

Introducing Kevin Ellis



Sporting Kansas City announced Kevin Ellis as their second Home Grown Player.

Ellis spent the last two seasons with Barton County Community College, based in Great Bend, Kansas, where he was a first team 2010 NJCAA Division I All-American.

“It is a dream come true,” Ellis said during a press conference on Friday. The Kansas City native spoke of the opportunity to play for the team he idolized growing up.

The 19-year-old right back scored nine goals and provided four assists in 21 games last season for Barton County Community College. The Cougars finished third in the nation, their best finish in school history. The 5’8 defender had one goal in the consolation game.

He has spent the pre-season training with the full team and made an appearance in the second half against the U.S. U18 team last week.

“He got better every single day,” Sporting Kansas City coach Peter Vermes said during the press conference. The coach went on to compare the defender’s playing style to that of Barcelona’s star defender, Dani Alves.

Ellis started his career as a forward, but has transitioned back to defense over the last couple years. His propensity to attack and get up-and-down the field were both attributes that kept Sporting Kansas City interested in their academy product even while he was at college.

Vermes also mentioned during the press conference that Chivas USA had interest in Ellis and had invited the defender to join their pre-season camp this year.

Ellis joins Jonathan Kempin, goalkeeper, as the other Home Grown Player on the Sporting Kansas City roster.