



CHICAGO FIRE NEWS RELEASE

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Chicago Fire Youth Development Program Update

Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton Takes First in Three Separate Weekend Tournaments

CFJ – Mississippi Awards Annual \$2,000 Reeves Belk Memorial Scholarship

Chicago Fire Juniors – West Michigan U17 Girls Succeed in Puma Gold Cup, Share Players

BRIDGEVIEW, IL (Tuesday, September 12, 2006) – Weekend tournament success became the theme as the Chicago Fire Youth Development Program continued its trek to grooming young soccer talent over the month of August. The Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton took home three titles in the Battle on the Border tournament, while the CFJ – Mississippi branch took first at the Thunder Road Classic. Fire Juniors – West Michigan reached the semifinals of the 2006 Puma Gold Cup, while the CFJ – Elm Grove won both the MLS Futbolito and MLS World Supporters Cup held over the 2006 MLS All-Star weekend, as well as the Danny Cunniff Soccer Classic.

Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton Teams Victorious in Tournament Play

Even as summer temperatures began to cool, competitive action heated up as the Chicago Fire Juniors participated in various weekend tournaments beginning in August. The CFJ – Wheaton U10 & U12 Girls played up a year in the "Battle on the Border" competition, held August 25–28 in Kenosha, WI, joining the U13 Boys team in compiling an 11-0-1 overall record while outscoring opponents 33-2. All three teams placed first in their divisions with shutout victories in the championship games. CFJ – Wheaton teams also had good showing at the Palatine Celtic Cup, held Sept. 1-4, in Palatine, IL, with the U11 Girls making the Final and the U15 Girls earning a spot in the semifinals. In addition, the U12 girls finished with a 2-0-1 record but missed the finals due to losing a tiebreaker on points, while the U10 Boys and Girls finished 3-1 and 2-0-2, respectively.

The Chicago Fire Juniors U18 Girls team won its group at the highly competitive "Muscatine College Showcase" in early August. They established themselves as the class of the group by finishing with a 3-0-0 record that saw two shutout wins and victories over opponents from Kansas, Minnesota and Illinois.

CFJ – Mississippi U14 Girls are Thunder Road Classic Champions

The Chicago Fire Juniors – Mississippi U14 Girls, coached by Trey Woodham, placed first in the Thunder Road Classic in Auburn, AL (Aug. 19-20). The team went 4-0-0 in defeating squads from Rome, GA; Birmingham, AL and Atlanta, GA. They outscored their opposition 18-1, with eight different players scoring at least a goal throughout the tournament for the Juniors.

CFJ – Miss. Awards Reeves Belk Memorial College Scholarship to Samantha Breland

Samantha Breland is the recipient of the \$2,000 Reeves Belk Memorial College Scholarship from the Chicago Fire Juniors – Mississippi. Each year a CFJ – Miss. player who continues to play at the college level is chosen by the Fire Juniors coaches to receive this scholarship. The scholarship is named after Reeves Belk, a courageous young player from the Reservoir area of Rankin County who loved the game and played in the Mississippi United organization. Samantha, the daughter of Robert and Kay Breland, was a member of the '88 Girls side and also played for Brandon High School. Breland is currently a freshman at Northwestern Louisiana State University in Natchitoches, LA.

Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton U13 Boys Dominate Through August

The Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton U13 Boys team, trained by Paul Cadwell, had an impressive early season run in August – ending with an overall record of 11-1-2. At the annual NISL seeding tournament in Rockford, IL, the team posted a 5-0-1 record, netting 14 goals while giving up one. The next two weekends the boys went through two tournament championship games, the U13s first falling 2-1 to the Elgin Puams at the Back To School Classic in Elgin, IL before rebounding to take the trophy at the Battle on the Border in Kenosha, WI in a classic contest versus Mequon SC. The final on the high school stadium field was a well-played, exciting match that went to penalty kicks - with the final score coming on a save turned in by the CFJ goalkeeper, giving the squad a 5-4 win in PK's.

CFJ – West Michigan U17 Girls Taste Success

After the Labor Day weekend, the CFJ – West Michigan U17 Girls are even more confident they can hang with some of the nation's top sides. Playing in their second national soccer-ranking tournament in recent weeks, the CFJ – WM U17 Girls reached the semifinal of the 2006 Puma Gold Cup in Naperville, IL before falling 1-0 to eventual tourney winners and nationally-ranked (12th) FC Milwaukee.

Two West Michigan U11 Girls Play for "Sister" Team

In another example of the cooperative relationship between Chicago Fire Juniors programs, two guest players from the CFJ – West Michigan program played for the Chicago Fire Juniors – Wheaton U11 Girls team at the Palatine Celtic Cup Labor Day Weekend Tournament. Rachael Starr and Hattie LaCroix both represented the U11 Girls squad that reached the final of the tournament.

Fire Juniors – Elm Grove Enjoy All-Star Weekend

The CFJ – Elm Grove program made its way to Bridgeview, IL for the 2006 Sierra Mist All-Star game, and three of its teams walked away winners in two competitions. The U13 Boys, coached by Boro Sucevic, and the U14 Girls, coached by Sammy Sucevic, both won the 2006 MLS Futbolito tournament held throughout the All-Star weekend. Members David Henning, Angel Rivillo, and Sammy Sucevic of the Elm Grove coaching staff took part in the MLS World Supporters Cup held during All-Star Weekend, winning \$2,000 in prize money as the top team.



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Elm Grove Takes “Danny Cunniff Soccer Classic”

The Chicago Fire Juniors – Elm Grove U14 Boys side, coached by Dennis Fadeski, recently won the “Danny Cunniff Soccer Classic” held from Aug. 25–27 in Highland Park, IL. The classic was hosted by the Chicago Wind Soccer Club in memory of Cunniff, a cancer victim.

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