



Eugene Metro Futbol Club News

SUMMER, 2009

The Coach's Word

Welcome old and new EMFC families! After an exciting finish to the 2008-09 soccer year and a record of eight teams appearing in the state cup quarter, semi- or final games, EMFC began the new 2009-10 youth year with the biggest tryouts yet.

Before the youth tryouts, the annual state cup preoccupied the players, families and coaching staff and it was another successful year for our teams. Our U11 girls Roma under head coach Bryn Dennehy and assistant coach Jen Konyn reached the final of the OYSA state cup and lost to the Keizer Jr. Hotshots in a great final game. The U13 boys Gunners reached the quarterfinal of the state cup with head coach Gabriel Hernandez at the helm and Pat Walro as his assistant. The U15 girls Spirit reached the quarterfinal with head coach Phil Larsen and assistant Jen Davin. The U15 Fusion boys made it into the semifinal and lost in a dramatic game against ESUFC Man United 2-3. Head coach Mac Wilson and assistant coach Ryan Vilhauer were very happy with the team's performance. The U16 boys



reached the quarterfinal of the state cup for the first time under head coach Sven Nelte and assistant coach Pat Walro. The U17 boys Fire made it again to the semifinals of the state cup and they faced the same Oregon Rush team. Head coach Joe Beeler and assistant coach Gabriel Hernandez were proud of the team's performance despite losing the game in a close match. The U18 boys Corinthians under head coach Dennis Larson and assistant coach Chris Bolton also reached the semifinal and finished their club career with a great season and well-played last game. Congratulations to all those teams, coaches, managers, and supporting families for a successful state cup appearance.

In the May 2009 youth tryouts, over 200 players tried out for our youth teams. After all age groups went through two tryout sessions, EMFC formed three U11 teams, the Storm and the Blizzard girls, and the Juventus boys. All our existing teams reformed again and most of them with some roster changes. The U12 Roma girls, the U12 River Plate boys and the Boca Juniors boys all moved from 8v8 to now 11v11 teams. It will be interesting to see how the players handle this change. The U13 Azzurri boys, the U13 Impact girls are joined by a new team in the EMFC family – the U13 Revolution girls. The U14 Gunners and Rangers formed again as did the U14 Magic girls. The U14 girls tryouts were the biggest tryouts EMFC ever had. 46 girls competed for roster spots on



two teams. The U14 Chelsea team is another new team in the youth program. Last year's U14 girls Phoenix and U14 boys Real Metro are transitioning into the high school U15-U18 program with tryouts coming up in August.

All our high school teams made it into the next round of the state cup and three of them appeared in the semi-finals. The U17 Fire boys went to the Tacoma Showcase tournament in Washington and competed successfully in front of many college coaches. The U18 boys Corinthians went to the Nomads Coaches Showcase tournament in San Diego earlier in the year to showcase their talents. On the final count, 11 players are going to play with college level men's teams. Congratulations to all our graduating players on the U18 boys Corinthians. We are all extremely proud to see them playing soccer at the next level and further their academic credentials at colleges and universities.

In the last newsletter I was in the midst of discussing the U11 8v8 regional league with OYSA. After talking with all the other clubs and Mike Smith, the OYSA Technical

THE COACH'S WORD—CONTINUED

Director, the new U11 regional league will consist of club teams in the geographical triangle from Salem to Eugene to Bend. We hope to get a competitive league together and work closely with OYSA to come up with a schedule that is in the interest of less traveling time.

In addition to a regionalized U11 league, OYSA made some more changes on the format of its U12 to U14 competitive leagues. The first change is a new league format for Premier Gold and Silver teams that will be played from the fall of 2009 to the spring of 2010. At the conclusion of this league, the top 4 teams in Gold will automatically qualify for next year's Premier Gold league. This year selected this year's semifinalists automatically for Gold and all other teams have to qualify. Teams that want to participate in this new Premier format will have to enter the Premier Qualifying tournament from July 31 to August 2, 2009. If these teams are not earning a spot in the Gold or Silver league these teams will have to go to the Classic Qualifying tournament from August 7 to 9, 2009. The Classic fall league will be played in the fall only in the same manner as in past years. Please read more about details in the current Goal Lines edition on page 3.

All our youth teams have already started to prepare for their summer tournaments, and for the Qualification tournaments. All our teams have one or two tournaments on their summer schedule. Five of our teams traveled to the very competitive National Cup in Burlington, WA from July 4 to 7, 2009. We had a number of teams participate in the Memorial Day tournament. The U12 boys Boca Juniors won their division with Coach Leonard at the helm and garnered their second trophy after the successful Starfire tournament. The U14 boys Real Metro competed successfully in their division and won the championship undefeated with Dave Peterson as the head coach. The U18 boys Corinthians also won their U18 division

undefeated. Head coach Dennis Larson led the Corinthians in their last tournament to a trophy. The U16 boys Dynamo competed in the Rogue Valley Cup and made it into the finals. In a dramatic game the Dynamos lost 1-0 but according to head coach Sven Nelte played their best game. Congratulations to all our teams, players, and coaches.

In the midst of all these developments, EMFC organized the second 3v3 Challenge Cup and more than 90 teams participated. Another sunny weekend provided a great framework for players, families, and volunteers. According to all accounts and feedback we have received, the tournament was a lot of fun, the competition was great, the weather was awesome, and the organization was excellent. I would like to personally thank all of the participants, all our families, and all the many volunteers who helped make this event a great success.

Only a week later, EMFC hosted an international team from Club America, one of the premier teams from Mexico to play against a selection of college level players who either grew up in Eugene and/or play in Oregon. EMFC event organizer Evon Smith orchestrated with the help of many volunteers an impressive soccer night that brought top level soccer to Willamette HS. Almost 3,000 people found their way to the new turf at Willamette HS and the atmosphere was absolutely amazing. The EMFC home team had its supporters but so did the Club America players clad all in yellow. The game lived up to its hype and saw great soccer with both teams attacking with numbers. Both goalkeepers came up with great saves and Jordan Crasilneck scored



the only goal in the first half with a direct free kick. Lightning and thunder at the end of the first half matched the game's intensity and when the referees delayed the game at the beginning of the second half, many of the supporters in the stands were disappointed. Yet the safety of players, coaches and supporters was on the top of our minds and we all were grateful to Willamette HS' willingness to open its gym for our supporters. All in all the game had a disappointing end yet the first 45 minutes really demonstrated how inspiring such level of soccer can be for our younger players.

And that is exactly why another international team came our way. FC Bayern Munich's reserve team under coach Gerd Muller and Mehmet Scholl, two former German "superstars," travelled to Eugene on June 29 for a great game.

It has only been three months since the last issue of our newsletter came out and yet I feel like I left out so much of what has and is going on in our club. We have had exciting speed and agility sessions with Nick Forrest, technical training sessions with UO standout Bree Rowe, the first pick up games on Saturday morning at Spencer Butte, and yes, the US men's national team made the semi finals with a dramatic 3-0 victory over Egypt. And, yes, I am proud and

honored to be the Director of Coaching of so many talented players, awesome and supportive parents, and friends of Eugene Metro FC.

Go EMFC

All the best from Coach Jürgen



Customer Accounts Center

When you have a question about payments you have made, or charges on a player's EMFC account, please email soccerflo@comcast.net or call 343-5100 and ask for Flo. A monthly statement for the entire current season is emailed monthly. It shows all the charges, credits and payments for the current season. If you can't download the statement, if you change email addresses or if you need clarification, please contact customer accounts!



Parent Advisory Committee

If anyone would like to be part of the committee or has questions about it, please contact Bear Goodman at oso.ukuku@gmail.com, 541-521-6051.

Little Metros

Little Metros is a skill development program offered to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. Having every player spend

time with the soccer ball is the center of the Eugene Metro Fútbol Club Developmental Program.

All Developmental Program training sessions focus on introducing and improving the ball handling skills needed to become a successful young soccer player. At this young age, players will work on touching the ball as often as possible in order to learn the motor skills necessary to move with the ball in all possible directions. Players are encouraged to work with the ball, experiment with the ball, and become accustomed to handling the ball in all situations.

All our programs are staffed by qualified EMFC coaches and are under the direction of the EMFC Director of Coaching. Lesson plans are developed in advance and are designed by our most experienced coaches. All EMFC Staff Coaches live and work in our community and have been part of the soccer community for a number of years.

Little Metros offers a week-long program in July, the Summer Skills Camp, where players will spend five sessions working on their foot skills and playing in small sided games. In the fall we host a six-week academy and league on Friday nights. Players will train twice a week for an hour and then play small sided games on Fridays within EMFC's in-house league. In the winter we host foot skill sessions and weekly drop-in futbol matches.

To learn more about our program, please visit our website at www.emfc.org.



EMFC Summer Camps

EMFC is running the following summer camps. Please check our website for details, www.emfc.org.

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| 1-4 grade | July 20-24 | Our Little Metro director is running a week-long summer camp at Monroe Middle School from 9-12. |
| U10-U16 | July 27-29 | Director of Coaching, Jurgen Ruckaberle runs a 3-day summer soccer speed camp from July 27-29 at Roosevelt MS from 9-12. |
| U10-12 GKs U13-U15 GKs | July 27-29 | GK trainer Jen Hull will run a camp for GK at these times: 8:30—10:15 U10-12 10:30—12:15 U13-15 Roosevelt MS |
| High School | August 10-12 | EMFC will also run the successful 3-day High School camp again this year at Monroe MS. This camp will be a perfect camp to get ready for your high school daily doubles and for the EMFC U15-U18 tryouts. |

Italy, Mexico, and Germany Meet in Eugene

A few months back an old coaching friend called me and wondered if we were interested in hosting Bayern Munich reserves here in Eugene. What a question! Despite the fact that we already were working on one international game and had our hands full with tryouts, 3v3 tournaments, and many other club related activities, my initial enthusiastic answer was "are you kidding me?" Of course, we would love to host this team. After AC Mailand, Juventus Turin from Italy, Club America from Mexico, the German top team wants to come to Eugene, Oregon. Many weeks later after hours of tireless work by our International Event Organizer Evon Smith, we waited in the Hilton lobby to welcome Gerd Mueller, one of my childhood superstars and Mehmet Scholl, whose game I admired throughout the 1990s. What a great honor to host two former superstars in our community. We went out to Lane Community College where they trained and we all got a chance to chat and watch them play. It seemed a bit unreal but by the next morning I found myself walking through campus with them, chatting with players, and coaches, and all in my own native tongue.

All the Select players were excited to get another opportunity to compete against a top level team from Europe in front of their friends and families. Many of these players had to travel to Eugene to come to practice and sacrificed their time. For me it was an honor to work with all of these college-level players. EMFC is extremely grateful to those players to put on the EMFC jersey and make sure

that we can compete against these international teams.

I would like to thank all the great staff and students of Willamette HS who hosted this game and were a wonderful group to work with. We were grateful for all their support before, during and after the two games. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the game. Without the many hands such events would never happen. Since I will inevitably forget someone I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all EMFC fans who helped organize, sponsor, and support this international friendly game. The game itself was exciting, the technical level of play was awesome, and Eugene's soccer fans got to see a well-organized German team. The Germans scored in the very last minute of the first half responding to a couple of good Select team opportunities. The second half saw an even match until the last 15 minutes when the Select team really put the pressure on the Bayern team. One of those chances ended up on the crossbar but Bayern could bring their 1-0 win home.

It was a pleasure to see all the young soccer players who enjoyed this game and had the opportunity to watch this level of soccer up close. For me, all the work was justified seeing all the little boys and girls with excitement in their eyes watching the game.

We hope to continue this tradition of hosting international teams here in Eugene and count on all of your support.

GO EMFC



A Word from the Technical Director

—Technical Who?

In the last two years our club has grown significantly in the number of players and the number of teams we have competing. As our club has grown so has its need for more help in developing our players and our coaching staff. In May I was given the opportunity to assist Jurgen and our club by becoming the Technical Director of the U10-U12 programs.

Beginning in May I observed some of our teams, players and coaches and I am excited about working with each. Not only do we have some enthusiastic and exciting young players, we also have an enthusiastic staff of coaches that come with varied levels of coaching experiences and education.

So, what is the focus of the U10-U12 Technical Director and what can you expect from me? As our players progress into their high school years their ability to be successful on the pitch is based more and more on their understanding of larger group tactics and their ability to execute those tactics. While athleticism and sheer effort can get our high school players so far, it does not provide all the tools needed to be successful as a soccer player. Time and time again we see instances of athletic players who struggle to execute the tactics that are necessary at this age.

The biggest contributor of our high school player's inability to execute large group tactics is mainly based on two factors; an inadequate skill set and lacking the knowledge and understanding of small sided tactics. For this reason it is important that we spend much time on the development of ball skills (dribbling, passing, receiving, preparing, striking, serving) and small sided tactics (1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 2, 4 v 4 attacking / defending) with our U10-U12 players.

During the U10 - U12 years of soccer is when the base of these skill sets are primarily developed. With the proper development, and opportunities to develop, at the U10 - U12 ages, our players will find more enjoyment in the game as they progress and they will have gained the necessary skill set to play and compete at higher levels, if they choose to.

As the technical director for the U10-U12 age groups I will work with our coaches to create a club wide periodic curriculum that ensures all our coaches are on the same page and that we are using the benefits of a combined focused effort to give our young players the best opportunities to learn and develop. Coaching education will be a part of my role and I will spend time observing and assisting with training sessions along with providing forums for coaching education. In addition to this, I will be working with our coaching staff to offer other development opportunities

that will get our young players excited about ball skills.

One event that we are working on is a periodic EMFC Skills Challenge that will give our young players a chance to showcase their ball skills and compete against each other for the honor of winning top honors at the EMFC Skills Challenge.

As a club we are placing a high priority on the development of our U10-U12 players. This is being accomplished through the appointment of a Technical Director for this age group, the development of a club wide curriculum, the development of additional training and competing events and through coaching education. As a club we see the development at these age groups as the priority and believe that development should be placed above winning.

One of our U12 boys, when talking about his team, said "We expect to win!" I love his mindset and hope all our players share his competitive spirit and have high expectations of themselves and their teammates. However, winning for the U10-U12 age groups is not based only on the scoreboard. Our players win when their skill level grows along with their enthusiasm for the game.

I am looking forward to assisting our coaches and our young players this season. Here's to a fun and successful 09/10 soccer season and seeing our young players excited about what they can do with the ball!



GO EMFC!

Joe Beeler
Technical Director U10-U12

