



THIS WEEK IN F.O.S.C.

Tenth Edition March 13, 2009

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TGIS.....Thank God it's Spring

Spring is in the air and soccer balls are flying into the back of nets, so it must be time to start up *This Week in FOSC* again. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Fairfield Optimist Soccer Club. Last fall was a great season for the teams of FOSC. 3 of our teams won division titles, 7 teams won tournament championships and 15 others captured tournament hardware as tourney finalist. 20 FOSC players garnered All State, All District, or All League Honors during their high school season and many have achieved their life-time goal of securing scholarships to continue playing soccer at the college level. As good as the fall was this spring should prove to be even better as FOSC continues to grow and improve. The club will have 49 teams taking the field with over 600 athletes participating this spring. Over 60 of those athletes are participating in our Academy program where Brian Nelson is teaching them to love the beautiful game of soccer. Our Academy members spend two nights a week with Brian learning soccer skills and then play games on the weekend in the Elite Players League. These Academy numbers should insure the continued success of FOSC for years to come. This spring 8 of our teams will be competing in CUSL Division 1, 5 are competing in Buckeye Premier, and 1 team is competing in The Premier League. These teams will be playing against the top competition in Ohio and surrounding states. At the same time our developmental teams continue to shine on the pitch as the Raptors, Red Bulls, Fire White, and Rockets White all made their way onto the FOSC Honor Roll last fall. Internally FOSC has made strides in our soccer personnel by solidifying our commitment to key members of our training staff. We have also set up systems to better communicate with all players, coaches, and parents with the implementation of the weekly newsletter and the new, revamped club website; www.foscoccer.com. We are looking to a great spring season and from the board of FOSC we want to wish each of our teams and athletes great success.

TEAM NEEDING PLAYERS

U12 Girls SWARM WHITE is in need of one additional player for the spring season. This is a developmental team playing in Comp 6. Previous playing experience is helpful. If you know anyone that is looking for a U12 Girls team contact Joni at 513-520-8290 or asoccermom2003@yahoo.com.

The U13 Girls FIRE WHITE is also a developmental team and they are in need of one or two players. Please contact Girls Coordinator, Kelly Farrell kfarr@fuse.net.

1790 GOES FOR LEAGUE TITLE

Six teams will enter Stockton Arena on Friday and one team will walk away on Sunday as the PASL-Pro North American Champion. The three day, single elimination playoff tournament starts Friday, March 13 at 5:00pm and ends with Sunday's 1:00pm championship game.

The host Stockton Cougars are in as the #2 seed while 1790 Cincinnati is the #1 seed after a 13-3 regular season. The 9-3 Edmonton Drillers are #3. Tigres Dorados MRCI Oaxaca, who won the LMFR Central Division are #4. The Denver Dynamite qualified as the #5 seed by clinching the PASL-Pro Wildcard spot and La Cabana get the #6 spot after upsetting Cuernavaca in the LMFR Baja Division playoffs.

The US and Canadian teams engaged in inter-league play all season, but have never faced the Mexican LMFR teams. Stockton was 1-1 against CMISL Canadian teams. Cincinnati did not face them and Denver was 0-2.

1790 Cincinnati and the Stockton Cougars earned first round byes and will face the respective winners of Friday's games on Saturday. 1790 is scheduled to play at 5pm Saturday in the semi-finals and the championship game is scheduled for 1pm on Sunday.

1790 Cincinnati is the area's only professional indoor team and its program is affiliated with FOSC. FOSC director of training Craig Rhodis serves as 1790's head coach and is one of the team's top players. Several other FOSC trainers are on either the Top or reserve roster of 1790.

GOOD LUCK 1790, BRING HOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP! YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE GAMES LIVE ON YOUR COMPUTER: go to:

www.californiacougars.net/upload_images/player.htm?poc=2

TEAM ADMINASTRATORS

A reminder that the date for March's Club Meeting was changed to Monday, March 16th at 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Optimist Club House. We strongly encourage *all team administrators, trainers, and coaches to attend.* This is the last meeting before the start of the season and we will be addressing many critical operational procedures. Admins can also pick up their player card and registration packets at this time.

FOSC JUGGLING MASTERS

At the urging of the FOSC trainers and coaching staff the club has reintroduced the juggling club for the spring season. Players achieving certain levels of expertise in juggling will receive a FOSC gift and special recognition on the club website including their picture being posted. clicking on "JUGGLING". Let's aim for having as many players listed in one of the clubs levels by the end of the spring season!

MID AMERICAN SOCCER CLASSIC SHAPING UP

With over 600 teams competing over 2 weekends, the Mid American Soccer Classic is one of the most anticipated tournaments of the spring. Teams will be traveling from both Ohio South and Ohio North plus seven other states and Canada; Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, West Virginia, and Ontario, Canada. Tournament Director, Ann Yungbluth thought there may be a slight decrease in the number of teams applying this year due to the economy, but that wasn't the case. Yungbluth stated "I guess that is a compliment to the type and quality of tournament we put on....the MASC has a great reputation as being a well run tournament where youth of all skill levels can participate." Much of the credit goes to the amount of hard work put in by the MASC Tournament Committee, Fairfield Optimist Club members, and the parents of FOSC players. We look forward to two great weekends of soccer; April 17th -19th for the boy's weekend and April 24th - 26th for the girl's weekend. You can get more information on this year's Mid American Soccer Classic by going to www.masctournament.com.

SPIRIT WEAR

The club is in the process of reviewing our line of FOSC Spirit Wear. We would like to expand our offerings to include more options for both players and parents alike. If you have suggestions on an item you would like to see us add to the line please let us know at kahbuckeye@aol.com The current line of FOSC Spirit Wear can be viewed at www.foscsooccer.com click on Spirit Wear.

TEAM WEBSITES

Many FOSC teams have created team websites for the individual teams. Team websites are really enjoyed by the players and can be a great way to get information out to your parents and interested parties. Team websites don't have to be elaborate and certainly don't have to be expensive, as a matter of fact two of the leading team website companies provide youth teams with FREE websites. The two best that I have found are:

- League Lineup at www.leaguelineup.com This site is good looking and easy to develop (if I could do it I am sure you can), plus it is FREE.
- Eteamz at www.eteamz.com This site is also FREE, but not as many bells and whistles.

You can see examples of both companies sites by going to the team page on www.foscsooccer.com. Click on a team that is listed in RED and it will take you to their team's website. Once you have completed your team site please let me know the address and I will link it on your team listing! Most of all have fun with this; it's something your kids will remember forever.

WHAT'S GOING ON???

If you ever want to know what's going on with the club or what goes on at those crazy Club Meetings you can know access the minutes of each meeting under FORMS at www.foscsooccer.com. It's a great way to keep up to date on important issues and happenings within the club.

COLLEGE PROSPECTS

If you are an FOSC athlete that is considering playing soccer in college please check out the following resources:

- 1) The "PLAYERS" section of the club website. If you would like to be included in that section please email a picture of yourself and a complete College Prospect questionnaire. The College Prospect Questionnaire can be found in the forms section of the www.foscsooccer.com. Email the picture and form to Kahbuckeye@aol.com
- 2) In the LINKS section of the website check out College Prospects, this is a link to FOSC's "College in Soccer" page.
- 3) In the FORMS section you will also find an article titled "So you want to play soccer in college". This article outlines everything you need to know about securing the opportunity to further your soccer career at the college level.

For any other questions or assistance contact the FOSC College Recruiting coordinator, Dave Berry at dbkrue@yahoo.com.

FOSC SCHOLARSHIPS

This spring the FOSC board approved scholarships to be used for FOSC club fee for over 20 of our athletes and their families. These scholarships totaled over \$3,000.00. None of these monies come from the FOSC's general fund; they are paid for with money generated from fund raising and donations. It is the clubs stance that we do not want to hear of any athlete that wanted to play select soccer for FOSC and was not able to due to lack of funding. We would also like to see these scholarships help recruit athletes from families that never considered select soccer due to the perceived expense. FOSC also offers fee rebates to families with 3 or more athletes (U10 and above). You can access Scholarship Forms and Multi-Player Rebate forms at the club website.

HELP.....HELP.....HELP

As always I am requesting your HELP in making both *This Week in FOSC* and our website www.foscoccer.com as useful and informative as possible. Please submit any stories, pictures, fundraising ideas, anything that you think might make someone else's experience with the club a better one to kahbuckeye@aol.com. Also remember as the tournament season begins we will need PICTURES and INFORMATION on all the clubs tournament successes. Not only do these pictures and successes get mentioned here in the HONOR ROLL, but the pictures are also included on both the HOME page and PHOTOS page of the website. We have a great group of athletes at FOSC and we want to make sure they get all the recognition they deserve.

