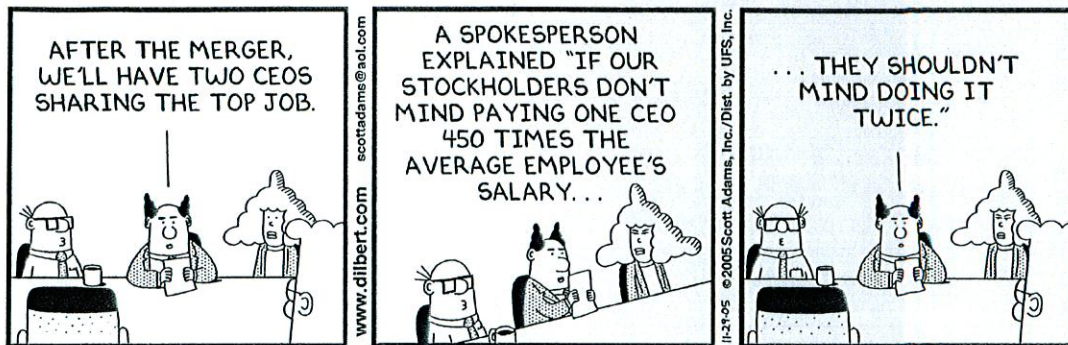


Dilbert By Scott Adams



Local spotlight

Indoor soccer ready to roll

■ Detroit league kicks off search for name, logo, a look for the team as well as an arena of its own.

BY NEAL HALDANE
Special to The Detroit News

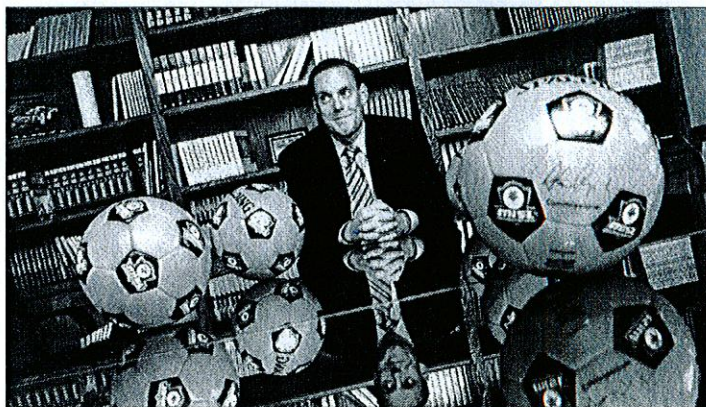
SOUTHFIELD — Before Detroit's newest indoor soccer team starts play next November, Greg Bibb has spent the last three months getting the ball rolling behind the scenes to launch the new franchise.

Bibb, president of the newly created Hantz Group Sports and Entertainment in Southfield, will focus on four goals to get the Major Indoor Soccer League team ready for the 2006-07 campaign.

His highest priority is to select a name, logo and look for the team.

"We've done a preliminary search on names and have narrowed it down to semifinalists," said Bibb, who previously served as the general manager of the Philadelphia Kixx.

While he's working on the brand, Bibb also needs to find a home for the team, one that is financially feasible and convenient for fans. A decision about the name and arena should be made before the end of the year with an announcement in early 2006. Bibb figures he'll need a staff of 10 to 12 office people. As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hantz Group, a financial services company that also operates Hantz Group Racing, Bibb said the soccer team could share some



Donna Terek / The Detroit News

Hantz Group Sports and Entertainment president Greg Bibb wants to bring indoor soccer back to the Detroit area.

Hantz Group Sports and Entertainment

- Headquarters: Southfield
- Focus: launching Detroit's Major Indoor Soccer League team
- Debut: November 2006

staff with those entities.

Bob Bowling of Livonia would take his family to a game. The former Eastern Michigan University soccer player attended Detroit Rockers games at Joe Louis Arena and sees the indoor game as more appealing to American fans.

"For the average fan, it's a lot more exciting than outdoor," Bowling said. "It's a faster-paced game with more scoring. If they can get the young kids and get their parents involved, they might make a go of it."

Gaining fans might be the big-

gest challenge, given the failure of two previous indoor soccer teams operated by Olympia Entertainment and Palace Sports and Entertainment, said Michael Dietz, president of Dietz Trot Sports and Entertainment in Bingham Farms.

"Soccer is a huge participation sport, but professional soccer has been challenged for years converting the participants into event attendance and a telecast audience," said Dietz, who used to work for Detroit Tigers and Red Wings.

In September, the league announced that the Kansas City Comets would take a two-year hiatus and the Cleveland Force will sit out this year with a possible return in 2006-7. California joined this season bringing the league to six.

Neal Haldane is a Metro Detroit freelance writer.

People on the move Architecture

SmithGroup, Detroit, promoted **Russ Sykes** of Royal Oak to managing director; **Paul Tonti** of Rochester Hills, to director of operations; **Terry Guitar** of Troy to director of architecture; **Marie Sayer** of Westland to accounting manager and **Robert Russell** of Warren to accounting coordinator.

Auto supply

Metaldyne, Plymouth, appointed the following: **Linda Theisen** vice president, quality, six sigma and process; **Myra Moreland** vice president, customer relations, marketing and corporate affairs; **Doug Grimm** vice president of commercial operations - powertrain group; **Dan Brinker** vice president of sales and engineering - chassis group; **Dennis Cutright** vice president of advanced manufacturing for Metaldyne's chassis group, and **Tom Worwick** vice president of advanced manufacturing, powertrain group.



Johnson



Fisher

Awards

Olabisi Ariyo Boyle, senior manager, Product Strategy-Features and Innovation (Product Development), at DaimlerChrysler, received Most Promising Engineer Award at the annual Women of Color Technology.

Education

Walsh College, Troy, named Troy resident **Ronda J. Johnson**

Calendar

Wednesday

■ **Hazard mitigation plan:** ASTI Environmental hosts public meeting on the Hazard Mitigation Plan being developed for Wayne County, 6 p.m. at the Regional Education Service Agency, 33500 Van Born in Wayne. (800) 395-ASTI.

Thursday

■ **Supervision:** The American Society of Employers sponsors a training course, Principals and Practices of Supervision, 9 a.m. to