

Country: USA  
 Source: ESPN Rise  
 Date: 02.07.2010

GIRLS SOCCER
HOME
★ HEADLINES
★ TEAM RANKINGS
★ PERFORMANCE
★ RECRUITING
★ EVENTS
★ FORUMS
LIFESTYLE
★ GAMES

LIVE FROM SOUTH AFRICA

## Born from tragedy, organization spreads positive experiences through soccer

**Fay Wells**  
 espnW

★ Add To
👍 Like

South Africa - 07/02/10 -

**Read Fay Wells' daily updates from the World Cup:**

[Travel Day](#) | [Visiting Nike Centre](#) | [Grassroots Soccer program](#) | [Three Things I've Learned](#) | [Julie Foudy scores for South Africa girls](#) | [Meeting Hugh Masekela](#) | [Global Girls Conduct Interviews](#)

**Thursday, July 1, 2010**

In July of 1994, Jürgen Griesbeck was living in Medellín, Colombia, working on his Ph.D. in Public Health. A few thousand miles north, the United States was hosting the 1994 FIFA World Cup. Jürgen, a hardcore soccer fan, took a break from his studies and flew up to the States to see some of the matches.

His World Cup trip was cut short when tragedy struck. A friend of his wife's family, Colombian national player Andres Escobar, was killed not long after scoring an own goal that resulted in 2-1 Colombia loss to the United States, and elimination from the tournament. ESPN recently aired a documentary on the Colombian national team and the tragic death of Andres Escobar in the film **"The Two Escobars"**.

Jürgen returned home to Colombia immediately to be with his family and figure out what he could do to prevent something like this from happening in the future. A few months later, Jürgen started a program called Football for Peace. Targeted towards youth the program used soccer to educate youth against violence. In two years, Football for Peace helped educate more than Medellín 10,000 youth. Seeing real progress -- through decreases in community violence -- Jürgen continued developing the program and launched the concept internationally in Germany in 2000.

In 2002 the world really started to notice Football for Peace and its positive impact in youth communities. En masse organizations and programs aimed at addressing social issues through sports began calling on Jürgen for advice on their own programs.

These conversations helped Jürgen realize the possibility of something greater, helping cultivate and unite a global network of organizations focused on creating social change through football.

With that in mind Jürgen formed **StreetFootballWorld**. Today StreetFootballWorld has helped more than 80 organizations in 50 countries "share best practices, create new partnerships and enrich their own programs by building on the experiences of others. By helping organizations support and learn from each other, streetfootballworld aims to effect social change on a global scale."

Check out Jürgen's video to hear more about StreetFootballWorld and how high school boys and girls are involved at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

### RELATED ARTICLES

- 07/13/10 **With one World Cup finished, another looms next summer in Germany**
- 07/13/10 **Greensboro Day loses key player, Interlake figures to be vastly improved**
- 07/11/10 **What the Spaniards and Dutch should listen to, eat and wear before the final**
- 07/11/10 **Gatorade Male, Female Athletes of Year**

[View More Related Articles »](#)

HELP!

HOW CAN ESPNRISE.COM BE BETTER?

### NOW PLAYING