

# Former soccer pro Keyes has a new school of thought

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In all his years of playing or coaching soccer, Brendan Keyes has been known as a team player.

He still is, but with a new twist. Keyes has gone solo.

As the former co-owner of the popular 22 Stars Soccer Development, Keyes has taken his soccer ball and dribbled his own way.

Enter Brendan Keyes Soccer School, his solitaire venture for the Clear Lake, League City, Friendswood and Pearland areas. Actually, it's for everywhere in Greater Houston.

And he's got big plans.

Keyes knows the sport inside out. Coming straight to Houston in 1985 from Dublin, Ireland, he's played professionally with teams such as Dynamo (prior to the current name-sake), Hurricanes, Houston Force, Houston Rangers and Celtic.

His impressive playing credentials began in Ireland when he played for two of that country's top teams - Home Farm and Stella Moris.

## GIFT FOR TEACHING, COACHING

Once in Houston, Keyes' knowledge of the game surfaced not only in playing, but in coaching and teaching. That stemmed from his



Photo by CHUCK HLAVA/The Citizen  
**Brendan Keyes strikes a pose with his class of the day, three Czeckinski brothers: Gray, Talon and 8-year-old Austin.**

earlier move to London from Dublin in the early 1980s. He began giving private lessons and even coached youth teams in London.

Keyes started his soccer development schools and camps even while playing pro ball. He had several partners who came and went. But in that time he turned out some of the best young soccer players in the city.

He now realizes that his way is the best and that's why he's started the keys to his own soccer kingdom.

"I prefer it this way," Keyes admits. "It's much better. I like to do

things my own way. This business partner thing didn't work for me."

With Keyes vast knowledge and masterful ability to teach young kids, this premier school is already in the smooth running mode.

## LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

And his brain is constantly working and looking ahead.

One of his plans is eventually a sports complex to house Brendan Keyes Soccer School.

"It's really my dream; to get my own land for the facility," he said.

His love for the sport and for teaching is very apparent. He calls soccer the "intelligent" sport. "You have to think about what you're doing and you have to be in great shape because you're constantly on the move over a large area."

"I've never done anything else," he said. "It is my passion. I love teaching kids because I am a people person."

At age 43, he still plays everyday in a competitive adult league.

Keyes is on the lookout for good players for the Clear Lake Celtics, a team made up of players ages 18-25. The league will be made up of 8 divisions in men's play only. Keyes indicated he will be the trainer and player for one of the teams.

There are other team tryouts. Joey Seralta, former owner of the Houston Hurricanes, will take 40 of the

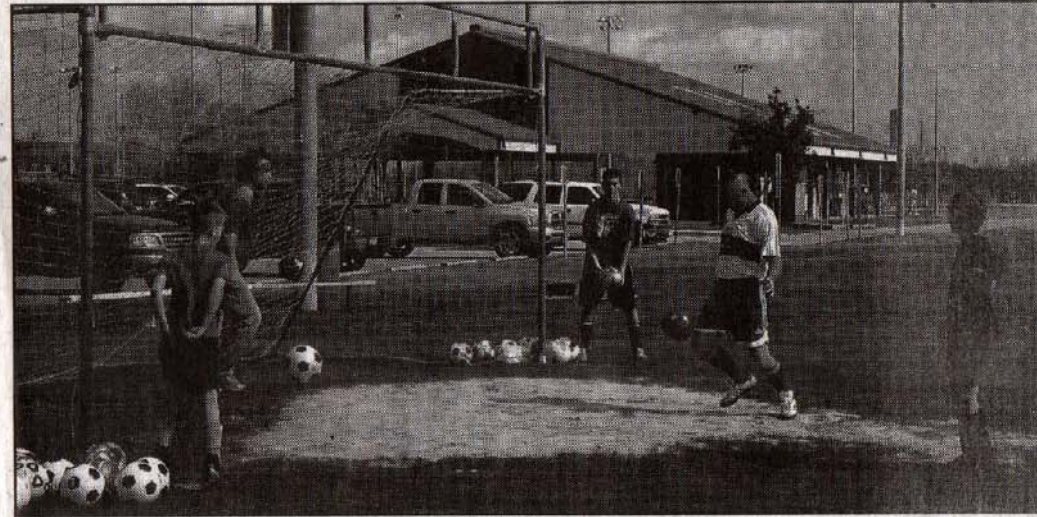


Photo by CHUCK HLAVA/The Citizen  
**Brendan Keyes puts his knee to work and shows his pupils how to do it correctly during one of his drills at the Sportsplex in League City.**

best U. S. kids ages 10-18 to a camp in Puerto Rico.

## SPECIAL YOUTH CLINIC MAY 31

Keyes will hold a special youth clinic on May 31 at the League City Sportsplex. The cost will be \$30 and it will benefit St. Jude Hospital. Keyes said that a trainer volunteer or two would be helpful for this clinic. The clinic will run from 10 a.m. until noon.

"This is dear to my heart," he said. "It's for a great cause and the kids will get a fantastic lesson in soccer."

Growing up in Dublin, Keyes and his three brothers were coached by their father. He learned the sport that would be his life.

His prowess on the soccer field always got him noticed. He led his teams in goals. He won several games with late scores. It would take another page to list his accomplishments on the playing field.

There have been thrilling moments on the field and off the field.

One that he will always remember is meeting Pele, the Brazilian soccer legend.

Keyes was playing in an exhibition at Delmar Stadium in 1986. He still smiles when he recalls being presented with a medal by Pele.

At the moment Keyes is very busy teaching and coaching in his new endeavor. He not only has the skills but credentials needed. As a sanctioned professional, he has certifies from Coach USSF and FAI Football. He is armed and ready.

Information on coaching or upcoming events, Keyes can be contacted by calling 832-748-1001 or emailed at [brendankeyessoccer-school@yahoo.com](mailto:brendankeyessoccer-school@yahoo.com).