



Kids participating in the Challenge Sports soccer camp held at North Elementary School made sure they stretched properly before playing soccer Friday. Four European professional soccer players were the camp's instructors. Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

# British soccer players put on camp for kids

By Lester Bolen  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Despite the recent increase in the popularity of Major League Soccer and the newly formed Women's Soccer League, America still lags behind the rest of the world in terms of soccer acceptance.

Though soccer is the most popular sport in the world, it still ranks behind football, basketball, baseball and car racing in this country.

That doesn't stop Challenge Sports from trying to change that.

Challenge sends professional soccer players all over the United States to build interest in soccer to America's youth.

Over 350 camps are conducted every year with groups of four professional soccer players at each.

Four British soccer players, Steven Whittaker, Neil Butthen, Graham Nicholas, all of England, and Dougie

Thomson of Scotland, are conducting a five-day camp at North Elementary School in Goodland for kids 4 to 14.

"Americans find it very difficult to find quality coaches," Whittaker said. "In Europe, we have very strict discipline and coaches so hopefully we can help teach young kids proper techniques."

The instructors divided the Goodland kids into three age groups and taught each different skills.

Thomson, in charge of the youngest kids, taught them basic skills such as dribbling and passing. The kids played games like tag, where one person was it and would have to tag someone else with the soccer ball they were dribbling.

The middle group, led by Butthen and Whittaker, emphasized actual games.

The kids played on a small field and had to follow rules, such as the out of bounds line and the proper way to

throw the ball in to play.

"We are not playing basketball here," Butthen told the kids. "You can't use your hands and you can't throw the ball in like a basketball."

Nicholas, the instructor for the older kids group, focused on specialized skills like complex dribbling moves. The older group did drills that involved pentacle kicks in addition to playing games.

Tyler Baker, 6, sounded like an experienced soccer player as he played goalie for his team.

"I like to play soccer because it's my favorite sport," Baker said.

When asked how long he had been playing his favorite sport, Baker confidently replied, "This is my second day."

The players stayed at campers' houses during the week and those families that hosted players received a discount on the fee of the camp.

# Suns, Nets trade all-star guards

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns wanted to shake up a franchise that had become predictable and boring.

Did they ever succeed.

Jason Kidd, the energized master of the triple-double and an all-NBA first team selection the last two years, was traded to the New Jersey Nets for the youthful, high-scoring Stephon Marbury on Thursday.

The Suns traded a player considered a throwback to an era when a point guard passed first and shot second for a big scorer compared by Suns owner

Jerry Colangelo to MVP Allen Iverson. Kidd was perturbed to hear of the trade through news reports and not from the Suns.

Colangelo said he tried to explain that the deal would not have been announced late Thursday afternoon if word had not already leaked.

Marbury, at 24 four years younger than Kidd, was glad to get away from the Nets to a franchise with a history of winning, even though the Suns made it past the first round of the playoffs only one time in Kidd's 4 1/2 seasons in Phoenix.

The deal will not become official until July 18 because of compensation and contract issues, Colangelo said. Other players will be involved, but only for salary cap considerations.

Kidd, with two years plus one at his option left on his contract, will earn about \$8.5 million next season. Marbury, with three years plus one more at his option left on his deal, will make \$11 million.

Kidd, the league's best triple-double threat, will take over a team that was 26-56 last season, compared to the Suns' 51-31.

# baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	45	32	.584	—
New York	43	33	.566	1 1/2
Baltimore	37	41	.474	8 1/2
Toronto	37	41	.474	8 1/2
Tampa Bay	24	54	.308	21 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	45	30	.600	—
Minnesota	46	31	.597	—
Chicago	37	38	.493	8
Detroit	32	43	.427	13
Kansas City	31	46	.403	15
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	56	21	.727	—
Anaheim	38	39	.493	18
Oakland	37	40	.481	19
Texas	30	47	.390	26

W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	44	34	.564
Philadelphia	44	34	.564
Florida	41	38	.519
New York	34	46	.425
Montreal	31	48	.392
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	45	32	.584
Houston	40	36	.526
St. Louis	40	37	.520
Milwaukee	38	38	.500
Cincinnati	31	46	.403
Pittsburgh	29	47	.382
West Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	47	31	.603
Los Angeles	41	37	.526
San Francisco	41	37	.526
Colorado	38	40	.487
San Diego	37	42	.468

# little league

Bantam Standing			
Team	W	L	Runs
Prairie Petals	3	0	42
Gold Bank	3	1	35
R&S Repair	2	1	45
Fidele Graphics	1	3	28
Atwood	0	4	22
Pee Wee Standings			
Team	W	L	Runs
Atwood	2	0	13
Johnsons Realty	2	1	42
Farmers Bank	1	1	29
Countryside Vet	1	2	30
Wee Wee Standings			
Team	W	L	Runs
Fredrickson Ins.	4	0	53
Custom Trophy	3	1	56
Raye's Grocery	1	2	27
Metcalf Realty	0	2	6
Fair Chiropractic	0	3	11

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# sports briefs

## American Legion hosts tournament

The Levi Hayden baseball tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday at the new Memorial Field in Goodland.

**Saturday**  
9 am - Goodland vs Wray  
11 am - Ulysses vs Grove City  
1 pm - Wray vs Calhan  
3 pm - Grove City vs Scott City  
5 pm - Calhan vs Ulysses  
7 pm - Scott City vs Goodland

**Sunday**  
9 am - Goodland vs Ulysses  
11 am - Wray vs Grove City  
1 pm - Ulysses vs Scott City  
3 pm - Grove City vs Calhan  
5 pm - Scott City vs Calhan  
7 pm - Calhan vs Goodland

Proceeds from the tournament go to the Levi Hayden Memorial Scholarship which is given to a Goodland American Legion senior baseball player.

## Padre outfielder expected to retire

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tony Gwynn, whose sweet left-handed swing has put him in the company of baseball greats like Honus Wagner and Ted Williams, will retire at the end of the season.

Gwynn, who has spent 20 seasons with the San Diego Padres, wanted to delay the announcement as long as possible because didn't want the fanfare of a farewell tour.

Now introducing

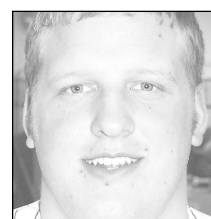
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# Bulls just don't get it

So let me get this straight. You draft a smallish power forward instead of



rookies from Houston, but Griffin could have provided a sorely needed

## lester bolen

• more or lester

horrible team, you trade him for a high school kid with poor work ethics.

Call me crazy but I'm just not getting the point of the Chicago Bulls trade of Elton Brand to the Clippers for high school phenomenon Tyson Chandler.

The Bulls were the youngest team in NBA history last year and just got younger by trading their only proven player for the 18 year old small forward. This trade makes the Clippers a legitimate play-off contender (the Clippers?) and all but guarantees that the Bulls will challenge the Grizzlies for the title of the NBA's worst team (the Bulls). Excuse me Jerry Krause, but bad players don't make losing teams, bad management make losing teams.

The Nets will end up regretting trading Stephon Marury to the Suns for Jason Kidd. Granted Kidd is a top five player in the league but his specialty is defense, rebounding, and passing. That would be great for a team like the Lakers or the 76ers but for a scoring starved Nets team it could spell trouble.

The Nets improved their depth by trading Eddie Griffin, the seventh pick in Wednesday's draft, for three

scoring punch. Aside from Marury only Keith Van Horn averaged over 15 points per game (17.2).

The Nets might be a better passing team and defensive team with the addition of Kidd, but with the new rule changes offense is expected to be at a premium. Kidd is an amazing talent but Marbury's game was better suited to the Nets. This is the type of trade that might not really help either team.

And finally...The Atlanta Braves trade John Rocker to the Cleveland Indians for Steve Reed and Steve Karsay and go on a seven game winning streak.

Coincidence, maybe, but the effect that he had on the club house. The Braves are a more relaxed team without the great mouth from the south. Expect them to continue their hot streak at least until after the July 10 all-star game.

And finally...part two. On a non-sports note, just a quick good-bye to Janet Craft. Janet, thanks for all the help you gave me and also for making it easier to adjust to a new job by being so nice. You will be missed by all of us here and good luck in the future.

**Questions? Comments? Complaints? Send email to moreor-lester@fan.com.**

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**Rob Schneider**

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