

# From the Referees' Chair

## Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Regional Referees' Chair

**HERE WE ARE AGAIN.** It's just amazing how quickly time flies! I'm really excited about the upcoming season, the new rules, and the opportunities that lie ahead. We'll have a record number of officials in the OVR this year – not only a record for us, but a record that no other region in the country can

match! We should be proud of our accomplishments and continue to work hard to not only be the biggest region, but also the best!

Now, some notes for this season... We hosted six clinics this year, and over 600 people attended! That includes the more than 300 existing referees on our roster, plus more than 200 prospective new officials, and at least 100 adult team reps. Our modified format seemed more efficient, and the use of our PowerPoint presentation really enhanced our materials. We're already planning our clinics for

next season, and they'll be better yet.

Although we covered the rules and techniques changes as well as OVR guidelines, there will still be plenty of questions this season, so you can look forward to my normal barrage of e-mails! We'll also have information posted on the website, so it's imperative as professional officials that we utilize the resources our website offers.

We need to strive for consistency this year, regardless of experience level or our rating. We need

to dress sharp, look sharp, and be professional. With our pay increase to \$150 per day (for six matches), the few extra bucks in our pocket might be well served for a new pair of slacks, shoes, or referee's shirt.

With 200 referee candidates, there's a good chance we'll all have the opportunity to work with and mentor these new folks. We must help them, share our knowledge, and teach them the correct way to do things. Consider being a mentor for one or two of our new folks as they enter their first season as a professional referee.

Speaking of new officials, the possibility of having 200 more OVR referees made me realize I needed some help to better serve everyone. We already have a cadre of 300 referees, and working with 500 will be virtually impossible to do alone. As a result, Tom Joseph has been appointed our New Officials' Coordinator, and has already done a tremendous job with our new folks! Likewise, Patty Salvatore is taking on the task of Testing Administrator so that everyone can receive replies regarding test corrections, rule references, or comments about the test questions themselves. Unless you received 100% on the test, I'm sure you'll be hearing from Patty soon!

I'm looking forward to working with everyone again, and as always, if there is something I can do to better serve as Referees' Chair, please let me know. On behalf of the OVR board of directors, thanks for the great job you'll be doing in 2005!



### **NEW OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS**

**OVR NEW OFFICIALS' COORDINATOR**

**TOM JOSEPH**

**JOSEPH@OVR.ORG**

**OVR TESTING ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATTY SALVATORE**

**SALVATORE@OVR.ORG**