

VOLUNTEER of the Month

Missie Braaten-Krueger Grafton Soccer Club

Volunteering for a sport is almost always associated with a parent or caregiver taking part in their child's game of choice.

Missie Braaten-Krueger doesn't have children but that hasn't kept her from donating a chunk of her spare time to the Grafton Soccer Club.

Serving as director for the August tournaments, indoor and outdoor, is just part of what she does. Braaten-Krueger also serves on the soccer board for the soccer club. While not seeking recognition for her efforts, she agrees to be cited if it helps the Club.

"One of the contacts at the Grafton Soccer Club asked me if I'd mind being profiled," Braaten-Krueger said. "I'm a private person and don't like to be in the spotlight, but if it leads to more participation or furthers any portion of what we do I'm all right with it."

She's played soccer since she was young and her passion for the game seems to grow every day. "I started playing when I was six and I've always loved the fast pace, the teamwork."

"My parents never played soccer but they took it up as adults and began coaching us kids."

According to Braaten-Krueger, soccer provides strong challenges for a player. "What they can do with their head and



Rick Novotny and Missie Braaten-Krueger

feet is nothing short of amazing," she said. "They run about six miles a game. They share a common purpose and respect."

Acting as a tournament director is new to Braaten-Krueger. "I think they were pleased with the fundraising I did for the club," she said.

"Last year I coached the U-8 kids. Some of the parents are very involved, which is great to see."

"Playing soccer in her family is not an option," she says with a smile. "I would recommend this game as it has done so much for me," she said. "I get a lot of happiness from playing in a women's league and if I can get another child to love it half as much as I do, that would be wonderful."

A lifelong resident of Grafton, Braaten-Krueger says the experiences soccer provides is like none other. "The Grafton Soccer Club really does care. It's not just a business for us. We're not about turning out the next World Cup star, we want everyone to succeed."



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