



The Storm Watch

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

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Ladies Shine Over Labor Day Weekend

Space Coast United had a number of U15-U18 teams competing at Disney's Soccer Showcase Qualifier over the scorching Labor Day weekend. The top two finishers in each age group at the Qualifier earn an automatic berth into the Disney Soccer Showcase in December, and the winners are guaranteed a spot in the top flight. Disney Soccer Showcase bills itself as the ultimate place for top clubs to be seen by hundreds of college coaches looking for great soccer talent. "Rated #1 youth soccer tournament in the U.S. in a Soccer America survey, Disney Soccer Showcase gives athletes a chance to shine on one of the biggest stages set for youth soccer in this country!"



U17 Girls: Soccer Showcase Qualifier Champions

Coach Dustin Smith's U17 Girls came away with gold besting Boca United 1-0 in the Final. Coach Smith said, "I was extremely pleased with the girls' performances and am very proud of their accomplishment! This is the first tournament of the year and we hope to get better each training session, game and event. This gives us a boost to our previously laid foundation that the girls have worked hard to build."

Coach Scott Armstrong's U16 Girls had a phenomenal run at the tournament taking silver in a squeaker of a Final with Florida Kraze Krush (FKK). Coach Armstrong said, "It was a great weekend for this team. We won every qualifying game and went through to the Final on PKs with a fantastic saving exhibition from Sydney in the Semi-final. In the Final against FKK, we played great soccer and were very unlucky not to have won the game. Throughout the tournament the girls competed very well, scoring an average of three goals a game and working tremendously hard defensively." (Continued Page 2)

Award Winning TOPSoccer Returns



Not content to rest on being named the FYSA TOPSoccer Club of the Year, Space Coast United is committed to growing and improving our TOPSoccer program. Participating families can expect a fun and meaningful experience, games and activities adapted to ensure the child's participation, and a safe and healthy environment. Parents have the opportunity to network with other families for support and information. Space Coast United coaches and buddies demonstrate patience, understanding, flexibility, and the ability to adjust to ever changing on-field situations. They engage the players one-one-one always aware of the participant's safety. Buddies are part coach, cheerleader, and role model.

Our teenage players who exhibit patience, understanding, and flexibility are encouraged to become Buddies. The rewards in terms of personal growth and fulfillment are simply amazing! Buddy applications are available in .pdf on the [TOPSoccer page](#) on our website.

TOPSoccer is expected to begin Saturday, November 1st at Viera Regional Park to coincide with our Fall Fun Day so all can enjoy the festivities.

Ladies Shine Over Labor Day (cont. from page 1)



Armstrong went on to add, “As the U16 coach, I am very proud and happy that they were so successful. In over 20 years coaching, I have never been to a tournament where a team that never allowed a goal still lost. All in all, a fantastic weekend of soccer for this team considering last year the girls did not make it out of their qualifying bracket.”

We’re confident their tremendous effort will pay off at the Showcase!

U16 Girls
Finalists Soccer
Showcase Qualifier

Meanwhile at the Beach

As the older teams were battling it out over in the middle of the state, our U14 Girls competed in the 16th Annual Melbourne Area Beaches Labor Day Challenge. While their group stage play was a little more modest, they poured it on in the Semi-final and Final matches. They beat Indialantic Force 3-0 followed by a 4-1 win over BSA to take home the trophy. Their coach, Alyssa Esposito is profiled on the following page.



U14 Girls: Labor Day Beaches Tournament Champs

Welcome to Fall 2014 YDP! ~ Rob Dinnie

I would like to welcome all our members, new and returning, for the Fall 2014 Youth Development season. YDP has grown quite a bit this season over previous years. This may be due in part to the World Cup effect, but hopefully our high quality programming is also responsible for the higher registration numbers. Our dedicated volunteers and Professional Trainers are excited about working with your children this fall.

NEW UNIFORM STYLE

New members may have noticed a rather striking uniform style adopted by Space Coast United. As part of our club’s celebration of 30 years since our founding in 1984, we introduced a new club logo and a striking new uniform style featuring red and white hoop jerseys. The entire club is adopting similar uniform styles for both the recreational and competitive programs to promote and foster a One Club mentality. Initial feedback from the players has been excellent, and we expect that to be the case as more teams get their hoop jerseys.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Youth Development Program aims to provide a nurturing and safe environment delivering a high level of player training within a strong community environment. Our efforts and energies are directed to the following objectives:

- ◆ We strive to develop players by building and improving their skills, confidence, fitness, and creativity through positive coaching.
- ◆ We encourage high standards of sportsmanship and fair play from both players and coaches.
- ◆ We uphold a zero tolerance policy towards parent, coach and trainer misconduct as stated in the [SCUSC Code of Conduct](#).
- ◆ We are committed to developing coaches to the highest level through a quality instructional program.
- ◆ We provide opportunities (via outreach events) that cultivate a community spirit and promote the theme that Space Coast is United as ‘ONE CLUB’ through all divisions and programs.



These smiles are the best reward!

Meet the Coach: Alyssa Esposito



Coach Esposito played soccer at Melbourne High School and Florida Tech where she earned her degree in Environmental Business. She has her FYSA D License and has coached the Melbourne High JV soccer team for several years.

She is currently the Space Coast United head coach of the U14 Girls Travel White team. Her experience playing at a high level under great coaches, and her patience mean these girls are fortunate to have the opportunity to develop under her guidance. Alyssa's primary goal for her team this year is to "have a competitive and fun season."

Susan Keldsen, Alyssa's team manager for the past two years, has worked with Coach Esposito for over four years. Susan raved about her saying, "Coach Alyssa employs a very unique style of coaching with our team. She challenges and develops the complete player, both technically and mentally. Players are proud and passionate and want to win for her as much as they want to win for themselves. Alyssa is an amazing teacher and she lets the players know what she expects of them and what she knows they are capable of. The qualities I see in Coach Esposito are incredible to see in someone her age, she undoubtedly has a very bright future in coaching! I am honored to be working with her and I am so excited to see what her future holds."

So are we Susan, so are we!

SCUSC Promo Team

We need 2-3 excited people who would like to help lead this project.



Are you organized, creative, and motivated to get a new generation of logo merchandise into our members hands?

Contact Gran at volunteer@spacecoastsoccer.org or Ann at mediadirector@spacecoastsoccer.org for more information.

"As a coach you want them to go back in, as a player you want to go back in, but you know we have to take a step back and not think about ourselves."

~ Lindsay Johnson, DOC Arizona Soccer Club

Heads Up! Know the Facts About Concussions

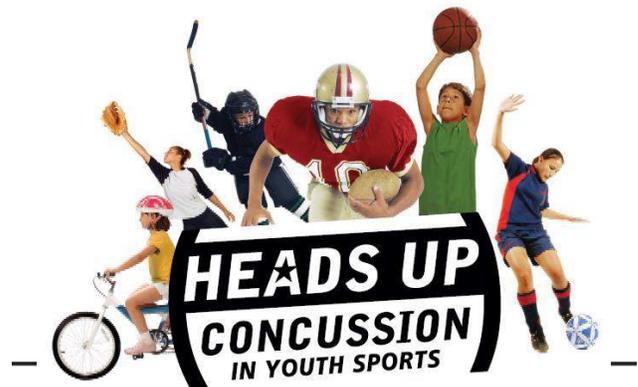
American football tops the list as the high school sport with the most concussions—but did you know that girls' soccer ranks second? Soccer has seen a 58% increase in the number of children suffering concussions over the past decade. Concussion injuries were a big story in this year's World Cup, and in August a group of American parents filed a class-action lawsuit against six national and international soccer organizations they claim have mishandled concussion treatment at all levels of play.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have taken steps to [educate the youth sports community](#) regarding the dangers associated with concussions. They offer an on-line training course that FYSA now requires all coaches and team managers take before they can be issued their game passes.

It is really important to understand that:

- ◆ A concussion is a brain injury
- ◆ All concussions are serious
- ◆ Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness
- ◆ Concussions can occur in any sport
- ◆ Recognition and proper management of concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death

Space Coast United takes the safety of our members extremely seriously and not only supports the FYSA initiative, but encourages parents to view the CDC's [Heads Up](#) course and familiarize themselves with the [Coach Fact Sheet](#). The brief time spent on this can make a big difference in a child's long-term health and well-being.



Heads Up for Parents

Florida Tech Field Trip for SCU Boys



Thursday, September 4th, several Space Coast competitive teams swapped out field work for a field trip. Our players attended the Florida Tech men's soccer home opener against St. Thomas. Instead of drills and scrimmages, the boys scribbled notes on game report worksheets while tracking an assigned college player and making comments on the game in general. The Panthers gave them a lot to write about scoring 5 goals and allowing only 2, posting their first regular season win. As an added bonus, Space Coast alum, Evan Enders, made his Panther home debut to a cheering crowd of red PUMA jerseys.

Our Florida Tech hosts went out of their way to make it a fun evening for all. The Space

Coast players were invited to form a tunnel for the players to walk through on their way out to midfield for the pre-game introductions. During half time, four teams of four competed in a dribbling and shooting competition to win free pizza. After the game, Florida Tech invited the Space Coast players on to the pitch to meet the Panthers and have a group picture taken. By all reports, our players had a ball!

The Panther's next home game is Saturday, September 20th at 4:30 p.m. against conference rival, Eckerd. If your Space Coast game does not conflict, come on out to Florida Tech to cheer on the Panthers and see some good soccer!



Two U14 Space Coast strikers meet Tech Striker, Adi Kavara, who scored a hat trick.

Early in the history of football, team sizes ranged from 15 to 21. It was not until 1870 that the 11-player team was standardized.

10 Ways to Ask Your Youth Soccer Player 'So How Was the Game Today?'

By Diane Scavuzzo

We all know that the car ride home after the soccer match is supposed to be a calm and quiet time, not one filled with second guessing one's child on how the action could have gone - It is hard to be silent when engulfed in a fury of emotion.

Win, lose or tie - youth soccer games fill parents with a wide range of passions from rage to joy - far more dramatic sentiments than one would expect. Although most parents know they should not engage in an analysis of "IF ONLY...." few humans can resist the urge to comment or question.

All too often, when people are asked 'What is your worst memory from playing youth and high school sports?' the overwhelming answer is the ride home in the car with my parents after the game. Even if the car ride home is short, none of us want it to be the worst part of a game.

The car ride should be a safe haven for players. A chance to relax and feel appreciated by those who love you. Parents should never rehash failure and missed opportunity. Imagine the nightmare of riding home with a father or mother in a negative monologue and then multiply that by 25 games a year. While parents want to help their children perform better, usually a rehashing of the game ends up with players wanting to quit the sport.

The bottom line is we 'parents' have an insatiable desire to discuss every aspect of our player's life. While bashing the referee is always a slightly neutral and ever so popular (although negative) topic, try to manage the internal struggle with easy going and positive questions. So here are some simple questions to ask after the game to help get your player talking.... If you can't resist.

.... Find out what those questions are by reading the entire article at SoccerNation.com



Fall Fun Day Set for Saturday, November 1

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Fun Day! Saturday, November 1st from 1:30 – 4:30pm, the club will be hosting the annual event to thank our players, player families, coaches, trainers, and volunteers for a great fall season. Come on out to the Viera Regional Park Soccer Fields to enjoy free food and fun. The event will include:

- ◆ DJ
- ◆ Inflatables and Dunk Tank
- ◆ Field Games
- ◆ Coach Game
- ◆ Raffle for Four (4) Disney One-Day Tickets
- ◆ Vendor Market Place (for anyone interested in promoting their products/ services)

AND

- ◆ A Special Guest Appearance by an Orlando City Professional Soccer Player!

Volunteers are needed to help sell raffle tickets, for food and table service, grilling, water / snack donations, and inflatable supervision. If you are able to volunteer, or are interested in the vendor market place, please check the [Volunteer](#) and [Registration](#) pages on our website. The information will be up soon if it isn't already!



“Soccer is simple, but it is difficult to play simple.”

~ Johan Cruyff, Dutch footballer and manager

“Thanks to the attitude of the boys, you would have thought they had been playing together for years.”

U13/14 Select Boys Bring Home Vero Cup

The squad competed very well in conditions that topped a 104° Fahrenheit heat index over the August 23-24 weekend at the Hobart Sports Complex in Vero Beach. The parents appeared to suffer more than their sons.

On Saturday, the boys won their first group stage game 3-1 against Port St. Lucie, and drew their second game 1-1 against hosts Indian River Soccer Association. On Sunday morning, they posted an awesome 6-1 result over newly formed Royal Palm Beach to clinch their place in the afternoon Final match. They won first place by beating IRSA 3-1.

Coach James Phillips awarded Matt Manley “Space Coast Player of the Tournament” in recognition of Manley’s contribution to the team’s achievement and hard work throughout the weekend. Watching Manley steal the ball from an opponent with precision timing to consistently avoid fouls at this age is impressive.

“A fantastic start to the year! Everyone in the 18 player squad contributed to the win, it was a great team effort,” said Phillips, “This is a new group of players, but thanks to the attitude of the boys, you would have thought they had been playing together for years. Coach Derek Sichler and I are really looking forward to this season.”



U13/14 Boys Select Vero Cup Champs



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Established in 1984, Space Coast United Soccer Club is a non-profit run by volunteers dedicated to families who wish to enjoy the sport of soccer and to provide opportunities to play at all levels from ages three to eighteen with the highest quality of programs available in the State of Florida. Our efforts and energies are directed to the following objectives:

- We strive to develop players at all levels of play – recreational and competitive – by building and improving their skills, confidence, fitness, initiative and a sense of teamwork.
- We are committed to developing coaches and referees to the highest level through a quality instructional, licensing and mentoring program.
- We aim to ensure all of our players' personal goals are met whether they be enjoying recreational soccer, playing on a competitive team, playing on a high school team, playing in college, or on a U.S. National team some day.
- We promote and encourage high standards of sportsmanship and fair play and strive to ensure all players are doing it "For the love of the Game!"

Thank you Sports Authority for being a Club Sponsor! Be sure to visit their store at The Avenues at Viera.

Store Hours: Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m.—9:30 p.m. and Sundays 9:00 a.m.– 8:00 p.m. **Phone:** 321-631-8870



Viera: Seven days a week during games and practice sessions

Wickham: Saturdays during games and Tues and Thurs evening practice sessions

Snow Cones

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Our Programs

Micro/Mini-Kickers
Ages 3-5

Youth Development and Academy
Ages 4-11

Competitive
Ages 9-19

Recreational
Ages 13-18

Goalkeeper Academy
Ages 9-19

TOPSoccer
Ages 4-19

Youth Soccer Websites

[Florida Youth Soccer Association](#)

[National Premier Leagues](#)

[US Youth Soccer](#)

[Brevard Youth Soccer League](#)

[Greater Central Florida Youth Soccer League](#)