

and light fixtures are some of the authentic compliments. The mahogany wine room has space for approximately 1,500 bottles.

Richard Price Custom Homes: 909 Mulberry is Mediterranean style with an impressive cast stone entry framing the massive wrought-iron/glass double front doors. An emphasis on clean, uncomplicated design results in a masterful interior. Outside, a covered lanai and dining-sized patio with summer kitchen overlooks the pool.

Watermark Homes: 4516 Oleander is a fabulous fusion of Frank Lloyd Wright, Craftsman, and Pan-Asian influence. Spaces sensitively have been scaled and well proportioned,

trim work and a rich palette of warm information.

Rosenhek helping popularize futsal

MATT SAMUELS
SPORTS
RAP



Several athletes from the Houston area will compete in the 2009 Maccabiah Games in Israel from July 12 to 23. Over the next several weeks, the Jewish Herald-Voice will profile many of those athletes.

When the United States held tryouts last year for the Maccabiah futsal team, there wasn't exactly a waiting list. While the men's soccer team had close to 70 players vying for 20 spots, futsal wasn't quite so popular. Houston resident Sergio Rosenhek hopes to change that, as he helps lead the United States' first futsal team to Israel this summer in the 2009 Maccabiah Games.

"At first, it was hard to find players. We had 12 spots, and only seven people showed up to try out," said Rosenhek, who will play the dual role of head coach and player. "Futsal is very popular in South America and Europe, but it just hasn't caught on as much here. Next time around, I think it will be different."

Futsal is based on the game of soccer, but played with four field players and one goalkeeper per team with a smaller, weighted ball on an indoor surface about the size of a basketball court. The game is more fast-paced and skill-oriented than soccer.

Rosenhek started playing futsal when he was young, growing up in his native Brazil. He played in college and semiprofessionally in many local and national tournaments.

Seven years ago, Rosenhek became sports supervisor at the Jewish Community Center of Houston and has helped increased the sport's popularity locally by running a futsal league.

Last summer, Rosenhek was contacted by U.S. futsal chairman and Cleveland native Jared Bernstein, who thought up the idea of starting a U.S. team in the Maccabiah Games a couple years back.

"I was at a soccer convention

and Maccabi USA had a booth," Bernstein said last year. "I walked over and introduced myself and, as we got to talking, I was asked if I would be interested in putting a futsal team together. It's not really romantic or inspiring, but that's how it happened."

Bernstein had heard of the league that Rosenhek was running at the Houston JCC and, after meeting, asked him if he would be interested in being involved.

"It's going to be a little weird both coaching and playing," Rosenhek said. "But, I'm confident we will have a great time and definitely represent the U.S. well."

The U.S. team left last year's tryouts with only six roster spots filled (the seventh guy didn't make the team), but has since built itself up to an 11-man roster with members spread across the country.

Many of the athletes will meet for the first time on July 2 in Philadelphia, as they prepare to leave for Israel. They then will have 10 days together before starting competition.

"It will be kind of a Birthright trip," Rosenhek said. "Once we get to Israel, we will practice in the morning, travel during the day and that will be good for team chemistry. A lot of team building."

Rosenhek, who visited Israel once 10 years ago, said he will work out four-to-five times a week, playing futsal and soccer, and running over the next month to get into the best possible shape.

"It fills me with pride to know that so many Jews are going to Israel to represent their countries," Rosenhek said. "The World Maccabiah Games is the third biggest sports event in the world, and we all should be proud of that fact."

With this being the U.S. futsal team's inaugural year, fundraising has also been a big part of the game plan. The team is seeking donations to help fund uniforms, as well as airfare to Israel. For more information on how you can help, email Sergio Rosenhek at sergiorosenhek@att.net.

Send your thoughts to Matt at matts@jhvonline.com, and visit www.geocities.com/sportsrapwithmatt, Matt's homepage.

opping business sales

store's competitors sometime drop prices to compete with liquidation sales.

Use credit cards. Credit cards include consumer protections, if the company doesn't deliver on promised goods.

Don't count on customer service. Consumers might be responsible for delivery of large items. Understand all sales are final, and you don't have many options if dissatisfied.

Know the warranty status before buying. Warranties often maintained by manufacturers or third-parties, meaning they still apply if the retailer goes out of business.

Use gift cards as soon as possible! Businesses in liquidation won't survive long, so don't get stuck with worthless plastic.

For more consumer advice visit www.bbb.org.

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