



THE RED READER

THE NEXT GENERATIONS' NEWSLETTER



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News briefs...

Due to popular demand, CFJ has announced LAST CHANCE winter Cadet and First Touch Classes in Naperville. See the CFJ website for more information.

Spring programs start in April. Dates and times TBA

CFJ tryouts for club teams U8-U14 are in June. Check our website for more information.

Chicago Fire open the 2009 MLS season vs **FC Dallas** at Pizza Hut Park on March 21st at 7:30

Chicago Fire home opener will be against NY Red Bulls on April 5th at 2:30

CFJ happenings this month...

Ann Arbor, MI- Chicago Fire PDL and University of Michigan forward Peri Marosevic signed a Generation Adidas contract identifying him as 1 of 9 of the best young up and coming players. **Fort Lauderdale, FL-** Joining Manosevic at the MLS combine is fellow Chicago Fire Premier players Brandon Barklodge (St. Louis University) and Brad Ring (University of Indiana). **Orlando FL-** U15 Boys Red 11 played at Disney Showcase presented by Chelsea FC winning two and drawing one. U16 Boys were finalist in the top division winning 2, tied 1, and losing 1. The U15 Girls Red 11 won two and tied 1. **Naperville, IL-** CFJ's Youth Development Programs started this winter training this month. In Naperville CFJ announced "LAST CHANCE" Cadet and First Touch class on Wednesdays at Players Indoor Sports.

Player Development in Focus



Chicago Fire Premier players from the Super 20s accept the National Championship last July. Robert Younger (UIC) and Mark Blades (Northwestern) were named Co-MVPs of the national finals.

From Coach Ryan

What Can I do with my player at Home?

Players at these ages just need to play. This past week I was reading the "New Football Manual" by Karl-Heinz Heddergott, a German expert in developing players and the former Director of Coaching for the USSF. Heddergott was urging his readers to understand that the player has to develop an instinctive understanding and enjoyment of the game in youth before being trained by professional methodology and drills. He gave the example of children playing pick up games where they were subject to the demands of older or more savvy players forcing them to come up with solutions to have success in an environment where unwritten street/ backyard rules reign. Often these childhood playground experiences provided the foundations of a players' temperament, maneuverability, creativity. What you can do at home is reinforce the techniques from training. Just play with them! Ultimately the game is the best teacher.

Parents' Section

Thoughts on Youth Development

Micro League Soccer tries to educate players with the tools to have success at the next level and provide the environment where players can freely experiment and develop with these tools with their own creativity. Its our version of how players in soccer proficient cultures would develop on the playground or in the street. It provides a safe and simple transition into the club environment where the technical skills can be refined into the muscle memory. The MLS program places players in game where the score doesn't matter, where referees are not present, and where coaches moderate the safety of the game reinforcing positive habits from training. Brazilians don't organize the sport until the age of 12. The English system has come under recent scrutiny due to their over organization and lack of producing creative players. Our system organizes players in developmental groups (First Touch, Cadets, Micro League, club teams) where players can chose their commitment level and progress into different levels under the guidance of professional coaches. This season's Micro League success have been subtle but exciting to the coaches. We can see players moving around the ball using body language, thinking about moves, and trying different parts of the feet on the ball.

Perspective

Chicago Fire Juniors' successes

Chicago Fire Juniors teams have enjoyed another great year thus far. But its not just the trophies we want to brag about; its the success our players are having, its the opportunities they are receiving and the amount of enjoyment they experiencing. Its seems weekly now that one of the older teams are out of town at top college showcases and top college coaches impressed with our players and teams. Chicago Fire Juniors takes a long term approach to player development; where players play for fun, learn to train, train to train, and finally train to compete. All youth development programs are in the stage training for fun. There is no corner cutting in this process since you cannot rush the maturity levels of players. There's plenty of time for the player to develop between 4 years and 23.