



Chicago Fire Youth Development Program Update

BRIDGEVIEW, IL (July 5, 2007) – While the Chicago Fire senior squad is seeing success on the field (3-1-1 10 pts.) in Major League Soccer play – so are the Chicago Fire Juniors Youth Programs. During the month of April nine CFJ teams won tournaments around the country, with a host of other CFJ teams nabbing runners up honors. CFJ-West Michigan will have the benefit of international influence as several of its players return from Olympic Development tours abroad, while CFJ-Mississippi teams go the distance to bring home trophies from the Emerald Coast Cup in Destin, Fla.

Chicago Fire Juniors-Chicago

- U10 Red Girls win 2007 Illinois Cup

The U10 Girls Red team won the 2007 Illinois Cup in Rockford, Ill. on June 9. The team met the challenges of the South Suburban Jaguars, the Strikers FV, and Campton Navy, securing their place in Chicago Fire Juniors history by netting four and saving two in a shootout against Team Elmhurst for the Championship. The girls went 5-0 in the tournament.

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- U13 Red Boys win Lakeshore Soccerfest

The Chicago Fire Juniors U13 red boys won the Memorial Day weekend Lakeshore Soccerfest tournament sponsored by the West Michigan Chicago Fire Juniors. The Chicago based U13 boys dominated their opponents, outscoring them 24-0 culminating with a 11-0 victory in the final over Muskegon Lakers Gold.

Chicago Fire Juniors-Elm Grove

- CFJ-Elm Grove U15 Boys win Schwaben AC Tournament

The Elm Grove U15 Boys team won the Schwaben AC Tournament in Buffalo Grove, IL on June 16 and 17. In bracket play, the CFJ boys defeated ELA Red, Premier SC and Inter FC to advance to the championship game. After falling down 1-0 to Elk Grove (IL) in the final game, CFJ-Elm Grove went on to score seven unanswered goals, eventually winning by a seven to three margin. Goal scorers included Alden Bennett (2), Luke Goodnetter (2), Jack McDermott (2) and Cody Trapp.

- CFJ-Elm Grove U14 Boys place second in Wisconsin Premier League

The Elm Grove Academy U14 Boys team completed a successful season, finishing second in the Wisconsin Premier League with a record of seven wins and just one loss. The team advanced to the semifinals of the Wisconsin State Cup losing to Mequon Red 1-0. Leading goal scorers for the season were Pete Horner and Chris Haerberle with Evan Griffin and Dominic Clark providing most of the assists. The defense was anchored by standout goalkeeper Nate Ellis.

Chicago Fire Juniors-West Michigan

- CFJ-West Michigan teams play in Saginaw 7-Eleven Soccer Classic

The CFJ-West Michigan had a number of teams participate in the recent Saginaw 7-Eleven Soccer Classic held in Saginaw, Michigan on June 22 through 24. Seven teams took home honors including, U10 Boys, U11 Boys, U16 Boys, U10 Girls, U12 Girls, and U17 girls.

- Chelsea Peterson invited to adidas ESP Soccer Camp

Chelsea Peterson of the CFJ-WM U16 team became the first Fire Juniors player in history to be invited to take part in the prestigious adidas ESP Soccer Camp, which is held in Pomona, California, July 12-15, 2007. Since being founded in 1997, adidas ESP has served over 1,000 of the finest youth players from across the United States and become the most recognized development camp in the country. adidas ESP is where the top high school age players come together to improve their soccer skills, test their competitive ability, learn about managing off the field challenges in preparation for college and other growth opportunities, and get scouted by college and professional team coaches.

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Chicago Fire Premier, Academy and Super-20

Two Fire Premier players named to U.S. Men's U-18 roster for the Pan-American Games

Chicago Fire Premier players Mike Stevens (UCLA) and Peri Marosevic (University of Michigan) were named to the U.S. Men's under-18 National Team roster that will participate in the Pan-American Games. The team will open the tournament on July 15 against Venezuela at 5:15 p.m. ET at the Zico Football Center before taking on Bolivia on July 18 at 2 p.m. ET at the Miecimo da Silva Sport Complex. The U.S. will round out group play against Mexico on July 21 at 9 a.m. ET at Brazil's famed Maracana Stadium. The tournament semifinals will take place on July 24 and the third place and final matches will be held on July 27, all at Maracana Stadium.

Fire Launch Chicago Fire Soccer Academy

Chicago Fire Soccer recently announced the formation of the Chicago Fire Soccer Academy, an elite player development initiative designed to identify and develop the best young talent within the Chicagoland area. The program will be fully funded by the Chicago Fire, with no financial responsibility falling on Academy players. The Academy will be limited to 44 players and will field two Academy teams, under-16 and under-18 men, that have been accepted to participate primarily in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy.

Through various recruiting and identification initiatives, 44 players aged 14 through 18 years of age will be invited to join the Academy based on ability, potential, and desire to play at the professional level. The Academy will be managed and funded directly by the Chicago Fire and will seek to develop relationships with all youth soccer clubs, high schools, and programs within the Chicagoland area to identify the top local talent. With the launch of the Chicago Fire Academy, the Fire now has player development programs and partnerships at every level, including the Fire Juniors, Super-20s, and the Fire Premier PDL Team.

Fire U-17s Go 1-1-1 in Inaugural SUM U-17 Cup

The Chicago Fire Juniors U-17 team recently competed in the inaugural Soccer United Marketing (SUM) U-17 Cup, held July 13-19 at the Dick's Sporting Goods Park facility in Commerce City, Colo., in advance of the 2007 Sierra Mist MLS All-Star Game. The Fire tied the Houston Dynamo in an opening day 3-3 draw on July 13, then routed the Colorado Rapids' B team 3-0 on Saturday, July 14. On Monday, July 16, the Fire U-17s fell 0-3 to the Los Angeles Galaxy, who scored three goals in the final 10 minutes to beat Chicago in what became a knockout match, as the teams were tied atop the group on four points at the start of the day.

For more information about the Chicago Fire Premier and the Super-20 side, visit www.chicagofirepremier.com.



www.chicago-fire.com

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