



***For Immediate Release  
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***Subject: Free kids soccer clinic offered July 22 by state's top student athletes***

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(HELENA)---The Shodair Soccer Classic, an annual summertime favorite, is set for July 23, when top high school soccer players from around the state gather in Helena to compete and support a good cause. This year's Classic is presented by Walmart, Harrington Pepsi-Cola, and Montana State Fund.

Nearly 70 outstanding young men and women are considered during a rigorous screening process before being selected to participate in the Soccer Classic. Players must have been selected as All-State and All-Conference high school players in Class AA or A, and demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship.

In what has become a favorite pre-game event for aspiring young soccer all-stars, the recently-graduated high school players will host a **free soccer skills clinic on Friday, July 22 for children ages 3 to 12**. This year's children's clinic is sponsored by Valley Bank and KXLH-CBS. Young soccer players will have fun while learning skills from the Soccer Classic players and All-Star coaches, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Carroll College's Nelson Stadium. The first 150 kids to register and attend will receive a free Soccer Classic t-shirt, which will get them into the Soccer Classic for free the next evening. Beverages and snacks will be provided; parents are welcome. To register, call (406) 444-7548 or email [tingraham@shodair.org](mailto:tingraham@shodair.org).

The Soccer Classic is a benefit for Shodair Children's Hospital and the important work it does for Montana's families. Shodair provides comprehensive medical genetics services for people of all ages and psychiatric services for children and adolescents from communities throughout the state. Last year, the hospital provided more than \$3 million dollars in uncompensated care for at-risk children and youth. Shodair is Montana's only Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital, and support generated from events like the Soccer Classic and the Children's Miracle Network Telethon help ensure these services remain available for Montana families in need of help.

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