

Interview With...SUSIE GAZZUOLO

Each month, we highlight one of our Livermore referees. This month, we offer our two District III Referees of the year. We start off with Susie, who was selected as the 2006 Female Youth Referee of the Year for District III and the State.

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

Susie: To compete at a higher level and more opportunity to travel. I have enjoyed refereeing in every corner of Northern California as well as other states and I enjoy it.

LRA: What prompted you to become a referee?

Susie: I look up to my older sister, Katie, who was a referee. I have been a referee now since I was 2001.

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

Susie: How many other youth referees there are competing, especially at the national level. I had no idea when I started that there was this much available for referees.

There are so many friends I have made while being a referee.

LRA: Do you have any referee role models?

Susie: Alyce Cope. She is someone I met that also referees. She is a State level now. She is positive in every situation. **Kari Seitz** is a top female FIFA referee who projects the perfect presence on the field. She is clearly in control when necessary, invisible when a heavy hand is not needed.

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

Susie: Being a better person and student. As a referee, I have learned to be responsible for my actions. It has also given me some unique material for essays that stand out in a class. Refereeing is also good community service.

LRA: Do you have activities outside of refereeing?

Susie: I was a youth player, now looking for an adult co-ed indoor soccer team. I swam for school. Student Government has been a big attraction for me. A recent project I was deeply involved with was for the Livermore Senior Center.

LRA: What is next for you?

Susie: In July, I will be going to this year's regional games in Las Vegas. Soon I will hear back from my applications to the UC colleges in California and NYU.

LRA: Is there a myth about referees you would like to clear up?

Susie: We are not all blind. Seriously, we are all human and, on occasion, make mistakes.

LRA: Final thoughts?

Susie: Referees are not nerdy. It is a fun experience where you meet a lot of new friends. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to referee often and in a variety of locations.

I hope everyone learns about the district mentoring program. It has been a positive experience for me.

Congratulations on being selected as Female Youth Referee of the Year for our district and our state, Susie. You have worked hard for the recognition.



Susie Gazzoulo, Feb 2007

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