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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Washington Youth Soccer Donates Funds To Help Local Olympian Fight Cancer**

*FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON* (Thursday, February 12) – After its two and half month fundraising campaign to raise money for Kent-born Olympian and local soccer coach Michelle French in her battle against a rare form of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, Washington Youth Soccer will present a check for \$5,170 to Michelle at Starfire Sports on Sunday, February 15th.

From November through the end of January approximately 65 people purchased raffle tickets for a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to watch Manchester United take on Blackburn on February 21st at Old Trafford Stadium. Thanks to the donation by AIG/Pullen Insurance, Washington Youth Soccer announced that Diane Kovarik from Sammamish had won the raffle drawing on January 23rd and would receive the all inclusive trip to England which included air transportation, food, lodging and tickets to the match for her and a companion.

Washington Youth Soccer's campaign hit home to many as Michelle's influence on the game started years ago when she was a youth soccer player in Kent. With an amazing resume that includes the most elite levels, Michelle is best known world-wide as a member of the WUSA Professional League, the US National Team and the 2000 Olympic Team that won the silver medal. Today Michelle spends her time as a coach for Eastside FC where she shares her love of the game with her players.

**WHAT:** Washington Youth Soccer's check presentation to Michelle French

**WHERE:** Starfire Sports Complex - Field #2  
14800 Starfire Way  
Tukwila, WA 98188

**WHEN:** Noon - Sunday, February 15, 2009

**MEDIA:** Interviews per request only

For additional information about the Washington Youth Soccer fundraiser or the check presentation, please visit [www.wsysa.com](http://www.wsysa.com).

## **About Washington Youth Soccer**

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. The Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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