



CHICAGO MAGIC BREAKAWAY

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CHICAGO MAGIC

September, 2003

17's Win USYSA Nationals

The prestigious Don Greer Cup, awarded to the winner of the U17 Boys USYSA National Championship team went to the Chicago Magic.

The Magic did not let a first game loss slow them down, as they came back to win their next two pool games and take the Championship title in a hard fought game against Sereno Golden Eagles from Arizona.

Mike Matkovich, head coach of the 17's felt the team was a bit out of sync for the first game, as many of the players had not been playing together for three weeks leading up to the National Championships due to other soccer commitments.

"Credit should be given to the boys, as they didn't over react to their first game loss," Matko said. "As the week

went on, the team got better, and came out in the Championship game to take care of business. This was a total team effort considering there were three key players out with injuries."

Chay Cain, goalie for the 17's, was awarded the "Golden Glove" award. This honor goes to the tournament's outstanding goalkeeper in each age group.



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

Full-time Staff Coach
Tom Zec

Director Rec. Program/ Staff Coach
Pedro Figueiredo

Part-time Staff Coach
James Cormican
Alex Hernandez
Mark Powell
Jim Pisani

Magic 14's and 15's win Super Y-League Nationals

The Chicago Magic teams finished the North American Super Y-League Nationals in "Magic" fashion coming away with 2 National titles and 2 runner-up honors.

The Magic 14's and 15's both won the national title as their games went down to the wire. The 14's scored on a brilliant shot by Eric Lichaj in the final minute of regulation to take the title against FC Delco out of Philadelphia. The 15's game advanced into overtime, having played the Concorde Fire from Atlanta to a 0-0 tie. In overtime, Quavas Kirk connected with a header to claim the title.

Equally as exciting, the Magic 16's played Santa Rosa to a 0-0 tie in both regulation and overtime, resulting in the outcome of the game being determined by PK's. The Santa Rosa goalie came up big, giving them the championship title.

The U19 Magic Boys competed for the National Title in early August prior to many of the players heading off to col-

lege. The Cleveland Force Jr.s. came away with the National Title.

Playing without 5 starters from the USYSA National Championship team, the U17's managed to take 3rd place in their age group.

Also competing in the tournament were the Magic U13 Girls. Playing up a year this season in the U14 bracket, they proved to be very competitive in their Championship run.

Magic Director of Coaching, Mike Matkovich, felt the clubs success was an outstanding achievement. "Having four teams in the Championship games is a accomplishment that will be hard to repeat in the future."

The Super Y-League announced the first UMBRO North American Finals Team in each age group, based on coaches' vote after the completion of each of the matches. Magic players selected to this team were:
U14's: Mike Brennan, Cory

Herrick, Jordan Kadlec, Eric Lichaj, Perry Marosovic.
U15's: Cameron Jordan, Quavas Kirk, Okafori Sarkodie, Taylor Waspi, Mark Zeman.
U16's: Peter Grasso, U17's: Drew DeGurian, Armando Escobedo, Jay Henderson, Nick Mentgen.

The League will be hosting two ODP training camps coming up in October and November for players identified this past season. Jeremy Alumbaugh serves as the head Midwest scout and Scott Fonfara is an assistant scout on the girls side.

The honor of hosting the North American National Finals was granted to Chicago Magic by the Super Y-League organization. Sportscore II in Rockford provided the perfect facilities for this prestigious tournament. Matko commended the Magic for doing a great job of organizing and hosting this big event.

Beginning in 2004 the Super Y-League National Finals will take place in November. By winning this years champion-

ship, next years 15's and 16's receive an automatic berth in the 2004 tournament field, as they attempt to defend their title.



www.superyleague.com

Magic 13's and 15's Tour Europe

Members of the Magic 87/88 and 89/90 boys teams participated in this years European trip from July 28 thru August 6th. Belgium was chosen as the destination due to the timing of the trip and when the youth professional clubs would be best primed to entertain some quality matches. On previous tours, stan-

dard European tournament packages were chosen (i.e. Holland Cup) with sightseeing adventures to supplement the experience. This year, the tour coordinator, John Hannan, chose a different course.

"I wanted to guarantee a higher quality of competition without sacrificing the competitive value.

Also, to have control over our schedule in order to include more sightseeing opportunities. I chose a gentleman I had met while previously overseas with the Regional ODP team, to organize this trip for us."

Competition included the likes of Anderlecht, Belgiums top club, Mouscron and a guest appearance

from the former Russian giant, Dynamo Kiev. Needless to say, the level of play met all of the teams expectations. The 87/88 team also participated in a mini-tournament which it won both in terms of hardware and respect. Sightseeing trips included Brussels, Brugge, Genk and a full day in Paris, France.

Magic 14's Earn Trip to London.....

Players from the Chicago Magic 88/89 and Magic 88/89 West teams visited London, England August 10-18, 2003. The host club for the trip was Arsenal and they proved to be outstanding hosts for the group. The trip was part of the award package the teams earned by winning the 2002 US Club Soccer National Championship last November.

Coach Alumbaugh accompanied the group and made

the following comments regarding the experience, "The London trip was a great experience for the players. Not only did we have the opportunity to play top-notch youth teams from Arsenal and Fulham, but we had training sessions with one of the Arsenal Youth Academy coaches. The training sessions were definitely instrumental in the group coming back and winning the 2003 SYL North

American Championship. The boys came back sharp and ready to play. I would personally like to thank John Drews for helping to organize a great trip and Paul Borchardt for all of his help in London, they both made it a smooth event."

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was attending the opening match of the Premiership at Highbury Stadium where Arsenal de-

feated Everton 2-1. Other sightseeing outings included Tower of London, Windsor Castle, and a tour of London.

This trip was made possible through the courtesy of the International Academy. The International Academy is a market leader in providing specialist courses that combine travel with sports training and competition.



USYSA Regionals.....Des Moines Iowa

Illinois State Cup winners all converged on Des Moines, IA June 20-25 for USYSA Regional Competition. Magic teams advancing to the regional competition were State Cup Champions: U13Boys, U13Girls, U14 Boys, U15Boys, and the U17 Boys.

Once again the Magic program was well represented in the play-offs with the 14's losing to Vardar in the

semi's and the 13Girls losing to Busch in the semi finals. The Magic 17's advanced to the Regional championship game after Magic won over Busch SC on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the semi-final.

With rain storms lingering in the horizon, the Magic took the field against Michigan Wolves for the Championship. Early in the contest the Magic found

themselves down 3-0, but the team put on an impressive fight, as they scored three unanswered goals to equalize with the Wolves. A rain delay and overtime only added to the teams desire for a championship title. In overtime a penalty was awarded to the Wolves, but the kick sailed over the goal. The 17's ended the game by winning the title in penalty kicks. Magic Coach, Mike

Matkovich stated the fight back was exceptional. "This is one of the best comebacks in club history," Matkovich said. "To be down 3-0 and fight the elements against such a talented team - it's one of the greatest wins in the history of the club. It is certainly the most exciting game I have ever been involved in. This is a testament to the club and certainly to the players....NEVER say quit."

Magic Players Head to Residency

In early September, 40 players from throughout the United States reported to Bradenton, FL. for the national soccer residency program. More than twenty of the players entered as U16's or 1988 birth year. Of these 20 players, 3 are current Magic players. Striker Quavas Kirk, fullback/defensive midfielder Eric Lichaj and central defender Taylor Waspi will attend an accelerated academic program in conjunction with the residency, as well as training six days a week and playing in a

number of high-level domestic and international events. The competitive goal from this group is to develop a team that can compete for the FIFA U17 world championship in 2005. The players are guaranteed one year in the residency program.

"To have three players selected to this small group of elite players is an honor only the Magic can claim," Coach Hannan said. "And to be selected to play for your countries colors is the highest achievement a player can earn."

In October, the players will go to Argentina to play Boca Juniors along with an Argentina national select team.

Matko noted that this talented group of Magic players are the first to represent the Magic in the residency program. "I am sure they will represent the Magic well, as all three are top players, and fine young men. We look forward to their return to the Magic program in May when they will help their teams compete for the Cup, Regional and National titles."

Chicago Magic Teams Competing in the Greater Chicago Soccer League

The Greater Chicagoland Soccer League kicked off its inaugural season in mid-August, with all signs pointing to a successful new league in the developmental stages.



The GCSL is currently made up of nearly 100 teams, with divisions in both boys and girls age levels, ranging from U9 to U18.

The most promising attribute is the strength of club support the league has received from many Chicago area

soccer clubs. Participating Clubs include: CMSC, Naperville Lightning, Rockford Raptors/Dactyls, LTSC, Downers Grove RR, Oswego Panthers, Park Forest Wings, Chicago Freedom, Fire Jrs., Hinsdale, and our first out of state participant, Alliance SC from Grand Rapids MI.

Coaches have agreed that the US Club status and its ability to have players play with any team within their club regardless of which team they are rostered, (age permitting) is great for player development. Magic Coach, Tom Zec said, "Getting kids more games, whether it is up one or two

ages is ideal when you are trying to develop players".

The schedule and quality of competition is another area where the GCSL is excelling. Many teams currently are playing in two leagues. The flexibility of scheduling, which is unique compared to some of the other leagues, allows more coaches to attend a higher percentage of team games.

Overall, the league is showing success and proudly stands with its mission statement: "Coming together to create and maintain a positive environment that puts the soccer player first".

Four Magic Teams Invited to Disney Showcase

Invitations have been extended to the Magic U14 Girls, U16, U17, and U18 Boys to compete in the 2003 Disney Soccer Showcase sponsored by adidas on December 27-30. The tournament is held at the Disney Wide World of Sports Com-

plex in Orlando.

Top clubs from across the U.S. will be represented, and adidas will also bring the four regional boys '87 ODP teams to compete in an international event within the Showcase, against the United States and Finland U17 Men's

National Teams, Bayer Leverkusen and Ajax Capetown.

The United States Men's U17 National Team and Ajax Capetown will open the Showcase on December 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Magic Welcomes Coach Zec

The Magic would like to welcome Tom Zec back to the coaching staff. While attending Lewis University, Tom also assisted with coaching for the Magic. Zec, a former Magic (Sports Club) Player, was a star defender during the early 1990s for Coach Matkovich on the Magic 1976 Boys. While attending Lewis University he was a central defender for the Flyers. At Lewis Tom earned his BA in Sports Medicine with a Physical Therapy minor. He also has served as the Director of Coaching at Campton United under the direction of Mike Matkovich from 2000-2002.

Coach Zec is coaching the 11A Boys, 11Burn, 13Blue and 11A Girls teams along with assisting in the many organizational aspects of the GCSL.

Magic Welcomes Coach Pedro

Pedro Figueiredo recently has joined the Magic and Sports-Club staff. Pedro grew up in Brazil where he developed a love for the game of soccer. He came to the United States where he enrolled at Judson College. Pedro majored in Psychology and has a minor in Business Administration. While at Judson he also played soccer for the Eagles, earning the honor of being selected the Kyle Rote Jr./Wittnauer 2001 NCCAA Player of the Year. Figueiredo was a NCCAA All-American in both the 2000 and 2001 seasons. While in Brazil, he also competed in volleyball.

Pedro is coaching the Magic U15-17 Girls and also serves as Director of the Stars Soccer Recreational Program.

Welcome Pedro!!!!!!

Magic Calendar of Events

Sept. 26-28	Girls Fall Best of the Midwest
Oct. (see website)	Indoor Try-outs
Oct. 11-13	Metro Fall Classic—Boys
Oct. 25-26	Metro Fall Classic—Girls
Dec. 12-14	NCAA Final Four in Columbus
Dec. 27-30	Disney Showcase in Orlando
Jan. 16-18	Boys Indoor Tourney
Feb. 6-8	Girls Indoor Tourney
March 27-28 (tentative)	Metro Showcase
April 4-11	Dallas Cup
April 24-25	Magic Invitational
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 25-30	USYSA Regionals—Rockford
June, 2004	US Club Regionals
July 21-25	USYSA Nationals—Orlando
August, 2004	US Club Nationals

See "Schedules"/"Tournament" on the Magic website www.chicagomagic.net for specific team participation as updates are made

Information regarding Magic try-outs for Indoor 2003-2004 is posted on the Magic website.....

Magic Night of Bowling will be coming in 2004??? Watch for details as they become available.....

Referee Indoors at SportsClub

All referees who are currently certified with USSF are encouraged to apply to work indoor games this winter at the Hallmark SportsClub in Frankfort. Apply on-line at www.hallmarksportsclub1.com, or contact Steve Davidson at 815.469.1844 ext. 209.

The annual Chicago Magic awards Banquet will be held in March, 2004 this coming year. Watch for more details in the upcoming months.....

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.

Magic Players Compete in PDL Championship

The Chicago Fire Reserves advanced to the championship of the Premier Development League (PDL) in Naperville. The match against the defending National Champion, Cape Cod Crusaders, took place following the Chicago Fire MLS game. Ten former and current Chicago Magic players made up the Fire Reserves roster. The Reserves had many opportunities to score, but saw many of their attempts hit the hardware rather than the net. Cape Cod prevailed with a 2-0 victory. Mike Matkovich is the head coach of the Reserves, with Jeremy Alumbaugh serving as assistant coach.

"The intention of the Reserves is to bring our youth players up from the club to play at a higher level," Matkovich said. "This gives them their first experience in a professional environment. Having the relationship with the Chicago Fire has allowed us to train and develop with the professionals."

Magic Players in the Pro's

Tim Regan—former Magic and Bradley University player is currently playing for the NY MetroStars.

Doug Warren—former Magic Sockers, U. of Indiana and Clemson University player is currently playing for DC United.

Ricardo Clark—former U19 Magic and Furman player is currently playing for the NY MetroStars.

Johanes Maliza—Former Magic Sockers and Stanford player is currently on the San Jose Earthquakes Developmental Roster.

David Lara—Former Magic Sockers and Bradley player is currently playing for the A-League Charleston Battery.

Magic Girls in the News

This fall, Chicago Magic has expanded their girls program to meet the needs of girls in all age groups. There are teams at the U9-U12 and U14-U18 ages. Girls director, Scott Fonfara said, "we are committed to develop the girls program into the same respected program as the boys. Having the U14 Girls accepted into the Disney Soccer Showcase shows we are well on our way in meeting this goal."

The boys program (formally known as SportsClub SC) began in 1990 with only a few age groups, and quickly grew to a Chicago area powerhouse.

Helping direct the clubs initial

success was a strong team led by player, Josh Feigl. The 75/76 boys were the first team from the club to compete at Nationals. Fonfara states, "Our U14 Girls currently are the same type of team that will help us to build and develop our girls program. Our current teams success will only help to build and expand our girls program in the upcoming years."

All of the girls teams will be competing in the Best of the Midwest and five teams will be attending the Metro Tournament in October. The Magic looks forward to continued growth and success with the girls program in the future.

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.

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