of 3-0, because of the loss of three or four players "who have joined the colors." After that, soccer disappeared from Utah until well after the war.

⁷ As an interesting aside, there was apparently a very intense and not-very-friendly business competition between Daynes Jewelers and Schubach Jewelry, which was perhaps the reason that Schubach decided to create a cup and sponsor a tournament.

THE IMMIGRANTS DOMINATE UTAH SOCCER: 1917 - 1930



Turner Love,
West High
School
soccer
player, 1925
(USHS
photo)

There is little evidence of anyone playing soccer in Utah during World War I. German naval POWs, captured in the Pacific when the US entered the war in 1917, and German and Austro-Hungarian aliens who were in the US at the same time were interned at Fort Douglas, and they are known to have kicked a soccer ball during their confinement. The sailors had played while in captivity in the Pacific, before being transferred to Fort Douglas⁸. In the summer of 1917, the sailors organized a *turnverein*, or athletic club, and soccer was a part of that, but there was no organized league play recorded by the Utah Soccer League during the war years, and both Daynes and Schubach Cup play were suspended for the duration. It's unlikely, given the interest in the sport in the preceding decades, that no "forwards darted like flashes" or no teams played in a "plucky" manner and no shots were taken on goal, but if they did, it was in the form of pick-up games on local lots. But nor did it die out altogether during the war. Even in small towns like Richfield and Elsinore, and elsewhere in Millard County, the schools bought soccer balls for the children, which were "immensely enjoyed." At the University of Utah, physical education was made mandatory for all men in April 1917, as soon as the U.S. entered the war, and soccer was part of the program.

A few years later, a "history-making" game in Vernal between Uintah High School and the Wilcox Academy was attended by over 350 students. In the years immediately after the war, many small town newspapers like the *Davis County Clipper*, the *Kane County Standard*, the *Parowan Times*, and the *Morgan County Independent* ran a sports column called "Hugh Bradley Says" that regularly featured news about U.S. and international soccer teams. One column reported that a Scottish soccer star refused an offer of \$50,000 to play, while others in UK were being paid \$25 a day. At the same time, Joe Dimaggio was getting \$25,000 to play baseball.

⁸ Personal communication with Ray Cunningham, 7/16/08

By the time people began thinking about and playing league soccer again, the center of soccer competition had shifted away from the remote mining camps like Eureka and had settled in the Wasatch Front, where it would remain into the present era. Economic and labor troubles kept life in the small mining towns too unsettled during these decades for people to have time to play sports, whereas in the cities, residents could go to their day jobs and then play soccer on the weekends. Daynes Cup competition resumed in the spring of 1920, with Ogden finally putting together a winning team. The Salt Lake Caledonians won the following year, and by 1922 the soccer leagues were back in full force.



Salt Lake Soccer Club, 1922

(Harold O. Turville, bottom row right; George Herbert Clapham, top row, 3rd from right)
[photo courtesy Marshall Henrie]

Another team on the field at this time was the Salt Lake Soccer Club, which won the state championships in 1923 and 1924. Typical of the players on the teams of the period was a recent emigrant from Leeds, England, George Herbert Clapham. Clapham had fought in the trenches in World War I, and came to the U.S. in 1920, where he worked as a baker. Besides singing in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Clapham played soccer, as he had in his native England. For their win, they not only got possession of the Daynes Cup Trophy for those years, they were given pins by the

Utah Soccer Football Union, a predecessor of today's Utah Soccer Association.

Championship pins awarded by Utah Soccer Football Union, 1923. Each team member's name was engraved on the back of the pin.

[photos courtesy Marshall Henrie]



Winter Quarters and Price resumed play that year, as did Park City, as ever striving for a Daynes Cup win. Their hopes were dashed by a new Salt Lake club, Hollandia, made up of immigrants from the Netherlands, who beat the Park City eleven 2-1 in a game played in bad weather but with “a very good turnout of spectators.” The weather was so bad in the fall of 1922, in fact, that play for the Schubach Cup was suspended, with the Caledonians on top of the league.



Salt Lake Soccer Club with Daynes Cup trophy, 1923

(Harold O. Turville, bottom right; George Herbert Clapham, front row, 2nd from right)
[photo courtesy Marshall Henrie]

The following year Ogden reorganized its soccer club and set out to regain championship honors. A new team had entered the competition from Ogden, the Modern Woodmen of America⁹. In games held at Lorin Farr park (where Ogden's rodeo grounds and fairgrounds are today; a large modern soccer complex is nearby), the two teams from Ogden battled it out to see who would play for the spring Daynes Cup. In the meantime both Ogden teams traveled to Salt Lake to play such clubs as the Salt Lake Rangers, the Salt Lake Rovers, the Caledonians, and Hollandia. Ogden was looking to the future as well; A.P. Larson, the Ogden commissioner of streets, was assigned the task of investigating whether Monroe Park in Ogden would be a suitable site for a dedicated soccer stadium. Ogden's Modern Woodmen made it to the finals of the Daynes Cup that year, but lost to Hollandia 2-0 in the final game held at Cummings Field on the University of Utah campus on June 2, 1923. League play finished later that month, when the Ogden eleven were "easily defeated" by the Salt Lake Caledonians, 5-0. Utah soccer even made the 1923-24 edition of the *Spalding Official Soccer Football Guide*. An article by William Service, who was still reporting on soccer for Utah newspapers, described the 1923 season as "the most successful in the history of the game in Utah." Service went on to note that the "Salt Lake Rangers are now using some native-born boys who are playing the game remarkably well."



1. Taylor; 2. Binnie; 3. Dransfield; 4. Elliott; 5. Parker; 6. Smith; 7. Turnblom;
8. N. Devree; 9. McKay; 10. Pedlar; 11. Drysdale; 12. Wakeford; 13. Heikens;
14. Bruin; 15. Quick; 16. Turner; 17. S. Devree

⁹ The Modern Woodmen of America is a fraternal benefit society, like the Elks Club or the Eagles.

Ogden soccer team, 1922

Later that summer, Thomas Cahill, secretary of the United States Soccer Football Association, visited Ogden. At the time, various groups nation-wide were trying to establish an American professional soccer league that would compete with European and South American leagues, and could be affiliated with FIFA, the world governing body of professional soccer. The U.S. Football Association, the American Soccer League, and Cahill's U.S.S.F.A. were among many groups trying to scramble to the top of the professional soccer heap in the U.S., and the resulting controversy, acrimony, and disharmony created by this fight caused FIFA to wash its hands of the Americans. This set American soccer back years. Fortunately, none of this affected Utah, where semi-professional league play continued unabated, among people who just loved the game and wanted to play.

And play they did. By the time Cahill had come and gone, teams all over the Wasatch Front were practicing for the fall league, and hoping to win the Schubach



Cup. Four teams signed up for the fall league, three of them from Salt Lake: the Salt Lake AFC, the Rangers, and the Caledonians. Ogden was the only team out of the Salt Lake valley to join in the competition. Play began in September, but as always, the weather was a factor; several times, games had to be postponed because of storms or deep mud on the fields. Even into November, the various teams continued to play benefit games such as a contest between the Caledonians (usually called the "Callies" in the newspaper accounts) and an all-star team. Schubach Cup finals were held in Ogden in December, with the Callies emerging victorious.

By this time a new team had entered the annual competitions, the Vikings of Salt Lake City. Composed mostly of Norwegians, the Vikings would become a powerhouse in the 1930s, and are one of the only two clubs formed during this period that are still in existence. Also in 1924 a new voice emerged for soccer in Utah, Harold O. Turville. Born in Nottingham,

Vikings, 1922. Peter Ecker, back row left; Marthinus Strand, back row right [Willard Hansen photo]



England, in 1888, he came to Utah in 1913 and went to work for the Pullman Railroad Car company. In Utah, he found a soccer community that was thriving, but needed his home-grown skills as a player and organizer. "Literally born to soccer," he had already garnered a large number of soccer medals playing for

Harold O. Turville



the Hyson Green Olympics in England, so he quickly became a positive force in Utah soccer. Turville led the Salt Lake team to seven championships, including three state titles, as an outside left wing, and was selected to play for the US Soccer Football Associations' national all-star team in 1928-1929. Besides his services a player, Turville was a superb organizer and booster of soccer as well. He organized the Salt Lake Junior High School Soccer League, and coached a championship team at Jackson Junior High for years. He served as the secretary of the Utah Soccer Union for twelve years, until he relocated to Oregon in 1934. But it was as a writer for the old *Salt Lake Telegram* that Turville left a mark that endures to this day. For almost ten years, he wrote long, detailed analyses of local games, bringing a professionalism to soccer sports writing in Utah that has not been equaled since, even in

modern times. Turville died in Oregon in 1942, but was nominated for the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1975, and enrolled in the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame in 2007.

One thing Turville wrote about was the 1924 Olympic games, which increased interest in soccer in Utah. It was the first time that a US national soccer team had participated in the Olympics and articles appeared throughout the spring about the team's progress. In Utah, the local soccer leagues played benefit games to raise money for the team, selecting teams from all the various clubs, which were then named the Corinthians and the Olympians. The US team advanced in the first round by defeating Estonia, but were then beaten by Uruguay, the eventual gold medalists. In other national news, four Utah soccer officials also joined the US Football Association of Referees around the same time. These four, by joining the national association were touted as "...the greatest step in the advancement of the sport that would be taken in the state."

Play for Daynes Cup in 1924 was held throughout the spring and early summer, between the Salt Lake Rovers, the Salt Lake Rangers, the Caledonians, the Vikings, and the Ogden city team. Despite valiant efforts by Ogden, once again a Salt Lake team took home the cup. For the next year, several more teams were planning to enter the race, including ones from Magna, the Arthur smelter, Park City, and even one composed of members of the Wasatch Mountain Club, but it was a newcomer, the Utah Copper team from Bingham, that ended up winning the Daynes Cup in 1925. At the same time, a series of articles appeared in the *Ogden Standard Examiner*, written by Ogden soccer star Albert Dransfield, who had been a standout on the Ogden championship team in 1921. These articles offered advice and training tips for anyone who wished to be a soccer player, such as "follow the rules of sensible living every day," but "don't diet." He also advised that "a lemon without sugar is valuable to all players," and sleeping with the windows open to get plenty of fresh air. Of course he also offered tips that were more specific, such as dribbling and trapping a tennis ball for practice. Some of the articles in the eight-part series dealt with "Hints to a Captain," "How to coach," and "How to shoot." The *Standard-Examiner* editorialized that soccer should be taught in the schools in Ogden, in part because "it has a longer season than rugby, and fewer injuries result. ... In it you can get your shins kicked, but a kick now and then may only serve to give the blood better circulation."

No results were listed in the fall Schubach Cup series, and the next year Ogden citizens were debating whether to even enter the Daynes Cup competition for the spring of 1926. Soccer enthusiasts prevailed, however, and during the spring the Ogden team traded victories back and forth with the powerful Bingham team, sponsored by Utah Copper.



Just before the finals, Ogden Captain Oswald Liptrot, threatened to switch to the Bingham eleven, expressing “dissatisfaction at the conduct of the [Ogden] players regarding practice games.” Liptrot’s threat must have worked, for the Ogden team shaped up and he was listed as their captain for several more years. Ogden also recruited a star player from Seattle, Bill Coleman, who was the leading goal scorer in that city’s soccer league. Neither Liptrot nor Coleman nor any other player helped Ogden in the Daynes Cup contest, however, as the Utah Copper team from Bingham once again dominated the tournament, despite good runs by both Ogden and the relatively new Vikings team from Salt Lake City. By the end of June, the Bingham team was so far ahead that a meeting of all soccer leagues in the state was held and it was decided to suspend the rest of the season owing to the hot weather. A team of all-stars from the league was chosen to play Bingham. The all-star team included Liptrot from Ogden, H.O. Turville from Salt Lake City, and two players from the up and coming Vikings of Salt Lake. The teams met in Salt Lake on July 4th in a friendly game, which resulted in a 2-2 tie.

For the fall season, one new team, the Salt Lake Sparta, entered the league. Sparta is a common name for soccer teams in Europe, and little is known of the team’s Utah origins. There is still a Sparta club in Salt Lake

City, but it has no connection with the older team. Another change was the Ogden team, which became the Ogden Blue Pines. Sponsored by the Ogden grocer Scowcroft & Sons, the team was named for one of their



Ogden Blue Pines, 1930

brands of coffee. The name change did them some good, for they quickly took over the Schubach Cup competition, and in September beat the championship Bingham team by an impressive four goals to one. Their elation over this victory only lasted a month, before they were beaten for the first time all season by the Vikings of Salt Lake. The final game was between the Blue Pines and the new Sparta team, who had beaten Bingham on their home field, “a feat which has never previously been performed by any club.” Unfortunately, no record exists of who won the Schubach cup that year. After a win by the “clever” Caledonians in the Daynes Cup competition in 1927, Ogden went on to dominate the spring series for the next three years, 1928-1930. Their main opponent during these contests was the rising star of Utah soccer, the Vikings, of whom more will be heard later.

Soccer grew in popularity in Utah throughout the 1920s, and even made inroads with the “fairer sex,” as women were commonly referred to. Part of this could be attributed to the American tour of the Dick Kerr’s Ladies team from England, who came to the U.S. for exhibition matches

against US professional teams in 1922. Even though they didn't come to Utah, their tour, during which they played against US professional men's teams and scored more goals overall than anyone, was a feature in the local newspapers the whole time. A short article in the *Southern Utonian and Beaver County Press* that same year noted that "American women explain the fact that Great Britain maintains more than fifty women's soccer football teams by saying that there are more women than men in Great Britain, whereas the United States, where given time or football [soccer]." At the Women's Athletic Union soccer team as early as games were a regular programs. "It is new to it an interesting and put lots of pep into it." the *Daily Utah* newspaper, soccer was women's PE classes. week was required to be team, and in 1932 a on the southwest corner dedicated with an area soccer games and practices. Soccer at the University of Utah did not survive the Great Depression, however, and despite the interest, women's soccer at a collegiate competitive level did not take hold at the University nor anywhere else in the state for almost fifty years.



reverse is true in the the women are not opportunity to go in for University of Utah the started a women's 1923, and soccer feature of their the girls, but they found snappy game and they By 1927, according to *Chronicle*, the student added to freshman Eight hours practice per a member of the soccer Women's Athletic Field, of the campus, was set aside specially for

The “Golden Age” of Utah Soccer: The 1930s

The 1930s was the Golden Age of Utah soccer, but just like the previous decade, it was also dominated by immigrants. The Ogden Blue Pines won the Daynes Cup in 1930, and Utah Copper came back to win it in 1931, but after that the series was dominated by three teams that were mostly composed of immigrants from Europe: the Caledonians, the Vikings, and a new entry, AC Germania. The Caledonians, composed of immigrants from the United Kingdom, was the oldest, being formed from the Caledonian Social Club, which was started in 1892. The first mention of the Caledonians soccer team was in 1913. The Vikings came next, in 1922. Finally AC (Athletic Club) Germania, which consisted almost solely of Germans and whose official language was German, was formed in 1927. Like the Vikings, it is still in existence today.

The Caledonian club has already been described in the period between 1900 and the end of the 1920s as a superior team, due to its many experienced players. They won the Daynes Cup four times from its inception in 1906 until 1927. The same held true during the 1930s. Their stars included a family of four, led by William E. “Billy” Fox. Along with his sons Harold, Moroni, and Ernest, Billy Fox formed the core of the award-winning Caledonian team through the early 1930s.



Billy and Ernest Fox

Billy, who had learned the sport in his native England and played for almost 30 years, was a defensive back, while Harold played outside left forward. Both Moroni and Ernest were versatile, all-around field players. Ernest and Moroni also played for the Oregon Short Line team for a short time, and by 1932 Moroni had joined the Vikings, becoming one of the few players on that team who were not of Scandinavian descent. Fox and the others, virtually all of whom were either natives of the United

Kingdom or descended from UK families, won the Daynes Cup and State Championships in 1935 and 1936.

The Vikings soccer club was started by Norwegian Victor Johansen in 1922, and played through the 1920s without much notable success. By the 1930s, however, Johansen had built up a club of excellent players and it showed in their wins of the state championship for three years straight, from 1932-1933.

By soccer club Utah's best known slopes such as Engen; Einar Hvalstad, and the world of jumping, all of household names, championships all Engen is often of Utah skiing, for



Deseret News Vikings vs. Caledonians, 1930s ski school, and for helping choose the site for Sun Valley and Snow Basin ski areas. Today the Alf Engen Ski History Museum in Park City honors his accomplishments in winter sports. But according to his son Alan, those who knew him well



Alf Engen (4th from left) on Norwegian team, 1927

1932, the Vikings boasted some of skiers, stars on the Alf, Karre, and Sverre Fredbo; Halvar Oskar Andreason. In competitive ski these men were vying for national through the 1930s. Alf thought of as the father starting the popular ski school, and for helping choose the site for Sun Valley and Snow Basin ski areas. Today the Alf Engen Ski History Museum in Park City honors his accomplishments in winter sports. But according to his son Alan, those who knew him well thought that Alf was actually a better soccer player than a skier. He was already a celebrity in his native Norway as a soccer star when he came to the U.S. in the 1920s, and quickly came to stand out as the most versatile player on the Vikings team as a center midfielder. He could score from thirty yards out with either foot, and was known for his ability to head the ball into the net. His brothers, Sverre and Karre, were also part of this powerhouse team.

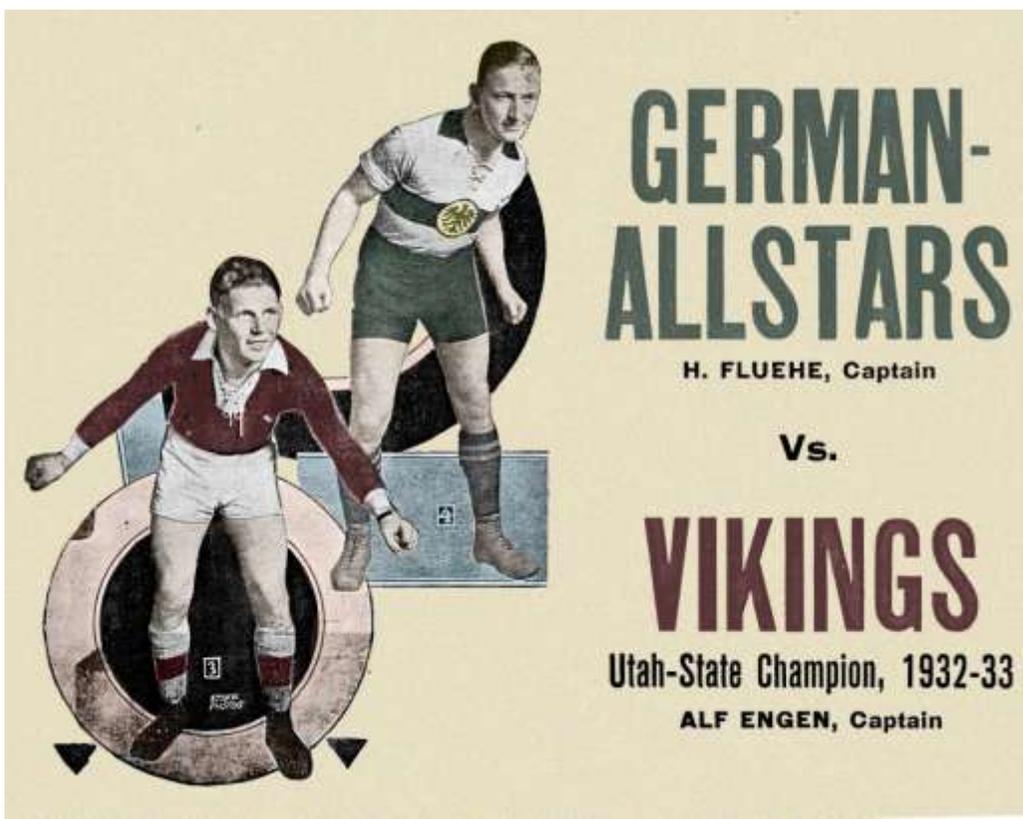
AC Germania was established in 1927 as a social club for German immigrants. The official language was German, and the soccer club was formed in 1928. One of its standout stars was Helmuth Fluehe, from

Einbeck, Germany. His parents told him that he was born with soccer shoes on his feet, so he was already an experienced player by the time he immigrated to Salt Lake City in 1929. Fluehe was playing for AC Germania in a game against the Caledonians within one hour of his arrival in Salt Lake City. He scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over the Callies that day, but soon switched teams to play for the Vikings, where he became close friends with Alf Engen. After four years with the Vikings, he went back to AC Germania, and played for them for the next seven years, leading them to Daynes Cup and State Championships in 1937, 1938, and 1939. Helmuth was one of the few people to keep playing soccer in Utah during World War II, and occasionally played against the German POWs at Fort Douglas. Fluehe was later inducted into the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame.



Helmuth Fluee (left) in his prime as a soccer player. Helmuth Fluee photo

AC Germania also had a reputation for contentiousness, however, sometimes protesting games and otherwise questioning the decisions of referees, which is uncommon in soccer. In 1932, for instance, they filed an official protest with the Utah Soccer Football Union over a game against the Callies held on May 1st, claiming that two Callie goals were illegal. No record exists of how that particular tempest in a teapot was resolved, but other examples exist in the



record of AC Germania causing ripples in the Utah soccer pond. Even though these three teams were the powers in state championship play, they were not the only teams playing soccer in Utah. Nor were the Daynes and Schubach Cups the only trophies



to be won on the soccer fields. Hollandia was still in existence, and occasionally became a threat to the big three, especially in the fall league play. And not all teams were based solely on nationality. The mining companies were still sponsoring teams, such as the Bingham team, which later became Utah Copper, and a new entry sponsored by U.S. Mines. They contended for Schubach Cup honors on several occasions in the 1930s. Others were sponsored by business, such as Singer Sewing Machines and a local car dealership, Barr Chevrolet. The latter team especially had some success in Strand Cup and Schubach Cup games, and featured a star player, Bass Van Dongen from Holland, who later had a trophy named for him. Ogden's Blue Pines competed, but despite their success in winning state championships in the late 1920s, they were not able to repeat those wins. They remained at the bottom of the standings in all leagues and never again won a state championship or other league title. After a few years, they changed their name to the Ogden Blue Stars. It didn't seem to do them much good. In a 1933 game against the champion Vikings, the Ogden team was beaten by a humiliating score of 16-2, almost unheard of for a soccer game. Park City was another club that never could muster any wins and had a hard time even playing games. Finally, even the Utah State Prison had a team composed of inmates, called the Benders.



Salt Lake Telegram Trophy

They played only exhibition games at the Utah State Prison in Sugarhouse, and were not involved in any league play; the joke was that they only played home games.

All through the 1930s these teams contended in front of large crowds for the springtime Daynes Schubach Cup. These by two others, the Strand the *Salt Lake Telegram* which was also for spring famous Utah sportsman another Norwegian, and Club. Strand later Utah Soccer Union. The other fall league cup, and though the big three were these other trophies, they they were for the state won the Telegram Cup in Hollandia and the Oregon Short Line team both won the Strand trophy.



Strand Trophy

Cup and the autumn two series were soon joined Cup, started in 1928, and Cup. The Strand Cup, time play, was named for Marthinus “Mark” Strand, founder of the Utah Ski became the head of the Telegram Cup was the was started in 1931. Even usually contenders for were not so dominating as championship. Utah Copper 1931, for instance, and

These years Utah soccer fans; soccer appeared *Tribune* and *Salt* almost a daily on games, teams’ chances profiles of the attention to players reached a be equaled until Salt Lake in 2004. played at the Fairgrounds, in at Ogden’s where a soccer the first in the specifically for there were as games played on



were big ones for articles about in the *Salt Lake Telegram* on basis, with reports analysis of the for the season, and players. Media soccer teams and level that would not the advent of Real Games were Utah State Fairmont Park, and Monroe Park, stadium was built, state built soccer. At times many as three a single weekend—

with occasional double header games on Sundays--and as many as two or three thousand spectators turned out for these games, despite the often adverse weather. While these numbers are not large compared to the hordes that would attend an American football game, they are still indicative of soccer's popularity during this period.

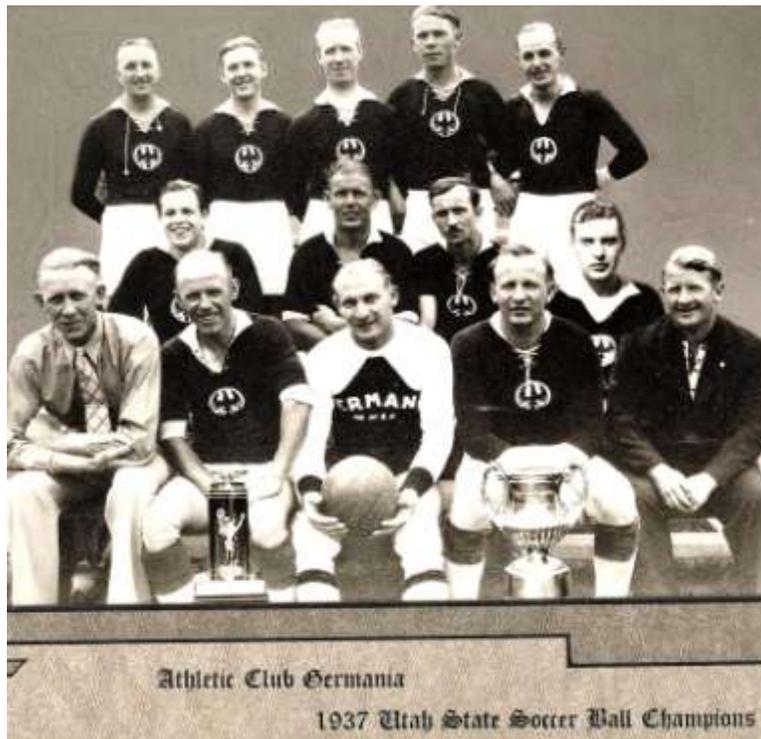
Semi-professional league play was not the only soccer game in Utah, either. Murray, Cottonwood, and Holladay, small towns in the Salt Lake valley, also formed soccer teams for both boys and girls. A junior high league played games in the Salt Lake valley all through the 1920s, with tournaments between the various schools. In eastern Utah, in the town of Vernal, school groups like the Uinta Girls Athletic Association formed intramural soccer teams that participated in tournaments in the latter part of the decade. Soccer was also being played in other small towns outside the Wasatch front, such as Richfield and Monroe in Sevier County, as well as in remote Garfield County. Park City was another town where girl's soccer teams competed in intramural soccer tournaments. "The purpose behind these competitive games," noted an article in the *Park Record* "is to promote sportsmanship and physical efficiency." The Park City intramural teams boasted names such as the Amazons, the Victorians, the Dynamite Red Streaks, the Dames, and the Fleet Footers. Another soccer venue was in the CCC camps that sprang up all over Utah during the Depression. Tackle football was prohibited, so the men in the camps often played soccer games between camps. Sometimes the players got their games confused, as was noted in the Garfield County newspaper in 1936: In a baseball game between the Duck Creek CCC camp and Panguitch High School, "Neil Wilcox, a sturdy soccer player of the old school, headed a ball beautifully in the outfield, and we may safely assert that had he been wearing the right kind of hat, it would have proved the most sensational catch of the day."



Butte, Montana Hard Rock Miners, 1930

In the early 1930s, teams of Utah all-stars sometimes played interstate friendly games with similar teams from other states. In 1930, for instance, one such all-star team took on all-star teams from Sacramento, California; Butte, Montana, and even a team from Blazon, Wyoming, and beat them all.

As a September 1930 article noted, “Taking cold figures as a criterion, the brand of soccer played in Utah is at least slightly better than that played anywhere in the west, and one would have to go into the eastern part of the country to find a team capable of defeating the Utah all-star eleven.” Occasionally a Utah team would travel out of state, such as when an all-star team traveled to California to play the Los Angeles Vikings at Loyola Stadium in 1934. On such occasions, the Utah team would play in the colors of one of the local teams, such as AC Germania, but would fill out the roster with players from other Utah teams, which accounts for the presence of Alf and Karre Engen, as well as Moroni Fox, in some photos of the German club of the period.



Germania all-star team, 1937.

(Alf Engen, center, middle row; Moroni Fox, middle row, 2nd from right; Karre Engen, top row right.)

[photo courtesy Alan Engen]

The Engens and Fox were such talented players that they were paid to join another team for an all-star game, and during the Great Depression, any such income was welcomed. Such interstate play largely ended as the Great Depression deepened, but soccer in Utah went on throughout the 1930s. It was not always easy, though. Sometimes it was the weather that interfered, with either mud or snow causing games to be postponed, and at other times the Great Depression left potential players and clubs too strapped financially to participate. Occasionally players got involved in fights on the fields, resulting in suspensions and restrictions. Sunday play was always a contentious issue in Utah. Most teams, especially the immigrant teams, were largely made up of members of the LDS Church, and they did not want to play on Sundays. Although the Utah Soccer Union tried to resolve the issue, a solution to the problem was never found. Soccer also took a toll on its players, despite the claims by its advocates that soccer was a sport with very few injuries. You cannot have 22 men running full tilt on a muddy field and crashing into each other without bruises and cuts and occasional serious injury. Grass fields, such as those enjoyed by today's players, were a rarity; they were commonly dirt, cinders, or even blacktop. Ogden's



Alf Engen heads the ball

1927 team lost its star goalkeeper, Red Parsons, to hand and other injuries for much of the season, and one Kelly, who played for the Blue Pines, severely dislocated his shoulder in a defeat by Bingham in April of that year. They also played in heavy, ankle length boots imported from Europe that featured a hard toe with hobnails for traction. Shin guards, when they were used at all, were made of thin strips of bamboo inside a sleeve that was laced onto the calf. In *Soccerhead: An accidental journey into the heart of the American Game*, one player on a team in New Jersey described conditions in the 1930s that were essentially the same in Utah: "You never left a game...without a souvenir. A knot on your head or a few stitches. You didn't have these fancy plastic cleats back then. You played with nails in the soles of your shoes. Like upholstery tacks, right? And sometimes

they came out [and stuck in your leg]. So there was a fair bit of that on the field.” In the same book, the author comments on the balls used. “The ball back then was made of cowhide, and on the frozen tundra of a of a cinder oval in November it took on the force of a nine-pound cannonball. Even minor miscalculations could lead to major injury. Broken noses, broken legs, broken fingers, compound fractures, concussions, and back injuries were all common.”¹⁰ Peter Hughes, who played in Salt Lake City for the Caledonians in the 1950s, remembered that the leather ball would get so heavy when it was wet it took great force to pass it, and that if you headed the ball the wrong way, you were left with the marks made by the stitches for several days.



By the end of the 1930s, the tensions in Europe were beginning to be felt even on the far-off soccer fields of Utah. At a 1938 game between Germania and the Caledonians, played just after the Munich Crisis¹¹, the old antagonisms spilled over into the stands. A collision between two players on the field led to a fight between the players, and then “An old English lady and an old German lady...got so upset about the fight that they started to fight. They started to hit each other with the purses, to tear hair, and call each other names.”¹² Such displays were not the norm, however, and right up until the U.S. entered the war soccer was popular in Utah. After Pearl Harbor, however, soccer and other sports were largely set aside as Utahans joined in the war effort. For the duration, soccer became only a memory in most Utah communities. Daynes Cup and other league play

¹⁰ *Soccerhead: An accidental journey into the heart of the American game.* Pg. 90; 156-157

¹¹ Neville Chamberlin, Prime Minister of Great Britain, signed an agreement in Munich agreement giving Adolf Hitler control of Czechoslovakia; known for the phrase “Peace in our time.”

¹² (“Helmut Rimmasch and Salt Lake’s German Community,” by Alan Kent Powell, *Beehive History* 11, 1985. p 21

was suspended, and the stadiums and fields that had seen such great soccer play all through the 1930s fell silent.



soccer boot,
1920s



shin guards,
ca. 1925

SOCCER STRUGGLES IN UTAH: 1941 - 1960

Some of the stars of the 1930s, those who weren't in the military or in the war industries, still played soccer during World War II, but league play for the Daynes Cup was suspended for the duration. The only soccer games in Utah during World War II of which any record exists were played in the German and Italian POW camps that were found in many parts of the



Italian POW soccer team, Ogden, 1944
[Weber State University photo]

state. Helmuth Fluehe, who had been a standout player on the Vikings and AC Germania in the 1930s, remembered playing against the German POWs at Fort Douglas during the war. Both German and Italian prisoners formed soccer leagues and organized

tournaments during their incarceration. As the "Victory News," a newsletter published by the Ogden POW camp noted, "Soccer ball is a sport dear to the heart of many European countries. Italy is included in this category, therefore it is not surprising to learn the Italian Prisoners interned at this Depot are playing the game competitively; teams being formed from two compounds. ...A trophy, purchased from donations contributed by the teams is the object of strong competition."

The same was true among the German POWs at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City: "Sports were very popular among the prisoners, with soccer the most favored. A shortage of soccer balls presented some difficulty at first, so



Aerial view of former POW camp, University of Utah. The present Lady Utes soccer field is at the center of the photo; the Annex is to the right. The Fort Douglas parade ground is just above the camp.

[University of Utah Special Collections photo]

prisoners were forced to be resourceful and make their own out of small pieces of leather.” Proper balls and other equipment were later provided and by war’s end, there were twenty-four Italian teams alone. Interestingly, the present Lady Utes soccer field on the University of Utah campus is on the site of the old Fort Douglas POW camp, where German prisoners played soccer a half century ago.

After the war, soccer did not immediately revive in Utah; in fact, it almost died out altogether. Given its popularity before the war, it’s hard to fathom why this was so. In *Offside: Soccer and American Exceptionalism*, Andrei Markovits notes why he feels soccer never caught on in the U.S, mainly because it was crowded out by baseball and American football, which were perceived as “American” sports and thus received more subsidies from local governments; soccer was still viewed as a “foreign” sport. Institutional problems and petty factions in American professional soccer also contributed to this scenario, although this wasn’t as much of a factor in Utah as it was in the east and Midwest.¹³ But the first reason is probably the one that caused soccer to all but die out in Utah after World War II. People were tired of Europe and “foreign” things in general, and soccer unfortunately fell within that description.



Hermann Neumann
(USHS photo)

That soccer in Utah survived the immediate post-war years is attributed to the efforts of one man, Hermann Neumann of AC Germania. Born in Berlin in 1902, Neumann grew up playing soccer in Germany. He came to the U.S. in 1929 and almost as soon as he reached Salt Lake City, joined AC Germania. He was a member of the teams that won the state championships in 1937-1939, and was also selected for a traveling all-star team that played in California. Neumann also served as the club’s president for most of that period. Even after he stopped playing, Neumann was a referee and team manager and coach for the Germania

¹³ *Offside: Soccer & American Exceptionalism*. Andrie S. Markovits and Steven L. Hellerman. Princeton University Press, 2001. p. 52-53

eleven. Neumann was described as soccer “fanatic” by many of those who knew him. Willard Hansen, who played for the Vikings practically from the day he arrived from his native Norway in 1949 until he finally stopped in the 1980s, remembered one spring time game in particular, played at Fairmont



Herman Neumann with trophies
(USHS photo)

Park. As team manager, Hansen was in charge of getting enough players to form a team for the regular Saturday game, this time against Neumann’s Germania team. He called around and got a team together, but the night before the game a snowstorm moved in and dumped almost a foot of snow on the Salt Lake valley. Many of the Vikings players assumed that the game would be cancelled and didn’t show up; only seven Vikings arrived at the snowy field. Neumann showed up with a full team, and despite the conditions, insisted that a game be played. He drew out the field lines in the deep snow with his foot, and play started, but whenever the ball rolled on the field it gathered snow until it was about three times its normal size. After just a few minutes the ref called the game, despite Neumann’s protests.

Neumann was also a tireless advocate for soccer in high schools. Together with Arthur Zander, another member of AC Germania, he started the Utah High School Soccer Association, which at its outset included teams from West, South, East, and Highland High Schools in Salt Lake City. Within a few years he had fifteen high schools participating in a non-letter high school soccer league, and was able to organize games between high school all-star teams and teams from other states, such as Colorado. He was known for sometimes outrageous stunts to promote soccer, such as a parade



Neumann's soccer parade, 1961
(USHS photo)

he somehow got permission to hold before one of the all-star games. The parade started at West High School and continued down Main Street in Salt Lake City, all the way to Liberty Park, with soccer players from the high school teams waving signs and yelling at startled onlookers all the way. Neumann also made sure that scores from soccer games appeared in the newspapers, personally taking the score sheets on Monday and leaving them with cub sports reporter Mike Korologos.

In 1947, for the Utah centennial, Neumann organized another soccer extravaganza, when he arranged an exhibition game between a team of Utah all-stars, playing as AC Germania, and the San Francisco-based American Athletic Club Teutonia. The Utah team had a number of former stars on its roster, including Moroni Fox, Karre Engen, Helmuth Fluehe, Bass Van Dongen, and Oscar Andreason. There were actually two



Caledonians, 1950s
(Peter Hughes photo)

games: the main event, and a preliminary game between the Germania B team and a team from the Rotary Club-Y.M.C.A. from Salt Lake City. The first series was played at Derks Field in Salt Lake on July 25, and the teams met again in Ogden on July 27, 1947. By this time Teutonia was a champion team in California, while Germania was the Utah state champion for that year, so it was a well-attended contest, which the Utah team won by a score of 1-0. Just about anyone who played soccer in Utah from the period after World War II until the late 1960s has stories about Herman Neumann, universally known as “Herman the German.” In 1969, Neumann was honored by the *Deseret News* as “Mr. Soccer,” and after his death in 1971, an annual soccer tournament, the Herman Neumann Cup, was organized by the Utah Soccer Association.

By the start of the 1950s, interest soccer was beginning to revive in Utah. After the war, the state championship and the Daynes cup were separated, so winning one did not necessarily mean winning both. Utah

colleges also began to put together soccer teams for intramural and other games. In 1950, the Utah State University team traveled to Salt Lake to play the Vikings, and later played the Salt Lake SC, which consisted of players from many of the 1930s teams. The USU team was a multinational one with players from Palestine, Europe, and South America.

Alan Engen, Alf Engen's son--and a championship skier in his own right--was by this time a member of the University of Utah ski team, and later competed in the 1958 Winter Olympics. He remembers that along with University of Utah teammates Marvin Melville (also a member of the US Olympic team) and Jim Gaddis (an NCAA championship skier), soccer was the main form of training during the off-season. It was an incredible aerobic workout, and promoted flexibility in mind and body. Another Olympic skier who played intramural soccer at the University of Utah for training was Pete Karns, who later competed in the biathlon at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games. Another UofU Olympic skier, Bill Spencer, who was Karns' teammate on the 1972 Olympic biathlon team, remembered that the team was called the Explorers, which he noted was because they were the only non-immigrant team around. He also remembered that they never won a single game, but that it was great training.



Soccer on the quad at USU, 1950
(Utah State University photo)

By the time Daynes Cup play resumed in 1952—none of the other cups seemed to survive the war--some of the old teams had re-formed, such as the Vikings, Germania, and Hollandia, while some new ones had entered the contests, including Alemannia and Rapid SC, a Salt Lake team. The Caledonians were revived for a brief period in the 1950s, long



Intramural soccer, University of Utah, 1950s
[University of Utah Special Collections photo]

enough to win the Daynes Cup in 1953 and 1954, and a state championship in 1958, but the club was disbanded shortly after that. The Vikings, with an infusion of post-war immigrants from the Scandinavian countries such as Willard Hansen, Ole Gregerson, Olaf Johansson, and Jan Frederik Hansen—all members of the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame--resumed their former position on the top of the Utah soccer standings and won the state championship five times during the 1950s. They also won two Daynes Cup championships, 1955 and 1956, and retired the Van Dongen Cup after winning it five times. AC Germania won both a state championship in 1947 and the Daynes Cup in 1952, but after that dropped out of serious contention although they continued to play for years, and in fact are still in existence today. Hollandia was another familiar club name from the 1930s; they won the state title in 1950, 1953 and 1954, and continued in existence well into the 1970s. Rapid SC was a short-lived club that was formed in 1955 by players from Hollandia. They stayed together long enough to win a state championship in 1957 and a Daynes Cup in 1958, and then disbanded.

In 1952, soccer in Utah took another step toward revitalization when the Utah Soccer Association (U.S.A.) was formed by Clarence Linnert and others interested in advancing soccer in Utah. There had already been various soccer organizations in Utah that had come and gone, but the U.S.A. has survived to this day. Linnert served as the secretary of the group for a number of years. Bill Mead, who came to Salt Lake City from England in 1950, became president of the Utah Soccer Association in 1958, and made it what it is today. He found a small association with only ten teams and developed it into a league with two divisions. He was also instrumental in finding more fields for soccer teams, including the complex of three fields at Riverside Park. Mead changed the face of Utah soccer by adding teams comprised of Hispanic residents of Utah, and helped the Greek community establish two teams, Hellas and Apollo, although both of the latter were short-lived. Mead also worked with other state associations and established ties with the U.S. Soccer Federation, bringing Utah into the national soccer organization. Even with this renewal, however,

Utah All-Stars in San Francisco,
1953
(USHS photo)



soccer players still could not go down to the local sporting goods store and buy cleats, or “boots” as they were called then, shin guards, nets, and balls. Arthur Zander filled this need by ordering equipment from Europe and selling it out of the basement of his house across the street from Fairmont Park.

In 1953, an all-star team from Utah traveled to San Francisco to meet the American Athletic Club team Teutonia in a friendly match. The team traveled as AC Germania, but it was really a combination of players from all of the Utah teams. The reason there were other players was simple; some of them couldn't get time off to go, or couldn't afford to go, so the Utah team recruited other players to fill the roster. Peter Hughes, who by this time was playing for the Vikings, was one of the team members. He remembers driving all the way across Nevada and California in Stan Gill's car, with no air conditioning, on a two lane road, to play in the game. The team also included Stan Gill, Ed Weymann, Ole Gregersen, and Willard Hansen, all of whom would later be inducted into the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame. The preliminary game was played between Hakoah AC, a Jewish team from Israel, and a team from El Salvador. The Utah team won the contest 1-0, despite the fact that the California team had six Olympians on it. After the game, they got back in the car and drove all the way home, going back to work on Monday.



Program from 1953
All-Star game
(Peter Hughes photo)

Hughes's experiences during his tenure with the Caledonians and later the Vikings were typical of Utah soccer players of the time.¹⁴ He emigrated to the U.S. from England in 1953, arriving in Salt Lake City on a Tuesday. Asking around about opportunities to play soccer, he was directed to ZCMI, where he was told to speak to Clarence Linnert, a member of the Caledonians. Hughes stepped onto a soccer field the following Saturday, and played for several years with the Caledonians. Later, he went on an LDS Church mission, and while he was gone, the Caledonians collapsed and the club was disbanded. When he returned, he went to play for the Vikings, but it was a far cry from the glory days of the 1930s.

¹⁴ Oral interview with Peter Hughes, August 28, 2007

Gone were the days of extensive media coverage, crowds that numbered in the thousands, and multiple venues. The team consisted of about fifteen players, but no coach. They would meet at Liberty Park to train, with one of the players taking the lead in drills and calisthenics. He remembers that sometimes on twenty or so spectators would show up at games at Fairmont Park, the only place to play in those days. If any notice was taken of Utah soccer games by the media, it was a short article buried at the back of the sports pages, or an occasional photo when a team won a championship. Also, there were no substitutions allowed; you played the entire 90 minutes, unless you got hurt. The season lasted from August to March, because that was the way the game was played in



Vikings, 1951
(Willard Hansen photo)

Europe. Games were sometimes cancelled because of deep snow, but mud was rarely a reason not to play. They would drive to the field, change in the car, play the game in mud and snow, then drive to Snelgroves, where they celebrated with ice cream and milkshakes, this being Utah. Hughes even proposed to his wife in the car after one of these games. He also remembered that the style of play was different then; it was more offensive, with very little passing back to the defenders or the goalkeeper as there is in the modern game. Hughes moved to California in 1964, where he continued to play, not hanging up his boots until age 54. He, and so many others who played on Utah soccer teams in the 1950s, received no payment, no adulation from crowds, no mention in the newspapers or radio; they played because they loved the game.



Vikings, 1956. Willard Hansen, 3rd from left, front row

[Willard Hansen photo]

Willard Hansen was another who played in this era because he loved the game so much. After learning how to play in his native Norway, Hansen

endured the harsh years of German occupation during World War II.¹⁵ In 1949, he immigrated to the US, and was playing soccer in Salt Lake City for the Vikings almost as soon as he stepped off the train. Besides teammates, Hansen found a ready-made group of friends among the players in the Vikings. All of them loved soccer, and all of them loved the skiing in the Wasatch Mountains. Hansen remembered that a typical Saturday in the fall and winter would involve getting up before dawn to be up in the mountains when the sun came up, so they could hit the slopes at first light; then head back down to Fairmont Park around 1PM, for the soccer game; then, after a quick cleanup, drive to the Saratoga Resort and dance until the next dawn. Hansen also became the Vikings team manager over time, and noted that soccer was much less formal than it is now. The Utah Soccer Association set the schedules for the league games, so Hansen would call all of the Vikings players to let them know when the game was scheduled. They would show up at the appointed time, make sure the field was marked, and take up a collection from the players to pay



the referees. Players would contribute what they had, a dollar or fifty cents, and Hansen would take the money to the referee and ask if it was enough. The refs always said yes, and sometimes worked without payment. Hansen, along with Peter Hughes, traveled to Ely, Nevada, on a brutally hot Fourth of July one year to play an exhibition game. The townspeople had never heard of soccer, much less knew how to mark the

Vikings game, 1950s
(Willard Hansen photo)

field, so the players marked off the grass and dirt field on the edge of town, played in the hot sun, and then had a barbeque with the residents.

Hansen also remembered that occasionally they would play the Utah State prison team, the Benders, at the old Sugarhouse prison. The Vikings would enter the prison through the front gate, change into their uniforms,

¹⁵ Oral interview with Willard Hansen, September 6, 2007

and play the game on the prison yard. A standard joke was for the prisoners to kick the ball over the wall, and then all of them would raise their hands and say "I'll go get it!" Anything to play soccer. Occasionally, too, the games became passionate contests. During one title game with one of the Greek teams, Hansen tackled a Greek player in a way that the partisan crowd objected to, and the referee, a Swede, didn't call a foul. As Hansen was picking up the ball, he was punched in the eye, giving him a black eye. Then one of the Viking players went down on the sidelines, and the Greek fans jumped him, kicking and beating him to the point that he had to be taken to the hospital. Hansen got another black eye in the melee and played the rest of the game with his eyes swollen almost shut. The Greek team was suspended from the league for a whole year as a result. But such occurrences were very rare; usually good sportsmanship prevailed and everyone played by the rules. Under Hansen's management, the Vikings became a top team, winning the Daynes Cup in 1951, 1952, 1955 and 1956; the state championship from 1955 to 1957; and the Van Dongen Cup (named for Bass Van Dongen, a star player in the 1930s) five times-- 1953, 1954, 1958, 1959, 1961--thus retiring the cup, which Hansen still proudly displays in his home.



Vikings with Van Dongen Cup. Peter Hughes, center. Willard Hansen, right [Willard Hansen photo]

A number of other players still remember the free-wheeling games of the 1950s. Stanley De Waal, who came to the US from Holland right after World War II, remembered that he was scheduled to play for the Rapids SC in one Daynes Cup championship, but it turned out that his wife was in labor, giving birth to their first child. Fretting at the hospital, he was relieved to hear the cry that signaled a successful delivery. Grabbing his cleats, he told his wife that he was headed for the game, which they won. Dick Gregersen, from Copenhagen, was another Scandinavian immigrant in the immediate post-war years. He had grown up playing soccer, even during the German occupation, and remembers training using a tennis ball. He arrived in Salt Lake City in November 1948, on his 17th birthday, and was almost immediately recruited by the Vikings. His first game was against the Benders in the Utah State Prison, and he played for both the Vikings and Germania for many years. A goalkeeper, Gregersen finally gave up the position when he became a dentist, because he was afraid his hands would get injured—no one wore gloves in those days--and ruin his livelihood. Not all soccer players in those days were from the Scandinavian countries, though; Ronnie Almond started playing in England during World War II, when he was 10 years old. He soon became a star player and captain of his local team, and at 15 years old was offered a chance to play for Manchester United, one of the best Premier League teams. His family chose that time to move to Salt Lake City, however, and Ronnie came with them. So even though there were not the cheering crowds of the 1930s, soccer was still alive and well in Utah, and poised for great things to come.¹⁶

¹⁶ Group interview at the Utah Soccer Association offices, November 27, 2007.

UTAH SOCCER BEGINS TO REVIVE: THE 1960S

The 1960s saw a continual increase in the numbers of people in Utah playing soccer, as well as greater recognition of the sport in schools and on college campuses. One such notice came in 1963, when George Squires, a British soccer player playing for the University of Wyoming Cowboys, defeated the University of Utah football team almost single-handedly, kicking three field goals and an extra point. The University of Utah, perhaps inspired by this loss, formed a men's soccer team that played in the Utah Soccer League, even though they were not a varsity or letter team. Weber State College and Brigham Young University also fielded teams in the 1960s. BYU men's soccer had gotten its start in 1955, when two brothers, Carl and Harold Boden, came from Germany to attend the school. Learning that there was no soccer team, they placed an ad in the Daily Universe, the BYU student newspaper, and soon had enough players. They joined the Utah Soccer League the next year, and soon were playing teams around the state. In 1963, the sport was given official sanction by the college, but it was still not recognized by the NCAA. In 1974, a new coach, Shavji Dusara, came to BYU, and quickly made his mark on the team. Official NCAA sanction came in 1977, but eventually pressure created by Title IX caused the NCAA status to be shifted to the women's team, and the men's soccer team reverted to club status.

In the world of semi-professional soccer in Utah, however, the decade of the 1960s was dominated as it had never been before by one team, SC Alemannia. Formed in 1953 by Arthur Zander--after he and Herman Neumann had a falling out--along with Ed Weymann and several other members of AC Germania, Alemannia smoldered through the 1950s and then sprang to life as a soccer powerhouse in 1959, when the club began an incredible run of seven state championships, and even more amazing, nine straight Daynes Cup titles. No team had ever won so many state and Daynes Cup titles in the history of Utah soccer and the feat has not been equaled since. Alemannia also won two Intermountain regional championships, and represented Utah



Hollandia leaves for the Netherlands,
1966.

(Deseret Morning News photo)

at a number of other regional tournaments. The secret of Alemannia's success was twofold: first, the team recruited experienced German players to come to Utah and join the team. Second, the team also employed professional soccer trainers to help the team develop the skills that would take them to the top of the Utah soccer standings. George Sirstin, one former team member, recalled that the members of the team would get a call saying "be at Sunnyside Park at 9AM on Sunday." When they showed up, there would be a trainer that none of them had ever met. The trainer—sometimes players from top teams such as Bayern-Munich, or other premier European teams, who were on the injured reserve list—would put them through paces for a few hours, and they would never see him again. In 1964 and again in 1968, the club was invited to tour Austria and Germany to play exhibition matches against European teams, and held their own. Like Herman Neumann, Arthur Zander was inducted into the Utah soccer hall of fame.

Alemannia was not the only Utah soccer team to travel abroad during these years, either. In 1966, Hollandia sent a team to the Netherlands to play exhibition matches against some of Holland's finest teams, and again, gave a good account of themselves. Then in 1974, Brigham Young University's men's soccer team, which won the Daynes Cup in 1970 and would take the honors again in 1976, was sent to Italy for a 22-day tour. BYU's team was an international one, with players from Zambia, Germany, Mexico, Scotland, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay, along with several players from the U.S. They played eight matches against junior professional clubs, and compiled a respectable record against such powerful teams.

During the 1960s, high school soccer was also thriving in Utah, Neumann and Zander's efforts having finally born fruit. Salt Lake valley high schools such as Highland, East, West, South, and Olympus, as well as private high schools like Rowland Hall all fielded teams of varying quality.



Utah high school soccer game, 1960s

Bill Bosgraaf, the current president of the USA, came to this country as a teenager in 1960. He arrived as an experienced soccer player, having grown up with the game in his native Holland. He found that there was, despite his misgivings, soccer to be played in Utah. He lived near Fairmont Park, where one day he saw a man and his sons kicking a soccer



ball. So he joined them, and learned about the local soccer scene. Bill quickly became a member of the Vikings B team, comprised of older players who were past their prime but

Utah high school soccer game, still
1960s wanted to
get out on

the field. After a year of that, he joined the Hollandia B team for several years. In the meantime, he attended South High School in Salt Lake City, where he found that there was a high school

soccer league; Bosgraaf quickly became a star on the South High soccer team, and played teams from all over the valley, such as Skyline, Olympus, Highland, and East High schools. He also found out that most of the other teams did not really come to play soccer, though; they were football players, and their join the soccer team training. Naturally, immigrant players football players, with players would triple-team the players just to try to were never Bosgraaf lettered in of high school¹⁷ and teams against teams California. He



coaches made them as a form of spring Bosgraaf and the other ran rings around the the result that the other sometimes double and experienced soccer take them down. They successful, and soccer all three years played on the all-state from Colorado and remembered that years

later, a man came up to him and asked “Are you Bill Bosgraaf?” When he replied that he was, the man said he had played soccer for Skyline high school, and said “We used to hate you, because you were so much better; we’d spend the whole game just trying to get a piece of you!” They both laughed, and shook hands. And it wasn’t just the Salt Lake valley that had high school soccer; a successful high school soccer program that is still in existence was started in Bountiful by Hugh Wigham, who later became president of the Utah Soccer Association. Garlan Fitzgerald, a former member of the BYU soccer team, and like Wigham a member of the Utah

¹⁷ South High School was one of the few that awarded letters for playing soccer.

Soccer Hall of Fame, started high school soccer programs in Provo and Orem in 1971 that are still going strong today.

The 1960s represent the transition from the old, ethnically-based teams to teams composed of people from all over the world. Before that, however, there were still a few immigrant teams that made their mark on Utah soccer. One such team was Hellas, a team composed of Greek immigrants. It was formed in 1967 by a local businessman and quickly began to make a name for itself. One of the stars was Constantine “Gus” Colessides, who was born in Cavalla, Greece, in 1948. He started out playing for a local team but his coach, who was also the Greek National Youth Team coach, felt he could make soccer his career, and young Gus was all for it. His father intervened, however, and Gus soon found himself on his way to the U.S. When he arrived in Salt Lake City in 1966, he entered Westminster College, working on a degree in math and physics. At Westminster, a small private college, he found a few others who played soccer. One day he was watching the football team practice, and noted that their kicker was terrible. He went over to the coach and told him that he could kick much better. After a few place kicks, the coach signed him up on the spot. All went well until one game where the front line missed their blocks and Gus found himself buried under about half a dozen big linemen from the opposing team; that was enough of American style football.

He was still interested in playing soccer, however, and soon a group of Greeks who met in the local Hot Shoppe in Little America decided they should form a Greek team, to be called Hellas. Gus was a member of the Hellas team for several years. Hellas faced one of the same problems as any other team in those days: where to get equipment.



Hellas, 1967. Gus Colessides is second from right, front row

The Greek sponsor of the team solved it the same way, by going to Arthur

Zander, who sold them uniforms, cleats, balls, shin guards, and nets from his basement on 9th East. Zander, however, didn't have any uniforms in the Greek national colors, blue and white, so they had to play in green shorts until some proper jerseys and shorts could be imported from Greece. When internal dissensions caused a rift in Hellas in 1972, a new Greek team, Apollo, was formed. Apollo lasted only a few years, and Gus joined a new team called Pan World SC. Pan World was not named for the diversity of its players, as might be expected. The team had members from Italy, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Greece, Holland, and Norway, as well as a number of Americans, but according to Bill Bosgraaf, who was also a member of Pan World S.C., the name came from a bicycle shop whose owner donated \$100 for equipment. The team would meet on Thursday evenings and make hundreds of shishkabobs, which they would then cook and sell at the game on the weekends to raise money. Pan World SC went on to win five Daynes Cup championships and six state championships in the 1970s and early 1980s. After moving to both Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Houston, Texas—and playing soccer in both places--Gus Colessides returned to Utah where he became the head of the state referee association.

By the end of the 1960s, things were changing in the small world of Utah soccer. Some of the old clubs were breaking up and disbanding and reforming into new clubs, with the old country and ethnic teams breaking into new groups that were not so strictly arranged along national lines. Meanwhile a new wave of immigrants—from Spanish speaking countries this time, where the passion for soccer was just as strong as it was in Europe—was about to change the face of Utah soccer forever and take it to heights never imagined by the players earlier in the century. One of the first was formed by British players who broke away from AC Germania and other clubs. SC United, the new club, won the Daynes Cup their first year in existence. In the next few years SC United won a further two Daynes Cups, as well as two state championships. The other new club was the Incas, comprised for the most part of immigrants from South America. One of its first members was Ricardo Castro, who was born in Lima, Peru. He started playing barefooted on the streets in Lima, with a ball made out of rags. After he came to the U.S. in 1960, he and other Latin American immigrants banded together and founded the Incas. Ricardo played for several more years with the Incas, helping them win state championships in 1967 and 1969, and also played for the University of Utah. The Incas also had a talented forward named Pando Baias who was the scourge of the other teams. The club disbanded after a few more years, and never won a

Daynes Cup—although many of their players joined Pan World S.C.--but the Incas were the harbinger of a wave of Hispanic immigrants that would, from the 1970s to the present, represent the largest number of people playing in soccer in Utah.



AC Germania, 1970s
(USHS photo)

SOCCER: “THE GAME THAT ATE SURBURBIA”

The 1970s saw major changes in the Utah soccer scene, changes that are still having an impact today, and with the exception of one aspect—the attempt to get a professional soccer team in Utah--will mark the end of this history. After that there are just too many clubs, teams and leagues to try to follow any individual one. The three major changes in the 1970s were the wave of Spanish-speaking immigrants, which only increased in the ensuing decades; the rise of the youth soccer movement; and the advent of women’s school soccer programs on an organized level. The wave of Hispanic immigrants, who brought soccer, their national game, with them, has been mentioned above. Bill Bosgraaf of the Utah Soccer Association noted that as of the last fifteen years, since 1990, soccer among the Latino community has grown exponentially, as more and more immigrants from Central America and Mexico, as well as those from South America, have come to Utah. Today there are three Hispanic soccer leagues in the Salt Lake valley, with 30-40 teams each. In addition, there are leagues with multiple teams in Logan, Ogden, Provo, and St. George. That equals thousands of Hispanic Americans playing soccer, and doesn’t even count the youth soccer players in the Latino leagues.

Tony Yapias, who came to the US from Peru in 1981 when he was 14 years old, originally came to this country to herd sheep near Evanston, Wyoming. He soon found himself traveling to Salt Lake City, Logan, Park City, and other localities to play soccer with the *Liga Union Hispana*. While the Latino leagues were originally organized by country, today they are more mixed and no longer have that national basis.



Murray youth league soccer game, 1970s
(Murray City Library photo)

The second factor that caused soccer to explode starting in the 1970s and continuing today, with no signs of abatement, is the youth soccer movement. Jim Haner, in *Soccerhead*, claims that the popularity of soccer among youth today is the result of Baby Boomer parents who wanted their kids to be involved in sports, but didn't want them to get hurt or rejected by trying out for the traditional American sports, football, baseball, and basketball. Soccer is something that any child, boy or girl, can play and even excel at, and even though they might get knocked down sometimes, injuries are nothing like in football. You don't have to be particularly tall or big or talented; if you can run and kick a ball, you can play. Excelling in the sport, and going on to college soccer, is another matter entirely, but at the outset, it's the perfect sport for young children. Even against entrenched, heavily subsidized programs like football and baseball—whose adherents and advocates are often openly hostile toward soccer programs, denying use of fields and hoarding the recreation budgets--soccer has grown exponentially among Utah's youth. Murray City, in the Salt Lake valley, is one of the communities that recognized the value of soccer and was one of the first cities to establish a youth soccer program in the state. In Weber County, by 1968 there were 2000 youngsters enrolled in youth soccer programs, and within just over a decade that number had grown by tenfold. The Utah Youth Soccer Association—which is only one of several programs for Utah's youth—estimates that there are now around 47,000 registered players, and that does not include the junior high and high school soccer teams, both boys and girls, which finally received official sanction of the Utah High School Activities Association in 1982.

Finally, there is the rise of women's soccer, which came about starting in 1972, with the passage of Title IX of the U.S. Code, mandating that women and girls must have equal access to athletic programs in any school that received federal funds (which of course is just about any school in Utah). Haner, in *Soccerhead*, notes that the impact of Title IX on soccer



“was huge; over the next two decades, 7.4 million women and girls would strap on shin guards and tug on cleats to double the number of registered players nationwide and transform a dying sport into the native game of

University of Utah Women's
soccer game, 1996
[University of Utah Special Collections
photo]

suburbia.” He also notes that more than 1500 colleges, universities, and school boards nationwide fought Title IX tooth and nail, “denying that they had unequal facilities, uneven funding, or unfair scholarship allocations for women’s sports.” This was true in Utah as well, where as late as 1987, the Utah High School Activities Association rejected a proposal to sanction girls soccer programs, claiming that school budgets couldn’t handle the extra expenses. Soccer advocates, however, pointed out that soccer programs were not that expensive, especially compared to football and baseball, which had long been subsidized by the school districts. Finally, in 1989, discrimination lawsuits were filed against Box Elder, Logan, Ogden, Weber, Davis, and Cache school districts were alleged to be in violation of Title IX. In the end, the school districts and colleges who had been fighting Title IX gave up and instituted girl’s soccer programs, which are now wildly successful. Today virtually every junior high and high school in Utah has a girl’s soccer program, and the women’s soccer programs in Utah colleges and universities are often contenders for NCAA championships. The Weber State University women’s soccer team, for instance, won the Nikolai Challenge Cup in 1992. In the 1970s and 1980s, both Utah and BYU fielded women’s club teams that won numerous championships in the state. After the University of Utah’s women’s team was given NCAA status in 1996, it compiled a winning record, including being unbeaten in Mountain West Conference play in 2006 and advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Soccer has taken hold among female players in Utah like none of the old miners and ethnic teams could have ever imagined.¹⁸ Even now, however, soccer programs have a hard time in Utah, continually having to fight for fields and playing time. In one example, the director of recreation for Davis County was reported to have said that despite the fact that he had 24 fields that were in constant use—and that if the number was doubled those would be full too—that if he had his way, the number of fields would be zero. The national situation that Haner describes in Soccerhead hold true in Utah to this day:

“Kept in a state of financial malnutrition by entrenched football and baseball boosters who continue to command the lion’s share of public money in local parks and recreation departments, soccer continues to lack for the simplest of things. Basic needs—such as fields and uniforms—have to be

¹⁸ The advance of women’s teams, however, was not viewed as a plus in all circles. The BYU men’s team, which in the 1980s was an NCAA sanctioned team, had to give up its NCAA status so that a NCAA women’s team could be formed.

leveraged with private money, or the sport most assuredly would have died by now. ... In Salt Lake City, thirty-four thousand kinds in shin guards campaigned door-to-door to support a \$15 million bond issue for a 'plex of their own—thirty fields along the Jordan River.”¹⁹

All of these factors—Latino leagues, youth soccer, and women’s soccer--have combined to make the history of soccer in Utah after the 1980s so complex and multi-layered that it is almost impossible to describe in anything less than a full-length book. Utah soccer has grown beyond the simple days of a few teams playing pickup games. Today it is a major activity for thousands and thousands of Utah residents, and generates millions of dollars in annual revenue. By the end of the 1970s, Utah was poised to take the ultimate step, into professional soccer.

¹⁹ *Soccerhead: An accidental history of the American game*, by Jim Haner. P. 39, 42. Bill Bosgraaf, head of the Utah Soccer Association, recalled a time when he called a local county recreation office to schedule fields for soccer teams. He was told in no uncertain terms that if it was up to the official he was talking to, there would be no soccer fields in the whole county.

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER: FROM THE GOLDEN SPIKERS TO REAL SALT LAKE: 1976 - 2004

Attempts to obtain a professional soccer franchise in Utah date back to the late 1960s, and the fortunes of Utah teams have risen and fallen with the national pro soccer leagues. After the exciting finale to the 1966 World Cup, American investors attempted to start a pro soccer league in the U.S., but the effort foundered after only a short time.²⁰ The first try at bringing pro soccer to Utah was in 1976, when the American Soccer League awarded a franchise to Salt Lake City, which put together a team called the Golden Spikers. The main force behind the Golden Spikers was a Greek businessman, George Brokalakis--also a sponsor for Hellas--who asked a number of local players, including Gus Colessides, as well as some of the BYU players such as Cres MacTavish and Dee Benson, to sign on for promises of a spot on a pro team when the Golden Spikers took off. There was no pay, since the team was just starting out, but Gus and the other players were anxious to get in on the ground floor. After a debut game at Rice Stadium on the University of Utah campus that was attended by 8,000 fans, the Golden Spikers seemed to be off to a good start. As it turned out, however, the only reason so many people came to the opening game was that the tickets were free. When the owners charged for attendance, the numbers dropped to less than 1000.



After allegations of debt and assault and other misdeeds surfaced, the team was expelled from the league in July 1976. When the IRS charged the Golden Spikers owner with tax fraud, that was it for the Utah team. They tried to reform a few months later as the Utah Pioneers, but that team

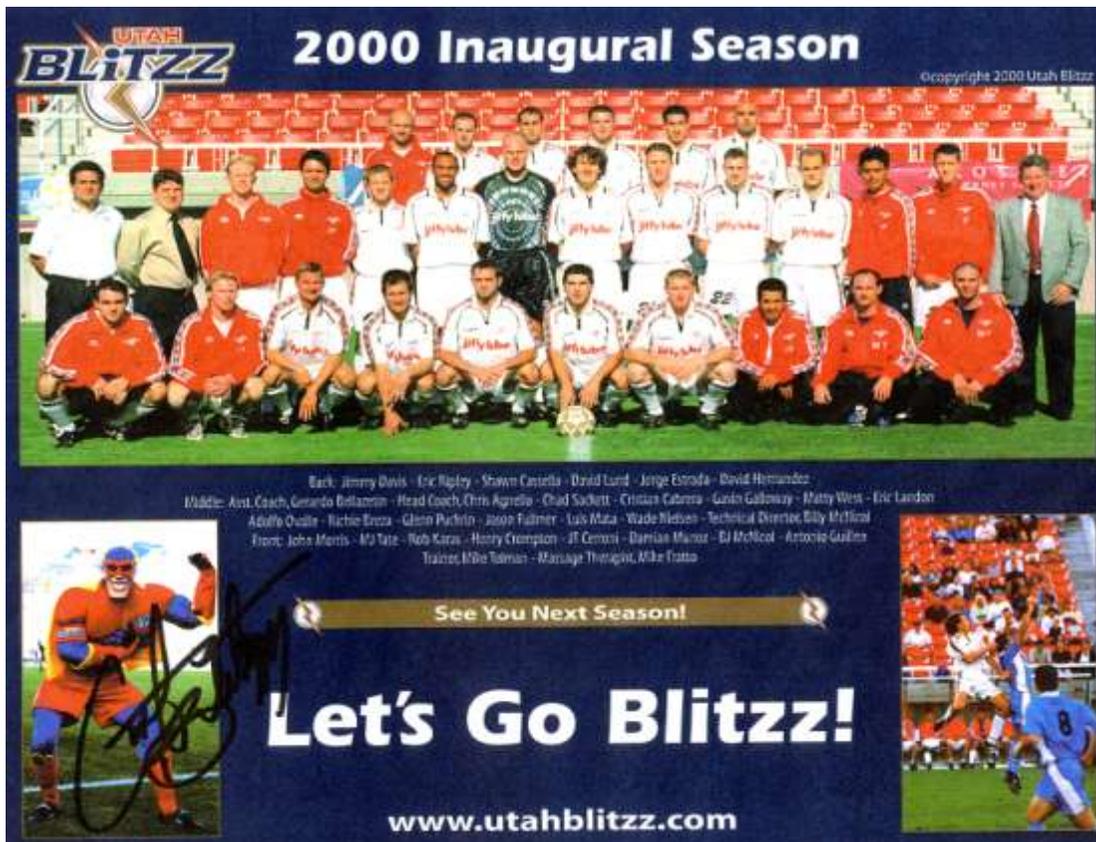
Utah Sting, 1990.

[Deseret Morning News photo]

²⁰ For a comprehensive overview of US soccer history, see the American Soccer History Archives at <http://www.sover.net/~spectrum/index.html> . This website contains literally everything you could ever ask about North American soccer history.

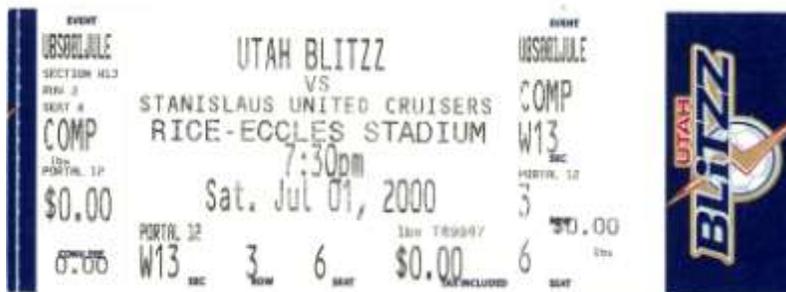
too quickly folded. Professional soccer in Utah was dormant until the late 1980s, when the American Professional Soccer League gave a franchise to Salt Lake City, for a team to be named the Utah Sting. They opened their play in April 1990, and for a time, things looked bright. The Sting played a full schedule in 1990 at Derks Field in Salt Lake, and the University of Utah was even considered as a site for the 1994 World Cup, which was held in the U.S. But by the end of the year, the Sting's owner decided that he couldn't afford both baseball (he also owned the Salt Lake Trappers, a minor league team) and the Sting, and put the club up for sale. The Utah Sports Foundation, a non-profit group, bought the franchise, and for a time, it seemed that pro soccer would take root in Utah. The Sting began a second year in 1991, but they just were not making enough money, with only 5,000 fans a game, to justify the costs. By the summer of 1991, the Sting "was pronounced dead by the American Professional Soccer League," according to an article in the *Deseret News*.

One team that showed every prospect of making a go of a professional soccer franchise in Utah was the Utah Blitzz. The Blitzz was a Division 3 professional soccer team, part of the USL, or United Soccer League. In terms of professional standings, the Blitzz was two levels below Major League Soccer; D3 is considered the entry level for professional



soccer players. The team got off started late in 1999, headed by Dell McNichol and his wife Stacy, with former Woods Cross High School star Chris Agnello as head coach. Tryouts for players were held through the fall of 1999, and by 2000, the team had a full roster of games lined up with teams from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and California. The first games were played in the University of Utah’s Rice-Eccles stadium, but McNichol had grander plans: the hotel developer had already hired a construction company and architects to build a 5000-seat “soccer-specific” stadium—expandable to 12,000 seats if the franchise took off—at the intersection of I-215 and 2100 South in West Valley City.

Site problems delayed the ground-breaking on the stadium, but it didn’t stop the Utah Blitzz from playing soccer. Their first official game, against the Chico (California) Rooks, was played at Chico on April 22, 2000. The Blitzz got off to an early lead but ended up losing the game 2-1. Their first win came in another away game, this one against the Colorado Comets, whom they defeated by a score of 3-2. In the meantime, the Colorado Rapids of the MLS agreed to play an exhibition game in June against the Blitzz. With that to look forward to, the team prepared for its first home game, on May 19, 2000, at Rice-Eccles stadium. It was a big event for the small-but-growing Utah soccer community; fireworks, a big pre-game party, and other festivities marked the opener. And the Blitzz didn’t disappoint; before 4000 fans, the team blanked the Stanislaus Cruisers 2-0.



The Blitzz were off to a great start. In the weeks before the Colorado Rapids exhibition game, the Blitzz compiled a winning record, including being undefeated at home. The

MLS team, however, shut out the Utah team four goals to none, but the Blitzz were not dismayed, and treated the loss as a way to gain both exposure and experience. Another exhibition game the next month, this time against a Mexican team from Tijuana, ended up with a 3-0 loss for the Blitzz, but both coaches felt that they had benefited. The Blitzz went on to compile an outstanding record for their first season, winning the Western

Conference finals before losing to the Charlotte Eagles in the semi-final. The Blitzz seemed poised for a great future.

That future included a summer camp program for young soccer players as well. Coach Chris Agnello modeled the summer camp program on those in Europe, which had been very successful in identifying and nurturing young talented players for advancement into upper level teams. Agnello's vision was a program that would fill in the gap between recreational and competition leagues for youth soccer, and allow kids to keep playing into their teens and beyond. Partnered with Salt Lake County, the program was wildly successful and is still in operation today. The same cannot be said for the Blitzz, unfortunately. 2001 proved to be a watershed year, with the Blitzz winning the USL national championship in a close game at Franklin-Covey Field, a baseball venue, in Salt Lake City. The University of Utah was playing a football game at Rice-Eccles stadium, and Derks was the only field available with enough seating. Even then the Blitzz—and the Franklin-Covey Field management—were taken aback by the interest. A crowd of over 8000 people showed up to see the game, and the local bus and light rail lines, as well as the concessions and security at the field, were completely overwhelmed. The crowd was rewarded with a close game against the Greenville, North Carolina, Lions, which the Blitzz won by a score of 1-0. The date was September 7, 2001.



After the September 11, 2001, attacks, the market that team owner Dell McNichol depended on for funding dried up, and he was forced to bow out. Head Coach Agnello and manager Stacy McNichol took over the team with private funding, and the Blitzz were able to keep playing for several more years. Agnello even led the team to another USL D3 championship, against the Charlotte Eagles, in 2004. Coming back from a two-goal deficit, the Blitzz tied the game and then won on penalty kicks after two overtime periods. After that win, Coach Agnello felt that it might be time to move up to Major League Soccer, and was able to interest a local investor in putting up the necessary funds, but Dave Checketts beat him to it, and secured the

MSL franchise for Real Salt Lake. In the interest of the game, Coach Agnello and Stacy McNichol dissolved the Utah Blitzz.²¹

The Utah Freezz, a member of the World Indoor Soccer League, didn't do as well as the Blitzz, with only a 12-10 record in their 1999 season. They played one more season before the WISL folded in 2001. A women's team, the Utah Spiders, was formed in 1999, and entered the Women's Premier Soccer League the next year. They were a successful team, winning several championships and placing second in the WPSL in 2002. In the ensuing years, the Spiders have continued to play and place in the top levels of the WPSL.

Soccer in Utah has a long and interesting history, from the days of the old miners in their natty jerseys and hard-toed boots, to the hard-charging urban, ethnic teams of the 1920s and 1930s, to the dedicated players in the 1950s and 1960s, to today's thousands and thousands of young and old soccer players and the Real Salt Lake. With the opening of the new Real Salt Lake Stadium in 2008, and the MLS All-Star Game, scheduled for Salt Lake City in 2009, combined with plans to build even more youth soccer complexes in the Salt Lake valley, soccer has found a permanent place in the Beehive state. Even though soccer's fortunes have gone up and down in Utah, it seems certain that there will remain enough people who love the "beautiful game" to keep it alive in Utah for many future generations.

²¹ This brief history of the Utah Blitzz comes from an interview with former head coach Chris Agnello, conducted on December 12, 2008. The author also used the Utah Blitzz 2000 Inaugural Season Year Book, loaned by Mr. Agnello. I am grateful to Mr. Agnello for this consideration.

A NOTE ON SOURCES

For this history, sources are divided into two periods. For the years before World War II, I relied heavily on newspaper accounts from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, the *Salt Lake Telegram*, and the *Salt Lake Herald*. Additional information was kindly provided by the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, New York. A major source of the newspaper accounts was the Utah Digital Newspapers Index, available from the University of Utah at this web address: <http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews/> Even though this index does not include the *Salt Lake Tribune* and the *Deseret News*, it provided a wealth of early accounts of soccer games in Utah from other newspapers. Clippings from the *Tribune* and *Deseret News* were found, however, in the scrapbooks of Alf Engen, Utah ski legend, which are housed in the Special Collections Department, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah. Alan Engen, Alf's son, was especially helpful in the course of this research. Marshall Henrie, grandson of George Herbert Clapham, provided photographs of the 1922 and 1923 Salt Lake Soccer Club teams, as well as photos of the U.S.F.U. championship pins. Some other mentions of Utah soccer before the present era were also found in publications of the Utah State Historical Society, and permission to use photos from their collections was kindly granted. Ray Cunningham, author of a comprehensive study of Prisoners of War and internees in Utah during World War I, provided useful information and corrections to the manuscript for the war years.

To write about Utah soccer history after World War II, I relied heavily on the Utah Soccer Association website, including the Utah Soccer Hall of Fame, available online at http://www.utahsoccer.org/hall_of_fame.php, and the lists of state and Daynes Cup champions on the same site. Mr. Bill Bosgraaf, President of the Utah Soccer Association, was unfailingly helpful and supportive throughout this project, and I am greatly in his debt. He introduced me to another great source of information and stories, namely Utahans who played soccer here in the 1940s to the present day. Besides Mr. Bosgraaf himself, I interviewed Willard Hansen, Peter Hughes, Gus Colessides, Bill Bosgraaf, and Tony Yapias, and held a group interview with Richard Gregersen, Stan De Waal, Willard Hansen, Ronnie Almond, Nicholas Hille, and Bill Bosgraaf. Chris Agnello, former head coach of the Utah Blitz, provided me not only with an interview about the history of that team, but allowed the use of photos from the Utah Blitz 2000 Inaugural Season yearbooks. The files of the Utah State Historical Society provided

records and photographs from Herman Neumann and AC Germania. The *Deseret Morning News* allowed me to go through their clippings files and photo morgue to gather information about efforts to bring professional soccer to Utah.

All clippings, interviews, photos, and other research materials are housed in the Special Collections Department, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.

