

# Children learn from the pros!

"We know that children love playing soccer, but there are few professionally run options once for them they reach age six or so," said Deborah Mader, who owns and operates Pro Soccer Kids with her husband, Thomas Creagh. Mader does the administrative work, while Creagh is their hands-on head coach.

The few clubs that do exist for this age group are often coached by a volunteer parent who has little professional coaching experience. Improving on technical skills and tactics are often lost. We hope to change this."

What makes this soccer club so unique is the guidance of Creagh, known as Coach Tom, who boasts a lifetime of playing soccer, and 15 years of coaching in Ireland, England, Australia and the U.S. As a licensed United States Soccer Federation (USSF) coach, he is also an FIFA-licensed coach, licensed through the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), and certified in Infant and Child First Aid and CPR. He has coached soccer at Notre Dame Girls High School, was integral in the formation of their first club soccer team, and has coached youth teams at Manhattan Soccer Club, Oceanside United, and Garden City Park. Most recently, he became a professional recruiter for the New York Metro area for the Royal Racing Football Club Montegnée of Liege, Belgium. He will be actively scouting for players interested in playing abroad for the RRF professional and/or pursuing college education.

Coach Tom incorporates coaching techniques shared by soccer powerhouses in England, Brazil and Holland. He seeks out the finest youth soccer programs to bring those philosophies and concepts into Pro Soccer Kids. His other coaches - all certified, with experience working with young children - come from Europe, South America and the U.S. In the works is the Thomas

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Creagh Soccer Academy for children age six and up, who will have the opportunity to play under professional coaches. Tournaments will take place throughout New York State.

Pro Soccer Kids offers dozens of age-appropriate classes held at locations like Eisenhower Park, Nickerson Beach Park, Point Lookout State Park, St. Anthony's Church in Oceanside, Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Center, Bay Park/East Rockaway, St. Marks Church in Rockville Centre, Lawrence Woodmere Academy and Cedarhurst Park. Manhattan venues include Central Park, Ft. Tryon and Inwood Hill Parks.

Parent & Me, for children ages 24-36 months, allows a parent to participate with the child, thus easing the youngster into social interactions with support and confidence. In Private Class Instruction, a group of friends and/or family can schedule a class. Classes can include stretching, warm-up, game skills, team concepts and scrimmages. "Most importantly, we want the children to have fun," Mader said. "We treat every child as if he or she is our own."

Week-long soccer camps, which will take place during school breaks throughout the year, are being planned for children ages 4 through 13. Summer 2009 Soccer Camp will be held from Aug. 10-14, with half and whole-day options for ages 4 through 10. Goalkeeper training will also be available.

Giving back to the community is important to Creagh and Mader, who plan for ongoing volunteer activity like Earth Day events, school charities and PTA fundraisers. Inspired by a Pro Soccer Kids parent, they have pledged to give \$1 of every registration for every season to the Michelle O'Neill Foundation, a local charity that aids families of children battling cancer.