



# CHICAGO MAGIC BREAKAWAY

10850 Laraway Rd.  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
www.chicagomagic.net  
(815) 469-1741

CHICAGO MAGIC

February, 2004

## Disney Showcase is Magic for U14 Girls

Amidst the beauty of the Disney Complex, the Magic U14 Girls proved that they are one of the best teams in the U.S. by winning the competitive Disney Showcase the end of December.

Playing teams from Virginia, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Florida, the girls stayed focused to bring home the first Disney Showcase Championship trophy for the club.

Director of the Magic Girls program, Scott Fonfara couldn't be more proud of this "first" for the Magic program.

"Although we didn't go to the tournament in full strength and had not played outdoors for sometime, the girls came up big when it counted. They showed a lot of character both on and off the field with their behavior and habits. Obviously this team does have a lot of character."

It was a team effort with all girls contributing to the championship. U14 Girls attending the tournament were: Monica Barrera Heather Behn, Laura Benck, Tori Burchett, Kelly Butler, Jill Dunn, Abbey Hirshenberger, Chelsea Jones, Ellen Murphy, Lindsey Page, Kelli Pawelko, Hannah Peterson, Kylie Pirrello, Rachel Snapp

and Erin Tedesco. Due to injuries, Kate Bernstein, Jessica Percic and Lauren Zallis were unable to compete.

Mike Matkovich reflected on the first Disney club championship. "I am extremely pleased to have won this first Disney title. It is even more fulfilling having been won by our girls. I am so proud of their success. This is a great start towards a growing Magic girls program. We have a ways to go, but I know Scott will get it done."

Also attending the tournament were the U16, U17 and U18 boys. The tournament was a mecca event for college coaches.

Jeremy Alumbaugh, coach of the U17 and U18 boys and Magic college coordinator said, "The Disney Showcase was another great opportunity for our players to display their talents in front of college coaches from throughout the nation. We participate in Disney at the older ages for three reasons; to get great games during the winter months, to find out where we stack up against the best teams in the country and to get exposure in front of college coaches for our players. All three were definitely accomplished."

## Magic One of the Top Clubs in the US

Individual team championships are rewarding for the Magic coaching staff, but even better is club recognition. In the past few weeks, the Magic coaching staff was contacted by *Soccer America Magazine* informing them that the Club was being recognized as one of the top boys youth programs in the United States.

Soccer America based the selections on three main categories.

- Success in U.S Youth Soccer championships since 2001.
- The number of players who have gone on to national and regional teams last year.
- A survey of college coaches on the best clubs at developing and showcasing players.

Magic finds themselves in second place just behind well respected and recognized FC Delco out of Philadelphia.

Certainly the Magic program has grown since its inception in 1990, and its accomplishments go far beyond the trophy case of 61 state titles, 13 regional titles and 5 national titles.

Success just doesn't happen. The coaching staff puts in endless hours of time to ensure that each player is given the opportunity to grow in the game. The players are exposed to all levels of competition as the coaches attempt to offer the best soccer environment available by attending high profile tournaments, participation in all league options, and providing opportunities for training at all levels.

Upon hearing of this latest Magic honor, Mike Matkovich, Magic Director noted, "I am delighted with this club achievement. It is a tribute to our clubs success from all aspects - coaches, players and parents. I know the environment tends to be quite demanding, but in the long run it pays off for all of the players."

### Magic Coaching Staff

Director of Coaching  
*Mike Matkovich*

Assistant Director  
*John Hannan*

Head Staff Coach  
Girls Coordinator  
*Scott Fonfara*

Full-time Staff Coach  
College Coordinator  
*Jeremy Alumbaugh*

Full-time Staff Coach  
*Todd Sadler*  
*Tom Zec*

Director Rec. Program/  
Part-time Staff Coach  
*Pedro Figueiredo*

Part-time Staff Coach  
*James Cormican*  
*Mark Powell*  
*Jim Pisani*  
*Dave Ribbens*





## Super Y-League Holds First ODP Training

The United Soccer League, the United States Soccer Federation and the United States Olympic Committee announced in 2002 that the Super Y-League was granted Olympic Development status.

This past year a Regional Team program was launched allowing for elite level players that compete in the Super Y-League to be scouted through league play. As a result of this regional program—players identified by scouts over the course of the Y-League season were invited to participate in a regional identification camp in January.

The Cocoa Expo Center in Florida was the site of the Region II camp January 15-18 for the boys and January 30-February 1 for the girls. Chicago Magic players

selected to the Super Y-League Region II ODP Team are: Ross LaBauex, Kody Stanley, Steve Kolzow, Patrick Rickman, Chris Schuler, Chris Clark, Drew DeGurian, Nick Mentgen, Jill Dunn and Hannah Peterson. Also participating in the event from the Magic program were Cory Herrick, Lindsey Page, Laura Benck and Kelly Butler.



“This has been a good first year for the Super Y-League ODP,” Jeremy Alumbaugh, ODP Head Scout for Region II, said. “Obviously it has proved that there is a want and need for this type of evaluation in identifying players in the natural club setting. Chicago Magic looks forward to supporting this program in the years to come.”

## Magic Teams Headed to Dallas Cup XXV



Dallas Cup XXV plans to be something very special on this their “Silver Anniversary “. The Chicago Magic is proud to be a part of this prestigious event having teams accepted in the U14, U16 and U17 age groups. For the fourth year the

Magic U18’s have been selected to compete in the elite Super Group.

U18 Coach Matkovich stated, “Being selected for the Su-

per Group is a great honor. I am excited for the boys, as they have worked hard to get to this level. This will probably be the toughest competition they will face in their soccer careers.”

Some of the teams the U18’s could face in their week long competition are Leeds United (England), Atletico Paranaense (Brazil), Tigres (Mexico), Deportivo Saprissa (Costa Rica), Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) and the US U17 National Team.

This years tournament runs from April 4-April 11 in Dallas Texas.

## Matkovich Participates in MLS Combine

The 2004 adidas MLS Player Combine took place at The Home Depot Center in Carson, California on January 11-13. The field of 54 college players participating in this select event were determined by a select panel of Division I college coaches in conjunction with MLS coaches and the consultation of select Division II, Division III and NAIA coaches. MLS general managers and members of all 10 MLS coaching staffs were in attendance to scout talent at the event leading up to the 2004 SuperDraft.

Mike Matkovich, Director of the Chicago Magic and Coach of the Chicago Fire Reserves was invited to participate in the evaluation process of the participating players. Matko teamed up with University of Connecti-

cut head coach Ray Reid to coach the adidas Aveiro side to an undefeated record, the only team participating in the event with an unblemished record.

“I enjoyed participating in this event from the stand point that I was able to see many of the Fire Reserve PDL players compete and see how they matched up with the overall competition,” Matko said.

Fire Reserve players participating were: Jamal Sutton-Southwest Missouri State, Matt Pickens-Southwest Missouri State, Tighe Dombrowski-UW-Milwaukee, Kevin Wickart-Saint Louis, Kirk Harwat-Akron and Ned Grabovoy-Indiana University .



## U13 Magic Boys Heading to Europe

The Magic 90/91 (U13) Boys are in the planning stages of the Magic's annual European trip scheduled for this summer. Holland, Belgium and Germany look to be the most likely destinations.

The Magic will again ask the European Soccer Network to arrange high-level friendly matches and tournaments. ESN typically only organizes these types of trips for National and Regional teams of countries throughout the world. "We are very fortunate to be so highly thought of

as a club, that we would have the same opportunity that is usually only extended to the countries best" said John Hannan, the trip organizer.

"Last year was the first time that we used ESN and I cannot express how professionally run the trip was, and the quality of competition was something we could not find in the U.S. The teams we played competed for the day but were working to develop for tomorrow."

## Magic Players in the MLS

The Chicago Fire and LA Galaxy of the MLS were Magic in their draft picks on January 16. Former Chicago Magic stars Ned Grabavoy and Denny Clanton were both drafted and are now competing for a roster spots with their new teams.



Grabavoy was a member of the Magic 82/83 USYSA National Championship team and played college for the 2003 NCAA National Champions, the Indiana Hoosiers. Ned has had much success over the years as a Magic player, Lincolnway HS player, ODP National team player, Fire Reserves player and now looks forward to competing as a professional in the MLS. Ned was drafted in the 2nd round to the LA Galaxy.

## NCAA Final IV Showcase

With snow falling and freezing temperatures the Magic 17's traveled to Columbus, December 12-14, to participate in the NCAA Final Four adidas College Showcase.

The first game of the showcase matched the defending USYSA National Champion, Southern California United against the Magic. When the final whistle blew—the Magic walked away with a 2-2 tie having led most of the game. Coach Matkovich was pleased with the teams performance.

Clanton played on the Magic 81/82 team and continued his soccer career at Dayton University. While at Dayton, Denny was Team captain and First Team All-Atlantic 10. His defense skills awarded him the 2002 PDL Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-PDL with Chicago Fire Reserves. Denny was drafted in the fourth round of the MLS draft to the local Chicago Fire.

Matko who coached both Ned and Denny in club and the PDL noted, "This is the second year in a row that players have come out of the Magic system to enter the MLS. I am extremely proud of these young men's accomplishments and wish them well."

A year ago former Magic and Bradley University star, Tim Regan was drafted by the MLS MetroStars. He currently is participating in preseason training.



"Overall the boys did a great job playing with the top ranked team in the U.S. We were leading and could have easily won the game. This is a tribute to how far this team has come and where this team is headed."

Magic came away with a victory in their second game against Triangle of North Carolina. Due to the weather conditions, the third game was not able to be played against Region II competitor Busch.

## Magic Indoor Tourney Winners

### Boys

U10 Magic 93/94  
U11 Magic Burn  
U12 Magic Chelsea  
U13 Deportivo Azteca  
U14 Magic 89/90  
U15 Magic 88/89  
U16 Midwest United I  
U17 Magic 86/87  
U19 Magic 85/86

### Girls:

U11 T. C. Hotties  
U12 Magic 91/92  
U13 Central IL Tornadoes  
U19 Darien Daredevils

## Chicago Magic Spring Kickoff.....

April 24-25, 2004

New name this year for the yearly Invitational Tournament

## Spring Best of the Midwest.....

The Spring "Best of the Midwest" has recently begun its on-line registration process and already there is a lengthy list of applicants. We are expecting upwards to 600 applications from teams throughout the United States.

"This tournament continues to attract some of the finest clubs and teams to our Memorial weekend event", notes John Hannan, the tournament director.

Once again this year, the Magic will partner with Camp-ton United to provide an excellent soccer complex for the matches.

As in the past, this tournament does not happen without the assistance of all our Magic families. All families will be required to work during this major club event.



## Magic Calendar of Events

Mar/Apr/May	Regional League Games
March 19-21	Champions Cup
March 27-28	Metro Showcase
April	GCSL Begins
April 4-11	Dallas Cup
April 17-18	Crossroads of America/Indianapolis
April 24-25	Magic Spring Kickoff
April 23-25	Blue Chip Tournament/Cincinnati
Mid-May	Fall Try-outs
May 15-June 13	State Cup
May 28-31	Spring 'Best of the Midwest'
June/July/Aug.	Super Y-League Games
June 19-20	Kalamazoo Soccer Showcase
June 25-30	USYSA Regionals—Rockford
July 3-6	US Club Regionals—Ft. Wayne
July 18-24	USA Cup—Blaine, MN
July 21-25	USYSA Nationals—Orlando
July 22-25	US Club Nat'1 (U12/13) Cary, NC
July 29-Aug. 1	US Club Nat'1 (U14/15) Cary, NC
Aug. 5-8	US Club Nationals (U16/17/18) at Score at the Shore in New York
July/August	Super Y-League Nat'1 '85/'86

See "Schedules"/"Tournament" on the Magic website [www.chicagomagic.net](http://www.chicagomagic.net) for specific team participation as updates are made

## College Decision Day.....

Steve Algozino - Northern Illinois  
 Rocco Avallone - Philadelphia University  
 Preston Bernardi - Western Illinois  
 Chris Clark - Santa Clara University  
 Drew DeGurian - Bradley University  
 John Ferguson - Coastal Carolina  
 Paul Ligas - University of Illinois Chicago  
 Danny May - Southwest Missouri State  
 Nick Mentgen - Bradley University  
 Erik Ortega - University of Wisconsin  
 Chris Rufa - Northern Illinois University  
 Ryan Shanahan - Coastal Carolina



## ODP Trips

Many Magic players have recently participated or will soon be participating in Regional and National competitions.

### '89 National Pool Mexico Trip:

Andrew Duran and Raphael Martinez (Magic U15's) traveled to Mexico with the National Pool. They will be traveling to Bradenton FL in March for additional training with the National team and will participate in Dallas Cup XXV.

### '87 Regional Trip to Italy:

Chay Cain, David Greenman, Zac Lambo, Brad Ring and Chris Schuler will be traveling with the Region 2 team to Italy to compete in the Rubiera International Tournament April 3-13. The team is coached by Mike Matkovich.

### '88 Regional Trip to Costa Rica:

Alex Holmes, Cameron Jordan, Quavas Kirk, Kyle Knotek, Eric Lichaj, Taylor Waspi, and Ofori Sarkodie recently returned from Costa Rica where they participated in the International Festival.

## Magic Awards Banquet

### JOIN Chicago Fire Midfielder Jesse Marsch

Players and parents are cordially invited to our 6th Annual Chicago Magic Soccer Club Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction. It will be a fun-filled night with player recognition, raffle prizes and special guest Chicago Fire midfielder Jesse Marsch.

*Please plan on attending!!*

**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2004

**Location:** Georgios Banquets in Orland Park

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Dress:** Business Casual

**Cost:** \$25 per guest (includes dinner, tax and gratuity)

**New:** VIP After Hours Cocktail Reception additional \$30 per guest

**Contact:** Diane Stevens at 815-462-1127

**Reservations due by March 8, 2004**

## New Magic Warm-ups Now Available.....

Samples are on display at the SportsClub Customer Service desk for sizing. Get yours ordered today!!!!

## Speed Training...

Speed training is still available for anyone interested:

### Tuesday session:

6:30-7:30-limited space

### Wednesday session:

6:30-7:30-only 10 spots left

This program is being offered at a prorated fee of \$25. Classes run every week until March 17th at SportsClub.

Interested in becoming a "Certified Referee"???

Visit the IYSA website at:  
<http://www.iysa.org/web/refereeclinics.html>

Sign up now for one of the available courses. Successful completion of the class will allow you to be a referee or assistant referee at one of the upcoming Magic tournaments.

The Chicago Magic BreakAway newsletter is published by the coaches and staff of the Chicago Magic Soccer Club and Hallmark SportsClub Ltd. The contents are meant for current members and former members of the Chicago Magic SC and its predecessor organizations, as well as members of the Chicagoland soccer community. Club members and their families are encouraged to provide information to Scott Fonfara at [fonfara@chicagomagic.net](mailto:fonfara@chicagomagic.net).

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