

# SHORTPASSES



## Akers to host fantasy camp

... **MICHELLE AKERS** is introducing the first fantasy soccer camp for women. Michelle, **JULIE FOU DY**, **BRANDI CHASTAIN**, **TIFFENY MILBRETT** and former U.S. coach **TONY DICICCO** will all serve as camp counselors. The camp will be held at the Oasis Resort & Spa on the shores of Gulfport, Miss., Sept. 6-9. The camp isn't cheap. Because of the anticipated high demand for the limited number of camp openings — just 100 — each spot will be auctioned individually at [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com) and will go to the highest bidder. Proceeds from the auctions will support Soccer Outreach International, a nonprofit youth leadership program that Akers founded in 1997. For

additional information and to register, visit [www.MichelleAkers.com](http://www.MichelleAkers.com). Two levels of packages are being offered at eBay: 80 Pro-level packages, each with a minimum bid of \$2,000; and 20 All-Star-level packages, each with a minimum bid of \$3,500. The packages are detailed at the Web site. Campers must be 21 or older and should have a general knowledge of the sport of soccer. All ability levels are welcome. It would make a heckuva birthday present. ...

## So who needs lights?

... The Huffys Sports Co. has introduced a new lighted soccer ball. Called Twilight, the ball has a bright, orange glow "for optimum visibility during low-light conditions." The ball automatically turns itself off after five minutes of nonactivity. The Twilight ball comes in three sizes and retails from \$14.99 to \$29.99. It's available in sporting-goods stores and mass-market retailers. Or visit the company online at [www.huffysports.com](http://www.huffysports.com). ...

## New site for US Club Soccer

... US Club Soccer has launched its new Web site at [www.usclubsoccer.org](http://www.usclubsoccer.org). The new site will also

allow soccer clubs to register their players directly online. US Club Soccer was founded in early 2000 as the National Association of Competitive Soccer Clubs (NACSC) by a group of soccer club coaching directors. In July 2001 it was granted USSF membership, permitting it to sanction tournaments, leagues and other competitions for member clubs. The number of registered clubs grew to 240 by the end of 2001 and the organization changed its name to US Club Soccer. For more information, call (843) 429-0006 ...

## Does MLS matter to kids?

... I'm serving as moderator for an interesting panel program at the Long Island (N.Y.) Junior Soccer League's annual convention on March 2. It's titled "Does MLS Really Matter to Kids?" and the panelists include two LUSL teenage players, **MATT HAYES** and **MARVIN SOTO**, MLS Commissioner **DON GARBER**, *Soccer America* columnist **PAUL GARDNER**, and *New York Daily News* soccer writer **MIKE LEWIS**. It should be an interesting conversation, but my hope is to pump the kids for their ideas on how we CAN make MLS matter to kids! That would really change the face of soccer in America. ...