

## **ODP Report 2007 Season in Review**

### **TRYOUTS**

Tryouts for the 1993 and 1994 age groups were held in October. Approximately 200 players attended the local tryouts. The numbers in each location were below normal but they were especially low in the Rochester area.

Tryouts for the 1990, 1991 and 1992 age groups were held in December. Approximately 120 players attended these tryouts. The tryout attendance at these age groups was consistent (if not slightly higher) than the previous year.

Despite the lower-than-usual numbers in the youngest age groups, the talent didn't seem to suffer too much. The level of play at the '93 and '94 age groups (boys and girls) was very solid.

### **INDOOR PROGRAM**

The new format for the indoor training sessions this year was an overwhelming success. The 90 minutes training, 90 minutes in the classroom, 90 minutes of training, was very well received by both players and parents (not to mention the coaching staff!). We have built strong relationships with our indoor partners (Sahlen's in Buffalo, WSA in Rochester, and the 481 Center in Syracuse), and have already booked our training dates and times for the 2008 indoor season.

The only negative aspect of the indoor program this year was the cancellation of the indoor play days for the two youngest age groups, in Scranton. The dome we have used for the event for the past two years collapsed during a snow storm the week before our event was scheduled, and the event had to be cancelled. Plans for the 2008 Play Day are currently up in the air, as the dome has gone out of business. Alternate sites are being considered, but the cost may be prohibitive.

The indoor Play Day for the three oldest age groups was held at Sahlen's, and included teams from PA West and the Ontario Provincial program. The event was very successful, and plans are already in place for the 2008 event.

### **OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

As we have done in years past, our outdoor program consisted of two weekend events. Our mini-camp was held in conjunction with PA West, and our Development Weekend was NY West only event. We tried a new twist this year and held the entire mini-camp at the Family First Sports Center in Erie, PA. The players were housed in the dormitory at the facility. Feedback was mixed on the event. The facility was very flexible and did a good job of accommodating our requests. As always, the staff felt the opportunity to play against the PA West teams was valuable. The majority of the feedback on the event was positive, but there were a lot of concerns about the additional cost.

We are hoping to hold the mini-camp in conjunction with PA West again in 2008, and while we may return to the Family First facility, we do NOT plan to have the players stay overnight.

### **REGION 1 ODP TOURNAMENT**

This year as in years past, the staff, managers and parents from all 15 Region 1 State Associations, descended on Princeton, New Jersey for a great weekend of soccer at the annual Region 1 ODP Tournament. It was a great pleasure to see the professional conduct displayed by

everyone involved with the NY West program, and I think NY West should be proud of the way our State Association was represented. On the playing side, we competed in all of our games. Gone are the days when the opponent saw NYSW as an easy victory. This past 5 years we have sent at least one team and on two occasions two of our older teams to the semi-finals and finals weekend. This year was no exception. We are sent our 90 Boys to the semi and final weekend. Other than the big 4 (New Jersey, Eastern, NY, Eastern, PA, Maryland) no other state can boast of doing so with such regularity. The 91 girls only failed to advance on goal differential, and two other pools ('92 Boys and '90 Girls) had a chance to win their group brackets going into the last games on Sunday.

We're very pleased that the 90 Boys had the opportunity to vie for the regional championship, in their last year. They were also our first academy group. Probably equally as pleasing is the quality and level of play in our two youngest age groups of both Boys and Girls. The quality of play in our '93 and '94 boys and girls groups bodes well for the future.

In addition to the recognition our pools are generating on the field, it was also very encouraging to have received quite a few compliments on the appearance and professional conduct of our staff, from a variety of people who have been around the region for a long time. Glen and I both received these types of compliments on several occasions. One coach that has been around the Regional program for 18 years, told Glen that the NY West coaching staff and players were the smartest looking and most professional he'd seen at the tournament. He said our '94 Boys played the best soccer he had seen by that age group in all his 18 years. One person noted that the NY West coaching staff was consistently seen picking up and cleaning sidelines that others had left in a mess. That is quality! Tony DiCicco told Glen that our staff were the best turned out and looked great with all wearing the matching coaching attire. Our complete playing record for the weekend was very positive. Our 14 teams played 42 games and returned a complete record of 19-7-16. Our teams scored a total of 90 goals, while only allowing 58, for a goal differential of +32.

### **REGION 1 ID CAMPS**

A total of 165 players (68 boys and 97 girls) attended the Region 1 ID camps this past summer. These numbers were lower than in previous years, especially on the boy's side.

Twenty-five NY West players were selected for the Regional pools in their age group:

#### **Boys**

- Nate Bourdeau ('90)
- Conor O'Leary ('90)
- Kyle Sniatecki ('90)
- Jason Gaylord ('91)
- Mike Reidy ('91)
- Nick Garcia ('92)
- Zander El-Hindi ('93)
- Liam Callahan ('94)

#### **Girls**

- Grace Barnard ('89)
- Brittany Heist ('89)
- Jess Dulski ('90)
- Jess Shufelt ('90)

- Nikole Raschiatore ('90) – Injured Reserve
- Nicole Close ('91)
- Olivia Guy ('91) – Injured Reserve
- Sarah Henderson ('91)
- Ashley Walsh ('91)
- Taylor Mazursky ('92)
- Brittany Smith ('92)
- Jackie Firenze ('93)
- Marley Brooks ('94)
- Emma Firenze ('94)
- Kelly Ristoff ('94)
- Christina Sarokon ('94)
- Michelle Weise ('94)

Jackie Firenze ('93) was also selected to attend the U14 National pool camp, and Ashley Walsh ('91) was invited to the ESP camp at Cal Poly in Pomona, California in July.