



Kids get a kick out of soccer

Soccer is a game for everyone—from first graders to some of the best-conditioned athletes in the world.

And the fact that anyone can play is why soccer is booming, said Sue Lake, soccer coordinator for the Lincoln YMCA.

"We don't have as many great athletes in our soccer program as we do in say, football or basketball, because anyone can learn to play soccer," she said. "But that is what makes it so attractive."

YMCA soccer has grown from 70 participants in its first season, the spring of 1975, to 500 this spring. As late as last fall, only 160 children were enrolled in the program, she said.

This year, for the first time, first grade children were allowed to sign up. One hundred-sixty are playing, despite the fact that the average first grader may be only four times as tall as a soccer ball.



Photographs by Ted Kirk
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