

COLON-GONZALEZ AND CHANCE REPRESENT FFC IN FRANCE WITH VA ODP

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FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (Wednesday, April 25, 2018)—Fredericksburg FC once again had players involved in ODP trips to Europe, this year with a trip to France for FFC 02 Girls Black member Natalia Colon-Gonzalez and FFC 04 Girls Black member Taryn Chance.

Through hard-work, both girls were selected for their trips that ran from March 26-April 4 and took place in both Paris and Bordeaux when the teams trained and played games against local clubs.

Colon-Gonzalez, 15, got to play games against Paris FC, Bordeaux FC and two other academy teams, while Chance, 13, and her teammates saw action against VGA Saint Maur, Paris FC, TFC and FCE Arlac Merignac.

The results of the matches weren't the main focus of the games, but both players took lessons from the action they both plan to use with their FFC teams.

Chance, the daughter of Rollie and Shawn, said experiencing a place she's never been before was important, but improving her game wasn't far behind on the to-do list.



Colon-Gonzalez

Chance



“I wanted to become a better soccer player, as well as experience playing soccer with international players and of course experience some of the French culture,” said the left-sided wing and back.

Colon-Gonzalez, the daughter of Luis “CC” and Wilnelia, was thinking along the same lines saying, “My main focus while I was there was to have fun, get to know the culture, but to also do the best that I could do while I was playing in my matches.”

As both said, these trips are not just all about soccer, they also allow the players involved to see what another culture is like in a way that doesn't involve a television or cell phone screen, or a computer monitor.

While in France, the two got to visit many of the familiar site with their teams, including the Eiffle Tower, The Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Tripomphe and one of the largest sand dunes in Europe while in Bordeaux.

"We did lots of sightseeing and shopping, but my favorite thing was trying new food." exclaimed Chance, who has also played basketball and run track while at Rodney Thompson Middle School in Stafford, Va.

While in Bordeaux, Colon-Gonzalez and teammates lucked out and got to attend one of the biggest events in French soccer.



"We went to the French League Cup Final game, which was between AS Monaco and Paris Saint-Germain," said the right back, holding center midfielder.



Just like last year's FFC attendees, Colon-Gonzalez and Chance would highly recommend any play take the trip if the opportunity presents itself.

"It was something that taught me to work with new people. My parents didn't go with me on the trip, so I had to be independent about certain things," expressed Colon-Gonzalez, who also plays soccer at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Dumfries, Va. "I think the style of playing is something that would impress anyone that would go. And of course, the site seeing is something so unique and you can eat really good food!"

"I would definitely recommend a trip overseas and tell them to have fun and enjoy the opportunity," Chance added.

HERE'S A LITTLE MORE FROM EACH VIA Q&A:

How long have you played for FFC?

NCG: *Since U13 and I am now a rising U17.*

TC: *I started the Spring season of 2016 with U12 Girls Black.*

What made you start playing soccer and why do you still play it now?

***NCG:** I think what got me started in soccer was just the idea of kicking the ball around with some friends. I have continued to play soccer because I have seen my own development and it is something that I have passion for.*

***TC:** My parents started me in soccer at 4 and I really enjoyed playing. It was fun and I liked being with the girls on the team, and that is still why I play today.*

How/when did you find out about this trip?

***NCG:** When I went to the ODP tryouts for the first time back in August of 2017.*

***TC:** ODP has an international trip every year and this was the first year my age group was eligible to participate.*

What did you have to do to get on the team?

***NCG:** I first had to make the district tryouts, then I had to continue and make the state tryouts. After that we had another tryout to pick the squad that would be going on the trip.*

***TC:** Train hard and play my best.*

What was your first thought when you found out you made the team?

***NCG:** My first thought was that I was going to be able to play an international match in Paris!*

***TC:** I was happy, but nervous about travelling overseas.*

What was your highlight from the training you did?

***NCG:** The European style of soccer is much more unique and they play at a much quicker pace.*

***TC:** Training one on one with the coaches from ODP and the French teams.*

Tell us about some highlights you had from the games?

***NCG:** The way the team passed and got the goals that we got. We played as a unit even though we had never played as a whole team before. I liked to see that we came together very well and had an amazing experience.*

***TC:** The French players were more aggressive than U.S. players and they never gave up or quit. I saw this in every single match we played.*



What from the trip do you think you will bring back to help you while playing for FFC?

NCG: *I think the quickness of pace is something that I learned how to deal with and definitely expand my game back at FFC.*

TC: *Being a more physical player and better ball control.*

How do you think your trip over there can help the club?

NCG: *I think it could help the club in the sense that it is something that I think many people should take interest in if they are looking for something new to learn.*

TC: *The experience of playing overseas and bringing the lessons I learned back to the club will help improve me and then my team.*