

News Release – For immediate release

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NEW SOCCER COMPLEX ANNOUNCED IN PORTAGE

The Portage Soccer Club will announce the opening of a new soccer practice complex in the City of Portage. The Soccer Club Board, Coaches and players will join Pfizer officials for a dedication ceremony on Monday April 30, 2007 at 4:00 pm at 8201 Cox's Drive.

Six full size soccer fields at the corner of Zylman and Cox's Drive will be available for members of the Portage Soccer Club for team practice. The soccer club is leasing the land from Pfizer Inc. This soccer practice complex will supplement the Portage Soccer Complex, which consists of nine premier-competition fields owned and operated by the Portage Soccer Club (PSC).

According to PSC President Peter Strazdas, "Soccer practice space has been a growing need in Portage. A non-profit group such as ours can operate and maintain these fields with volunteers and not place a burden on the taxpayers and area parks. Our members will benefit by practicing on one site at a time convenient for them. It will also provide opportunities for all teams and coaches to support each other at one location. The soccer community and Portage residents will also benefit with less congestion in the City park system."

The Portage Soccer Club is the oldest and largest club in Portage that offers Select and Elite levels of competition in the West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA). This past year, the club hosted 16 competitive teams for 250 Portage families. Portage Soccer Club alumni include Jacob Peterson (Indiana Univ. and Colorado Rapids # 1 MLS draft choice), Eric Alexander (Indiana Univ, and 2006 Michigan Mr. Soccer), and Lindsay Tarpley (2002 Michigan Ms Soccer and 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist).

This is also the second year in a row the Club had teams participate in the Michigan State Cup. This year the Portage Soccer Club will host two State Cup Games at the Portage Soccer Complex. The Club will also host the 21st Portage Soccer Classic in June. This is one of the oldest select soccer tournaments in our region that draws 150 to 200 teams around the Midwest and draws thousands of visitors to our region with a great economic impact to Portage.

The Portage Soccer Club began in 1985 and gained status as an incorporated non-profit organization in February 1991. Starting with only four boys teams playing in WMYSA, today PSC is one of the largest clubs in WMYSA fielding both boys and girls teams from U9 all the way to U19. The PSC philosophy of emphasizing player development over winning, excellent coaching and value results in teams that consistently perform very well in both skills and results. The club believes players, parents, and the community will always "win through development". Club try-outs start on June 18, 2007. For more information, go to: www.portagesoccer.com