

Gino Ferrin

WEST TORONTO COBRAS

BOYS 2014 UNDER-16 OYSL & ONTARIO CUP CHAMPIONS*

TITLE: HEAD SOCCER COACH

January 8, 2015
Gino Ferrin
Head Soccer Coach
West Toronto United Soccer Club
Boys 1998

Dear Tim,

If only words were truly able to express the immense gratitude the entire West Toronto Cobra Boys elite U-16 soccer program has, it would be easy to write this. However, even though words may not truly express our profound thanks, we wanted to collectively express, to the best of our ability, the sentiments of all our players and staff.

How can a single team, as part of a very small, humble inner city Toronto Club take a movie like journey in standing up for justice against a major and powerful association? Tim Danson, that's how!

I wish I could comprehensively share with anyone and everyone 'everything you did' through this journey, but that will be for another day perhaps, or a show like W5 or the Fifth Estate. In essence, to briefly summarize, our team won a critical Ontario Cup semi-final match, propelling the team to the Provincial Final, with a berth to the National Championships in St. John's Newfoundland in the balance, only to have it taken away by the Ontario Soccer Association, due to an (acknowledged) internal administrative error. Ours is a program that teaches life skills through sport, as well as one that entails an immense commitment of time and energy, where soccer development and seeking to earn athletic and/or academic scholarships is the main vision and inspiration for all the boys.

You listened to our story describing the major injustice upon 17 innocent and hard working 15/16-year-old boys, and then put your professionalism, skill and passion to work, and I mean work, to reverse this grave injustice inflicted upon these boys. You helped us see the importance of taking on the Ontario Soccer Association from the perspective of 'what is right' and standing up for that 'right', despite the incredible mountain we had to climb, and the long odds of legal success. Not only did you lead us to success, with the Ontario Court's ruling heavily in our favour, but also you did so

donating a substantial amount of your time in this cause, to help an inner city squad lacking the resources to do so. As we contemplated with our team and families the decision to move forward in this knowingly difficult process, along with your great generosity, was your passion for justice, especially as it pertained to our youth community members. You asked us to share and reflect with our families the question of what was worse, 'not winning' or 'not trying'? These words propelled the overwhelming majority of our families to stretch and sacrifice, in partnering with you to teach our children why it is worth standing up for what is simply, right.

Your body of work over your career speaks for itself, and we are little people, community members, working hard for our livings, but no less human, no less dedicated and all with dreams and goals to help our children pursue their goals honestly and passionately. However we would also like to share what in our humble view is far too rarely seen, an attorney that treated us with great kindness, patience, humility, commitment, dedication, loyalty and even some necessary and warranted humor along the entire journey. We were the underdogs, with no one in the GTA amateur sporting or legal community believing we had even the remotest of chances of succeeding in the courts. You were completely honest with us from day one! You prepared us for all possible outcomes. It is a remarkably easy thing to say you were, and are, a gentleman who sees the big picture in life and not merely the professional aspect, or the earnings aspect of your profession. Simply, you are unique in your profession and we, all 17 players and staff, shall go forward in life knowing and having learned that you can, and always should, fight for what is right, for justice, and that unto itself is an important experience for 17 young people. They will now go forward in life with this critical lesson and example to fuel and inspire their lives as future husbands, fathers, business and community members and leaders.

Tim, on behalf of the entire West Toronto Cobras players and staff, we are profoundly grateful to you. Along with your great skill, wisdom and generosity is a way, 'Your Way', which is inspirational, and will carry with it an immensely positive, immeasurable legacy of good!

Sincerely yours,

Gino Ferrin (Co-Head Coach - West Toronto Cobras)