

US students win annual soccer match with IFs 2-0

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May 27, 2010 – The US students and International Fellows took part in the annual Army War College US-IF Soccer Match yesterday afternoon, where the “winner” was the US team, 2-0.

The annual game “is a friendly match in the soccer family,” according to Dr. Larry Goodson, Professor of Middle East Studies.

“The students have been working together for several months, and in this game they’re split – US versus IF. This allows them to give each other a family kick-around and ‘talk smack’ to each other.”

“The point is for them to have fun and I think we achieved that yesterday,” said Goodson, who coached the soccer team for Jim Thorpe Sports Day in April. The players from that team made up the split of US and IF players in yesterday’s game. Goodson started the US-IF match as coach for the US side, but was invited to play on the IF side for a few minutes during the game.

“Everyone played well,” said Gretchen Morrison, who works in the IF Program. “There was a good spirit in the crowds, and some exciting moments in the game.”

“It was a great game – a clean game,” said Col. “Alpo” Portelli, who directs the IF Program. “The IF had great skill and played very gentlemanly. We were surprised that the US won, but all the players had a good time.”

The IF team’s goalkeeper, Col. Mohammed Al



Hamami of Iraq, acknowledged the US team had more physical stamina.

“We had good players,” said Al Hamami. “The emotions were good and everyone was having fun. There was no fighting and it wasn’t competitive. After the game, there was a nice picnic with hot dogs and burgers.”

The match is an event that’s been held annually over the past ten years.

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