

Josh Groves ...

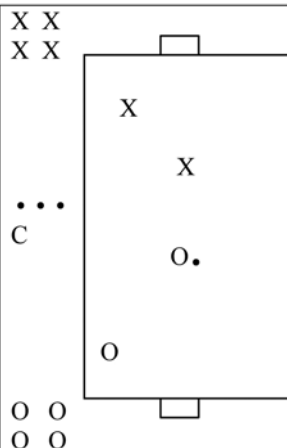
5 2v2 Get Outta There

X & O = players

C = coach

. = ball

- coach as boss of the balls
- coach passes ball onto field to start play
- two players from each team play until a goal is scored or the ball goes out of bounds
- out of bounds, coach yells "get outta there," and two new players from each team go on with the next ball
- goal is scored, two players who scored stay on and two new players from the other team play against them



- see ball through bottom of eyes
- keep ball rolling
- first try to solve game by dribbling
- player w/o ball find big, easy spot to receive a pass

2008 ODP Regional Championships

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Over 100 youth soccer players from around the state and surrounding areas represented New Mexico in the 2008 ODP Regional Championships in Phoenix, Arizona, over the Martin Luther King weekend. Playing in their respective age groups, teams fought for top bragging rights in the Region and to qualify to play in the ODP National Championships. New Mexico sent

seven teams this year, four boys' and three girls' teams, to compete in this illustrious competition. While the boys' teams had better overall results, the '94 girls, coached by Greg Rusk, certainly got the attention of the Region by winning their bracket. They then took on a gritty Utah team, under the lights of Phoenix, in the semifinals. This game had end-to-end action throughout, with both teams causing havoc on each other's defense. But both teams' defenses stood up to the challenge and the game eventually drifted into penalty kicks. The team from New Mexico didn't have their penalty kicking shoes on that night and heartbreakingly missed out on a chance to play in the finals.

The '93 boys reached the semifinals as well and coach Mark Crawford was proud of the way the team got there. This talented team of teenagers stumbled out of the blocks with a surprising tie against Idaho but quickly turned things around with a resounding 4-0 win over Nevada, setting up a much anticipated semifinal game against the host state. Arizona did their homework and shut down key areas of New Mexico's attack while scoring two goals of their own. The '93s came roaring back with tremendous amounts of pressure and scored a goal with 15 minutes left. Through this tumultuous quarter hour, New Mexico went close to scoring several times but Arizona stood their ground and

knocked the '93 boys out of the competition 2-1.

The highlight of the tournament for New Mexico was the outstanding play of the '91 boys team. From the first game to the last, everyone in the Region was talking about this group of young men coached by Pete McGovern. Playing beautifully flowing, attacking football the '91 boys overwhelmed each of their bracket opponents. Dominating on the field and scoreboard, 4-0 vs Hawaii, 3-0 vs Idaho, and 4-0 vs Colorado, the New Mexicans finished first on overall points in the age group and cruised into the semifinals where they faced a tough Oregon side. A bit tentative in the early going, the '91s were just settling into a rhythm before a red card, given to an Oregon defender, disrupted the game. Unbelievably, Oregon scored with a man down, unknowingly lighting the fire the '91s needed to get back into gear, and did they ever, scoring directly from the ensuing kick-off. In the excitement of the tying goal, a player from New Mexico was given his second yellow, for unsportsmanlike conduct, resulting in his ejection from the game, thus evening up the one man advantage the New Mexican held. The quality and determination of the '91s proved too much for Oregon to handle and New Mexico were in the Finals with a 2-1 overtime victory. The final, against the regionally dominant California South, was one of the best games of the tournament. Pete McGovern's squad took it straight to Cal-South and much like all the other teams they faced overwhelmed them in the first half of play. Having the majority of the play, New Mexico came into half time feeling they were knocking on the doors of their opponent even though the score remained 0-0. The second half went back and forth with both teams unlocking the other on a number of occasions. Midway through the half, the referee ejected a New Mexico player from the '91s after a tussle, and though New Mexico was less than enchanted they continued to play attacking football but the score at the end of overtime was 1-1 and we were headed