



CREW YOUTH NEWS

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Crew Soccer Academy teams have played 5 matches in their second year in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, and resume play on Feb. 14-15 in Detroit against Vardar and the Wolves. CSA 16s are currently 3-1-1, while the 18s stand at 2-1-2. Last year's CSA 16s finished with the 8th best record in the country (19-4-7) and were recognized by National Team staff for playing some of the most attractive soccer in the Development Academy. The CSA 18s enjoyed even more success, winning the Great Lakes region (21-5-4) with the 4th best record nationally. From there, they advanced to the Development Academy Finals in L.A., went unbeaten in group play and won the 3rd place match vs. the Colorado Rush, 4-0. This year's CSA 18s are being led by Timo Liekoski, the first head coach in Crew history (1996) and a former member of the U.S. National Team staff. The CSA 16s are directed by Crew Juniors DOC Billy Thompson. Both groups will be supported by Andrew Arthurs, Brian Bliss and Jeremy Parkins. Last week, U.S. Soccer conducted a conference call to address the likelihood of U14 division in the Development Academy next year. Stay tuned!



The CUP Crew Juniors boys and girls programs provide the premier soccer experience for player's ages 11 to 18 in Cincinnati. This season the teams have played exciting soccer producing the following results: Disney BU15 Gold Champions, BU17 Gold Finalists, Metro FC Cup Champions BU12 Villarreal, Finalist BU12 Chelsea, Mead Cup Champions BU13 Gold, OP Invitational Finalists GU12 Barcelona, FC Pride Cup Champions GU12 Barcelona, Finalists GU12 Ajax and GU13 Gold, Arsenal Challenge Cup – Champions BU12 Villarreal, BU13 Gold, BU14 Gold, GU12 Barcelona, GU13 Gold and Finalists BU11 Real Madrid, BU12 Chelsea, BU13 Black, GU11 Manchester, and GU14 Gold.

www.cincinnatiunitedsoccer.com



Within youth soccer, before very long someone will drop the phrase "it's all about the kids." As our season ends and we reflect on it all, something different, tragic and uplifting is happening within the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors. One of our players has a younger sister who has been battling a malignant tumor. As this became known to our club, a groundswell of support for this family has developed. This support is culminating in an upcoming intramural GRCJ benefit tournament to help raise funds to support this family and to show them they are not alone. For our kids, it is all about this particular kid, and our club couldn't be more proud.

www.grcrewjuniors.com



Worthington Crew Juniors is off to a great start in our inaugural year of the partnership between the Columbus Crew and the Worthington soccer community. With a record number of players and experienced coaches, the fall season was a great success. In addition to each team receiving practice sessions with Crew players, fall season highlights included the pre-season team camp, the WCJ Fall Festival, Club Tailgate and the creation of the U8 Academy. Players and coaches to work through the winter training program, with an eye toward the upcoming spring season.

www.worthingtoncrewjuniors.com



On Monday, Dec. 22 the Crew announced that assistant coach Robert Warzycha has been named the fifth head coach in team history. Warzycha replaces former head coach Sigi Schmid, who departed to become head coach of the expansion Seattle Sounders FC. Warzycha was Schmid's top assistant for all three seasons in which Schmid was in Columbus and he will look to help the Crew defend its 2008 MLS Cup Championship. Warzycha enjoyed a 16-year playing career including 47 appearances on the Polish National Team and a three-year stint at Everton of the English Premier League. After coming over to the United States to join the Crew in 1996, Warzycha was named to two MLS All-Star teams, was named team MVP in 2000 and later served as interim head coach for 16 games in 2005 (7-6-3 record).

www.thecrew.com

The Columbus Crew will open the 2009 season on the road against the Houston Dynamo on March 21, 2009, kick off is set for 8:00pm. The 2009 Columbus Crew Home opener will be the following week March 28, 2009 against Toronto at 4:00pm.

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