

DESERET Morning News

Benefit game is Saturday

By Michael Black
Deseret Morning News

It is unfortunate how it generally takes a tragedy to bring out the best in people. In this case it was actually the deaths of two popular figures in the prep sports community that has brought together a noteworthy event.

Former Judge Memorial soccer and basketball player Demi Candelaria passed away in December 2003 from meningococcal meningitis. Former East High teacher and coach Mike Kernodle died last March from a rare liver disease. Scholarship funds have been set up in each of their respective names, and a benefit soccer game has been set between Judge Memorial and East to raise money for each of these funds. The Demi Candelaria/Mike Kernodle Memorial game is a charity event to be played Saturday at 5 p.m. at Judge's McCarthy Stadium.

Candelaria was a sophomore who played both soccer and basketball for Judge. She returned home from a basketball tournament in St. George only to fall ill. She continued to deteriorate from the rare bacterial form of meningitis until doctors could do nothing to help her.

This is the second charity function held in her name. Last year, organizers teamed with Real Salt Lake, and the ticket sale for the Demi Candelaria Scholarship fund and raised nearly \$35,000