



THE YOUTH SOCCER COACH

Written by Mike Berticelli

**You donate your time for the good of our youth,
But you yell and you scream and are often uncouth.**

**The ref is just twelve and still learning the game,
But you call him a jerk and say he's not sane.**

**The parents are screaming and follow your lead,
As you sprint up the sideline at uncontrollable speed.**

**You jump as you yell, "Pass, pass the ball!"
You turn red as you bellow, ref make the darn call!**



**"You're the left back now, stay in your position.
If you don't we might lose and ruin our tradition.**

**Positions are needed to look like a team,
Cause their miniature pros or so does it seem.**

**The fullbacks are bored, they pick at their nose,
While others run wild and kick with their toes.**

**You scream for a goal no matter how it goes in.
Skill doesn't matter, just as long as we win.**



**The parents go crazy as the ball nears the goal.
Their advice and instructions will soon take their toll.**

**You see Junior feels pressure, he's not having much fun.
We tell him when to pass, when to shoot and to run.**

**He came here to play and use his own mind.
Cause soccer is the most creative game you'll find.**

**Imagination is needed on the part of each child.
Solving problems on the field is what makes them go wild.**



**A week of long practice while just standing in line.
Waiting to shoot, using one ball at a time.**

**This just doesn't cut it and for some it's too late.
Make your practices fun, don't be the coach they hate.**

**They come to "play" soccer, not to work at the game.
Their excitement is something we don't want to tame.**



**Maradona had moves that are beyond comprehension,
No coach taught those moves while threatening detention!**

**He learned from his friends, and tried copying others,
While playing in games, without coaches and mothers.**

**Soccer is different, not like baseball at all,
We don't need positions, just give them the ball.**

**They, first must learn skill, it's the meat of the game,
If they can't dribble or shoot, then who should we blame?**



**Skills must be learned through repeated trials.
If motivation is present, you will see them run miles**

**“Fun games” are the answer to encourage repetition,
They laugh and they scream and enjoy competition.**

**Without the skill to dribble past an opponent at will,
Your players may win, but their growth will stand still.**

**I dream of the day when the parents just cheer,
And losing the game doesn't bring out a tear.**





**When practice is fun, not dull and so boring.
And playing the game means more than just scoring.**

**I know you mean well and you donate your time,
But bury your ego and do something sublime.**

**Call all the parents and ask for their aid.
You're teaching their kids and not getting paid.**



**Your goal is to develop a youngster with skill,
Not a team that must win or some fancy new drill.**



**You see players are not judged by their wins and their losses,
Instead they are judged by their shots, heads and crosses!**

**Scholarships are given players with great names,
Not those on youth teams that never lost games.**



**A pro player gets paid because their skills are real fine,
Not because their team never lost games while they were nine.**

**It's time to bring soccer to new heights in this nation,
The future's in players, not a coaching citation.**



**Let's start to say "dribble" and stop yelling pass,
You'll then see our players go to the head of the class.**

**I hope you're concerned, but not really offended,
It's the need for more skill that I have defended.**

**You're giving your all from the good of your heart,
Why not make sure the kids get the right start!**

