

Interview With...SAM HOPPES

Sam Hoppes was selected as the 2006 Male Youth Referee of the Year for LRA and District III.

Sam Hoppes comes to Livermore in 1991. Born in Woodstock (no, not at the show), Virginia. Sam has been a player for LYSL his entire career U5 - U19.

Livermore Referee Association (LRA): Congratulations on being selected as the Livermore Referee Association and District III Male Youth Referee of the Year. What does this mean to you?

Sam: It is an honor. Years of hard work are paying off. I have been an active referee for 6 years.

LRA: What prompted you to become a referee?

Sam: Honestly, at that age, money. Also, my family is comprised of referees. Now I referee from the personal enjoyment I get.

LRA: What surprised you most since you become a referee?

Sam: I never thought signaling would be so hard to remember. Ken Mitchell helped me over that when he pointed out years ago

that my signals looked the same.

LRA: Any role models that have influenced you?

Sam: Tons of people have given me valuable feedback. Ones that stand out to me are **Peter Kit**, **Duane Rueppel**, and my family. LRA takes great care of growing its youth referees. **Tessie King's** district youth mentoring program puts the polish what the league associations have built.

LRA: What was your most challenging or memorable match?

Sam: It was a U12B-D1 tournament match last summer. The teams were so fun to work with. The competition was huge and one side clearly dominated, but the way the kids played the game, everyone had fun on all side, youth and adult alike.

LRA: How has being an active referee impacted your life?

Sam: I have a thicker skin to criticism (constructive or not). Comments that are less constructive are more like tuning out your mom nagging you. I am more confident in myself, less shy in class.

LRA: What should someone else become a referee?

Sam: Be more involved with your kid; understand more about the game. For kids, it's the money, plain and simple.

LRA: Any activities outside of soccer refereeing?

Sam: I play soccer, lacrosse and did track and basketball a while back.

LRA: What is next for you?

Sam: I hope to get to referee the CYSA State Cup quarter, semi, and finals. The round of 16 for olders would be great. Other than that, I have college in the fall. I have been accepted in a few places, including my first choice, Cal Maritime.

LRA: Final thoughts?

Sam: Congratulations to **Susie** and **Trevor** for winning State Referee of the Year.

Congratulations on being selected as Male Youth Referee of the Year for both our city and our district, Sam. You represent us well.



Sam Hoppes, Feb 2007

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