



DANUBE SWABIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.A., INC.

Verband der Donauschwaben un den U.S.A., e. U

2024 National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament

MANSFIELD, OH, USA – The humorous t-shirts available for purchase may have said 49 1/2, but there was nothing done to half measures at this year's National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament!. Mansfield Liederkrantz Social and Soccer Club was the host for this edition of the tournament which featured of course the original Major Division, the Over-35, formerly the "Alte Herren" and a small but very talented Women's Division. Participating Clubs included:

OVER-35 DIVISION	MAJOR MEN	WOMEN'S OPEN
Akron GFS	Akron GFS	Akron GFS
Cleveland Concordia	Chicago Green-White	Mansfield Liederkrantz
Detroit Carpathia	Cleveland Concordia	
Mansfield Liederkrantz	Detroit Carpathia	
	Mansfield Liederkrantz	
	Mansfield Liederkrantz II	

On Friday, May 24th a few of the traveling clubs, teams, and fans descended on 1212 Silver Lane to get the first glimpses of the fields, see old friends, share a meal and maybe a beverage or two. The fields and grounds looked trimmed, clean and ready for soccer.

The first match of the weekend began on Saturday, May 25, at 10:00 am, and from there soccer in the three divisions went rolling throughout the whole first day. Saturday evening featured a Schnitzel dinner as well as some brief speeches from the hosts, and the Ehren Sportleiter, Mike Talan.

Sunday was an early start, with the Managers Meeting beginning at 9:00 am and the first Over-35 match beginning promptly at 10. Though at our National Annual Meeting in April, Werner Fricker III, was elected as the successor to Talan, the two directors took the opportunity to officially hand over the reins at the Sunday morning meeting at this year's tournament. Mike Talan literally gave his seat and chair to Fricker III at the opening of the meeting. The other big news out of the Manager's meeting was a motion made by Kurt Seiberling of Detroit to create a Wanderpokal for the Over-35 Division named after legend Erik Haller of Cleveland. The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously. Born in Yugoslavia, Haller has been involved in soccer since 1952 when he began playing in Stuttgart. In the USA, he joined the Donauschwaben reserve team in Cleveland at the age of 15. At 16 he moved up to the Major Division and continued to play for over 25 years. He has been a player, referee, coach, administrator and continues to be involved in the game today.

Weather threatened the final two matches of the weekend but the administrators, the hosts and the teams were able to get the games in without a hitch. The Champions were:

- Women's Open Division: Akron GFS Eagles
- Over-35 and winners of the first Erik Haller Cup: Cleveland Concordia
- National Champions and winners of the Mike Talan Wanderpokal: **Cleveland Concordia!**

Landessportleiter, Werner Fricker III, had assistance from Mike Talan and Erik Haller in the presentation of the respective trophies. We look forward to seeing everyone for the 50th Anniversary of this great nationally recognized tournament. Back where it all began in Akron, Ohio.