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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amber Sikora Named TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year by Washington Youth Soccer

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Monday, April 28) – Over the weekend Washington Youth Soccer bestowed awards and special recognition upon its most dedicated volunteers and coaches at the 2008 Annual Awards Dinner. Held in conjunction with SoccerPalooza, Washington Youth Soccer’s highly attended community event, more than 500 guests attended the dinner at the Tacoma Convention Center to celebrate the accomplishments of state-wide nominees in eleven different categories. This year, the Fred Meyer TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year Award Winner was Amber Kay Sikora of Vancouver, Washington.

A senior at Skyview High School, Amber has been a part of the state’s soccer community her entire life. With years of playing experience at the recreational and premier levels, Amber was able to bring her breadth of knowledge to the Camas/Washougal Soccer Club’s TOPSoccer program and players. During her time with this newly formed program, Amber’s leadership skills grew as she patiently explained activities to her eager players in a way that not only allowed them to participate, but also enabled them to find personal success.

Amber’s TOPSoccer colleagues recounted their positive experiences with her, stating, “I was amazed at the way she not only handled the kids, but the time she devoted towards making the season such a tremendous success.” A true reflection of the positive things that make TOPSoccer such a special program, they also called Amber “patient, wonderful and an outstanding player in her own right.”

Amber’s achievements on the field are evenly matched by her involvement off of it. A four-year honor roll student and WIAA Scholar athlete, Amber dedicates a lot of time to other charitable organizations such as NHS, Key Club and the American Red Cross.

Washington Youth Soccer would like to congratulate Amber on being named the 2008 Fred Meyer TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year! For a recap on all of Washington Youth Soccer’s 2008 Annual Award Winners, please visit www.wsysa.com

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 126,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

About Washington Youth Soccer's TOPSoccer Program

One of Washington Youth Soccer's most beloved programs, TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. Organized by local youth soccer volunteers, the program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl regardless of age, who has a mental or physical disability. Over the years, the development and growth of Washington Youth Soccer's TOPSoccer programs have made it one of the most prolific states in US Youth Soccer and Region IV.

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