

Moms as well as the kids playing soccer

People driving by Calder Intermediate School in Buena Park on Sundays might notice a lot of activity on the athletic field.

From a distance, the sport being played is soccer and at closer glance the players turn out to be women.

The players are mainly mothers of boys and girls playing in the American Youth Soccer Organization, one of the fastest growing sport activities in the nation.

The weekend soccer by the ladies, which may grow into a formal league next season, started almost by accident when a men's coaches game was short of players. Some members of the audience-women-filled in and soon made an interesting discovery. Playing soccer was more fun than watching it, was the general reaction.

Since November, four teams have been formed and games are played against each other and against other teams from other areas.

According to Margie Georgianni, first vice-president of the newly formed Orange County Women's Soccer League, "we soon learned that playing, while a little tiring, was a lot of fun. And it provided us with a lot of good exercise."

Players include not only AYSO mothers, but also other friends and relatives.

"We even have a grandmother and her daughter playing," Margie related.

"Our goal now is to

form a league with teams from many parts of the county. Hopefully, other areas will join us in forming teams and we'll be able to schedule matches against a variety of opponents."

The league will have no affiliation with AYSO and the prime goal will be the social and fun aspects.

"We don't play with the same intensity and seriousness as the men and boys," she said.

Players have come from many different cities and this is reflected in the team officers which have been selected.

The president is Carole Cislaw of Buena Park; Margie is from La Palma; Christine Carniglia, second VP, is from Cypress. The secretary, Winnie Cullen, is from Fullerton; the treasurer, Christi Martinez, is from Cerritos and the ways and means chairman, Jo Ann Miller, is from Cypress.

Players for the Sunday games have also come from Anaheim, La Mirada, Huntington Beach, and Garden Grove, it was explained.

The ladies hope to spread the word about the organization of the Orange County Women's Soccer League so that many more teams can be formed and participate next season.

In the meantime, informal games are continuing and one game has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 29, against a team from La Mirada.

For information, persons can contact the president at (714) 828-2506.