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Fun in the sun

JCC sports camp gears up for fun-filled summer

By SHANI MCMANUS
STAFF WRITER

Asaf Lubezky, 31, grew up in Israel playing soccer for Maccabi Tel Aviv. After serving three years in the Israeli Defense Force he was recruited by the University of Hartford on a full athletic scholarship. As a student athlete, he achieved awards such as Scholar All American, All New England, and America East Rookie of the Year. As a coach, he was featured in *Soccer America*, *Sports Illustrated* and the *Hartford Courant*.

Lubezky also is sports camp director at the Kaplan Jewish Community Center in West Palm Beach, and is currently planning a fun-filled summer of sports and others camp activities for area children. Summer camp at the JCC is scheduled from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, from June 15-August 7.

"You really can't go wrong at the summer camps at the 'J,'" Lubezky says. "Both the general and sports camp are by far the best in the area, and we work very hard to make sure the kids get a fun and quality program."

In addition to a wide range of sports such as, indoor soccer; baseball; dodge ball; basketball; kickball; tennis; hockey and capture the flag, usual camp activities such as dance classes, talent shows,



Spencer Littky, 8, plays with a soccer ball inside the Kaplan Jewish Community Center in West Palm Beach. The JCC is currently taking enrollment for its summer soccer camp. Staff photo/Matt Dean

cooking, arts and crafts also are available. The program also includes swimming.

Lubezky has been working

with the JCC since moving to Florida six years ago, and believes the JCC offers the best in summer camp.

"The unique thing about our camp is that the kids get to enjoy both worlds," he

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says. "We have a great balance between playing sports and enjoying other recreational activities. This way, the children get to have a great variety to their summer."

Seven-year-old Noam Rothman, who lives in Jupiter and who has been attending the sports camp since he was 3, says he doesn't have one fa-

vorite sport.

"I like it all," he says. "I know I'm really good at soccer, but I'm good at basketball too. I like baseball, but I'm not so good at that."

Asked if he intended to be a professional sportsman when he grew up, the precocious first grader at the Meyer Academy was philosophical.

"The only person I know who became what he said he wanted to be when he grew up was Obama, when he wrote in his journal that he wanted to be president," Noam says. "Most kids are not going to be what they say in the future. One time I even thought about being a lawyer — and I don't know why."

In the meantime, Noam plans on attending sports camp, winter and summer.

Sports camp is for children in grades kindergarten through grade 12. Lunch is

included with weekly tuition and membership at the JCC is not required. Transportation to the JCC also is available from Palm City and Jupiter, Palm Beach Gardens Wellington and Royal Palm Beach. Before and aftercare is available. Cost is \$320 per week.

For more information about the sports or general camp at the JCC, call 561-712-5254 or visit www.asafsacademy.com or www.campshalom.org.

"I believe that it is crucial for children to have positive sports experiences when they are young because that will encourage them to continue playing and exercising as they grow older," Lubezky says. Everything is taught in a very positive manner and great bonds are created among the campers, staff and families."