



# Rovers Newsletter

Teamwork. Commitment. Citizenship. Respect.

Summer 2024

## Message from the President

Hello Rovers Families!

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable start to the summer. We had another successful spring season with several teams winning their respective leagues, which is always a plus and great way to represent the town of Granby. As always, thank you to all of our volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, and managers who help keep our teams running. A special thank you to Becky Sielman, one of our long-time referees, who is finally hanging up her cleats. She has been a mainstay at the club for years and we couldn't be more appreciative of the time she helped mentoring our referees.



*Austin Busbey, President*

To do this summer for the kids include keep kicking the ball around - it'll make your coaches smile to see the work you've done this summer. Also, watch some soccer! Between the U.S. Women playing in the Olympics, the U.S. Men playing in the Copa America, and the European Championships taking place this month, there is plenty of great soccer on TV to learn from.

Have a wonderful summer break and see everyone in the fall.

Austin Busbey  
Rovers Board President



~ Retiree ~ Soccer XS Summer Camp  
~ U15 Boys Profile ~ Summer Soccer ~ Scholarship Winners

## Sielman Hangs Up Her Signature Black Visor

After years serving as the Rovers referee assignor and then as a seasoned referee and mentor, Becky Sielman has decided to retire. "We would not be the program we are today without Becky," said Raychel Carey, Rovers referee and field coordinator. "My son grew up as a Rovers referee under her mentorship and I couldn't be more proud to know her." In addition to her contributions to the Rovers organization as a referee, Sielman also ran the Saturday morning drop-in summer soccer program for many years. "I cannot thank Becky enough and let's all wish her the very best as she retires," Carey said.



# GRANBY SOCCER CAMP

2024

### CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CAMPS!

Experience the thrill of the beautiful game while learning from top-quality coaches, making unforgettable memories, and developing your soccer skills this Summer!



### LAUREN COMIRE - CAMP PARENT

"THIS PROGRAM IS **VERY ORGANIZED AND WELL RUN**. THE COACHES ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO **HAVE FUN** WHILE ALSO FOCUSING ON BUILDING THEIR **SOCCER SKILLS**."

## CAMPS AVAILABLE



### Field Player Academy Camp

For Rec players 6-15 years old  
9:00am-12:00pm (Half-Day Camp)  
9:00am-3:00pm (Full-Day Camp)  
Mon-Fri (All camps end at noon of Fri)



### Goalkeeper Academy Camp

For Goalkeepers 8-15 years old  
9:00am-12:00pm (Half-Day Camp)  
9:00am-3:00pm (Full-Day Camp)  
Mon-Fri (All camps end at noon of Fri)

Half Day Camp - \$175 Per Player

Full Day Camp - \$245 Per Player

## CAMPS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Licensed pro soccer coaches
- ✓ 1000's of touches on the ball
- ✓ 15-25 hours of quality coaching
- ✓ A Soccer XS camp training jersey
- ✓ Competitions, games & prizes

## CAMP DETAILS

Location: Salmon Brook Park, Granby

Dates: August 19th-23rd, 2024

[SOCCERXS.COM/CAMPLOCATIONS](http://SOCCERXS.COM/CAMPLOCATIONS)



# A Fond Farewell

*As the U15 Boys head to high school in the fall, Head Coach Mark Kennedy reflects on the last six years:*

## **What has been your favorite memory with this team?**

Having been with many of the players since they were eight years old, my greatest memory is their growth. I am a vocal coach, as the boys would probably attest to, and I remember the first game in Portland, CT and being hoarse at the end of it after guiding them through the game. Keeping track of seven new players and helping them learn the game took a lot of instruction. Another memory of the team was in our final fall season we made it to the second round in the CT Cup and unfortunately lost to Farmington. Seeing the boys at the end of the game emotionally invested in winning was fulfilling. They wanted to win. They expected to win and they were willing to show their disappointment at the end of the game and I am proud of them for that.

## **What do you see as their greatest strengths?**

This team's strengths are willingness to work hard, players willing to step up and lead each other and they are a true team. Over the course of the six seasons, there was only once that there was an issue with teammates not getting along. They are truly friends and that makes them powerful as a group.

## **What advice would you give them as they move on to high school?**

The advice I have already offered them is to work hard and that work needs to come from them in season and off season - during practice and the time they put in when not practicing. They need to own their growth now.



*The U15 boys as 2nd graders. Seven of the original 12 played in the last game this season.*



*The U15 boys in the final spring season. Ten of the players in the last season were with the team five or more seasons.*

# Saturday Morning Soccer

Rovers of all ages are welcome to come to drop-in soccer on Saturday mornings in July. This year the sessions are on July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27 from 9-10 a.m. at the Rovers fields. One or more Rovers coaches will be on hand to help get everyone organized. No need to sign up ahead of time. Just show up ready to play!



## Rovers Name Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Granby Memorial High School Seniors Alyssa Bordonaro, Addyson Earl, Patrick Liss and Chas Orluk on receiving the Jamie Ranicar Memorial Soccer Scholarship. Bordonaro plans to attend Clark University in the fall and study biology/chemistry and play basketball. Earl is off to University of North Carolina Charlotte to study nursing and play soccer. Liss plans to attend University of Connecticut and study biological sciences. Orluk is interested in math/science and is headed to Swarthmore College to play soccer. They all grew up as part of the Rovers community and we wish them the best!



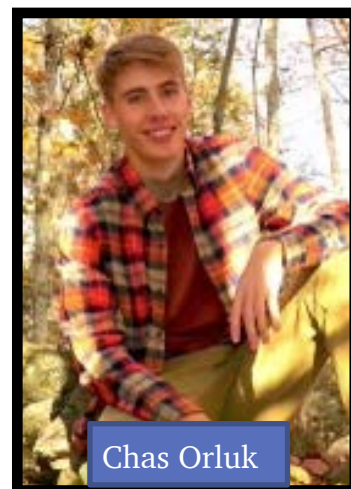
Alyssa Bordonaro



Addyson Earl



Patrick Liss



Chas Orluk

### Important Dates

July 6-27 – Drop-In Soccer (Saturdays)

Aug. 1 – Deadline to Sign Up for Fall Season



### Granby Rovers Soccer Board

Austin Busbey, President  
Ashley Bednarz, Vice President  
James Tsaptsinos, Treasurer  
Andrea Burns, Secretary  
Melissa Dethlefsen, Registrar  
Colby Stoltz, Coaching Director  
Steve Earl, Boys Director  
Diane Bragoni, Girls Director  
Mark Melnik, Facilities Director  
Greg Dion, Media Director  
Sierra Payette, Uniform Coordinator  
Raychel Carey, Referee/Field Coordinator

### Contact Us

Email: [info@granbyrovers.org](mailto:info@granbyrovers.org)

\* Melissa Dethlefsen created the newsletter top banner and it features the Spring 2024 U12 Boys Team.