

Froescher sets own pace

By Brian Rood
The Print

The Clackamas Community College athletic laundry facility may not appear to be the most likely place to unveil a story, but in this case it is just the place. This is where Ken Froescher works.

Who is Ken Froescher? A rather soft spoken young man who knows what he wants and gets it. He also plays soccer for the school team, and that's where this story begins.

It's not so much that Froescher plays soccer at CCC, but rather the circumstances under which he plays. You see, Ken is not your average student athlete. Besides being a full-time student and soccer player he also works 20 hours a week in the athletic laundry room, supports a two-year-old baby boy and his fiancée, along with playing and coaching a Portland city league team.

Froescher, who graduated from Oregon City High School in 1978, did not start playing soccer until he was a sophomore. His current affiliation and love of the game began with former Portland Timberlaine coach Gorsett, who wanted to organize a team at Oregon City. Froescher decided that this was something that he would like to try.

Froescher recalls the beginning of his soccer journey, "I kind of felt I was too small to play any other sports. I played soccer in P.E. a little and decided to go out for the team. Although the school did not recognize the team as school-affiliated, they went on playing at schools in the area on their own. By his junior year at Oregon City, Froescher found himself sort of managing the team, organizing games and recruiting players.

As his skills progressed and high school ended, he decided to make a shot at college soccer and turned to Clackamas. After a dismal season last year and the possibility of the soccer team being dropped, Froescher considered going to PCC. Rich Taylor then took over as coach of the team and Froescher decided to stick around for another season.



AT WORK—Froescher prepares projects in welding class

Photo by Kathy Gross

Coach Taylor has nothing but praise for his sophomore fullback and is glad Froescher decided to stay at CCC. Taylor commented on their relationship and Froescher's playing ability, "Ken probably has as much experience as anyone on the team. He is aggressive, intelligent and an excellent defensive player." Statistically, Froescher's defensive expertise can be exemplified fully. Only one goal has been scored from his side of the field, period.

Taylor feels very fortunate to have him on the team. "Ken handles all the equipment and also helps line the field before games. He is just a very responsible and conscientious individual who cares very much about what goes on with the team," Taylor added.

Although soccer means a lot to Ken Froescher he must think of his family first. He has known his fiancée, Julie Garbarino, also a full-time student at CCC, for about three years. They are only holding off getting married so they may still

receive social security benefits. She receives benefits due to the death of her mother while Froescher's come from the death of his father.

He commented on his situation with his fiancée and their two-year-old boy, Ken, Jr., and whether he regretted the series of events in his life. "I don't really regret it, but it does tie you down a lot. It keeps me out of trouble," he jokingly added.

His fiancée added "It's pretty hectic but I think playing soccer is good for Ken. It keeps him physically fit." About the home situation she said, "I used to do all the housework but now with both of us going to school, Ken has learned to do some of it." Ken, Jr., spends his days at the drop-in center on campus. Julie and Ken like to include the little one in their activities and refer to the drop-in center as his school. So in fact, all three of them are full-time students.

Froescher realizes that soccer cannot last forever, although he does dream of some day making it to the professional ranks, but he says, "everybody dreams." Even if his dreams do not come true, he is well on his way to preparing himself for a job after his playing days and school are over. Froescher is currently enrolled in the welding technology program at the College. He still has about two years to go in the program but is confident that he will complete it.

Julie is taking self-enrichment courses and may some day like to get into a job where children are involved. At present, though, she is torn between staying with her own child and becoming a working mother.

Ken Froescher's dedication to make something of his life and to go for everything he can should be an example to everyone. He is certainly a person worthy of recognition.

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