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Dec 2012



Ela Soccer Club Quarterly Newsletter

newsletter

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U9 Player signed for Spain's Atletico de Madrid

By Gin Sharma, Director of Coaching

Atletico de Madrid is known as one of the biggest football (soccer) clubs in Europe, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Real Madrid, Getafe and the mighty Barcelona. **Now they have a former Ela Soccer Club player, how neat is that?!**

In September Federico (Fede) Oliva left Illinois to tryout in Spain after being contacted by a team scout. Back in Lake Zurich for the holiday, I had the pleasure to sit down with Fede and his dad, David. It was clear listening to both Fede and David the unique opportunity that Fede finds himself in, the excitement and joy was evident from Fede's face.

Fede describes his time in Madrid, Spain, "My typical day starts with school from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, I go home for lunch and return back to school from 3:00-5:00 pm. On Mon., Wed. and Thurs., I get ready for training. At 6:00 pm, I arrive at the training grounds and start getting into my training uniform at the club locker room. For about 20 minutes the 4 team coaches go over the training session and the objectives. For the first 30 minutes of all training sessions we work on different forms of conditioning and then we get into the technical and tactical training."

David commented on the intensity and high quality of training carried out by the players, "the speed of play and decision making is of high standard."

When I asked David if it was difficult for Fede to adjust, David replied, "At first, yes. The coaches wanted Fede to maintain his position on the field during the games and Fede got a lot better with this. He is thoroughly enjoying the training, coaches, and games. He does miss some of his friends in the USA,

but overall it's a dream come true for Fede." When asked what he likes the most about Atletico de Madrid, Fede did not hesitate to answer. With a big smile he replied, "The games, I enjoy playing the game on Saturday." Fede predominately plays as one of the two forwards in a 1-3-1-2 playing system.

What I found interesting is that tryouts are not open to everyone - you have to be recommended by the club scouts and then invited to tryout. David states, "Fourteen players were selected for the team from 96 players. The player's contract is only for one year. If the player performs and does well, then he is asked to come back again for the next year."

Clearly, Fede has some unique qualities and is cherishing his time in Madrid, Spain. From everyone at Ela Soccer Club, we wish Fede and his family all the very best for not only this year, but all for many years to come.

Way to go Fede, we are so proud of you!!!!



ATLETICO DE MADRID BENJAMIN B TEMP. 2012-13

upcoming >>>

Casino Night!



Plans for Ela Soccer Club's Casino Night are underway! It will be held at The Onion Pub & Brewery in Lake Barrington on Saturday, February 23 at 7pm. This is a great opportunity to mingle with our Ela Soccer coaches and other Ela Soccer Club parents! Try your hand at our exciting Blackjack tables, or play Texas Hold'Em in the

Save the Date:
Saturday
February 23, 2013
7 p.m.

poker lounge! Not a gambler? There will be plenty of shopping opportunities and dancing, too! Casino Night attendees will have the opportunity to win special prizes that cannot be purchased outright!



club highlight >>>

Ela Day at the Chicago Fire

Over 100 players & family members attended the Chicago Fire game on October 27th to support the Chicago Fire and Ela Soccer Club! A day filled with fun included a pre-game scrimmage on Chicago Fire's game turf, a great game played by Chicago Fire ending in a 1-1 draw, followed by a post game "Friendly" with FC Pride of Indianapolis' U11 Boys team! Thanks to all who came out to join in the fun!



programs >>>

Spring Recreational Soccer

Season Dates: April 6 - June 2, 2013

(No games Memorial Day weekend)

Registration Opens: January 1st!

Cost: \$125 (late fee after Feb 15)

Visit www.elasoccer.com to register



update >>>

Message from the Director of Coaching

As the fall 2012 soccer season has concluded, I would like to thank all of the players on their efforts, commitment and outstanding work on the training ground and during match play.

Team performances, building friendships, skills and character both on and off the field have all contributed toward a successful fall season.

Our focus and attention now turns to the winter training program and in particular towards the goal of **improving individual player technique.**

While soccer is a team sport, the team is made up of individuals who are constantly and consistently working hard towards developing, improving and refining individual ball control and in particular their 1st touch. We want all players to be comfortable on the ball and be able to cope with the challenges and demands of performing in tighter spaces and under greater pressure.

I would encourage each player to maintain their focus, concentration, and commitment during the winter training season so that they are able to maximize their own capabilities.

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand".

- Vince Lombardi

Gin Sharma
Director of Coaching

sideline notes >>>



State of Fields

It is always Ela Soccer's priority to provide the best fields for our program. Although we have run into difficulties over the past year, we feel that the fields are in the best condition given the circumstances and we are coming up with additional solutions.

The field conditions we have experienced over the last year have been brought on by the droughts we have seen here in Northern Illinois over the past few summers. This has caused a lack of growth of new grass on the fields. In addition, our program has grown and has put additional use on the fields.

What have we done to address the problem?

- The fields at Deer Park Town Center are now in use. This will allow less usage on other fields in desperate need of rest to allow for the growth of new grass.
- The Village of Kildeer and the Foglia YMCA have been gracious in allowing us the usage of the Alan Stefaniak field (behind Best Buy).
- We are working with the Village of Deer Park to identify additional parks to use for practices and game fields.
- The fields in Lake Zurich were all seeded and top dressed this fall. It is our hope that we will have a wet winter to enable the growth of this new grass.
- We have purchased portable lights, enabling practices in the evenings on two

fields and are hopeful the Village of Lake Zurich will grant us permission for a third field for the Spring.

- We will be purchasing an irrigation reel to water the new field at Deer Park Town Center.
- Over the last year, we have spent in excess of \$70,000 on field maintenance and improvements.

Please understand that these fields are all public parks and are not owned by or only used by Ela Soccer. Any money we put into these fields is for the greater benefit of all and as we have learned with our past experience there is never a guarantee of continued use. While, we have a great relationship with the Village of Lake Zurich, the Village of Deer Park and Ela Township and will continue to build upon those relationships; we owe it to our members to watch our investments into these fields while still maintaining them to the exceptional level everyone expects of an elite soccer organization.

This past fall it also came as a shock to Ela Soccer that District 95 is now charging us for the usage of school fields for recreational team practices. Over the past 20 years, Ela Soccer has used these same school fields for no charge. This is not something we budgeted for, but have agreed to pay as we need the fields.

What can you do to help?

It is clearly evident that we need our own Soccer Field facility. This takes a large financial commitment. We are looking for donations or partnerships to make this dream become a reality. Contact Doug Anderson at doug.anderson@elasoccer.com if you have any suggestions or ideas.

We are always trying to improve our field situation, and are more than happy to hear any and all ideas concerning field development and the future of the program.

Dale Winkelmann
Director of Fields

Doug Anderson
President

results >>>

Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following teams for their exceptional performance in the fall tournaments.

Germantown Memphis	U14 Girls Elite	Champions
Germantown Memphis	U14 Boys Elite	Runners Up
Rockford Super Clubs	U15 Girls Elite	Runners Up
Rockford Super Clubs	U13 Boys Elite	Runners Up
Nike Classic Cup	U16 Girls Elite	Champions
Nike Classic Cup	U15 Girls Elite	Runners Up
Palatine Celtic Cup	U11 Girls Red	Champions
Palatine Celtic Cup	U10 Girls Red	Champions
Palatine Celtic Cup	U9 Boys Red	Undefeated
Palatine Celtic Cup	U9 Girls Blue	Undefeated
Palatine Celtic Cup	U11 Boys Blue	Runners Up
Palatine Celtic Cup	U11 Boys Red	Semi-Finalists
Palatine Celtic Cup	U14 Boys Elite	Semi-Finalists
Palatine Celtic Cup	U15 Girls Elite	Semi-Finalists
Schaumburg	U9 Girls Red	Champions
Schaumburg	U8 Girls Red	Runners Up
Schaumburg	U11 Boys Blue	Runners Up
Elgin	U9 Boys White	First Place
Elgin	U11 Boys Red	Runners Up



office update >>>

Farewell Anne!

Parents and players please join us in wishing Anne all the best as she ventures on to a new exciting job opportunity. Anne has been a valuable part of the Ela family for the past two years and she will be missed by all. Good Luck Anne!



Get to know your trainer...

Coach Drake has been with the club for over a year now. We thought it was time we got to know him a little better... We already know he can sing!

Where are you from? I am an Irving, Texas born, Chicago bred, estranged Canadian.

How long have you lived here (IL)? since 1977...except from 1997-2003 while I was touring.

What's your favorite restaurant?

Al's Breakfast in Minneapolis...favorite Chicago restaurant is the amazing Machu Pichu on Ashland in the city; Peruvian food at it's best!

Do you have any hobbies? Comic Books, Guitar, Poetry, Star Wars historian, Reading, Acting and amateur Civil Engineer.

Pets? Two dogs; Busy, a 2 and a half year old Doberman-Rottweiler mix, and Chewie, a 7 month old Yellow Lab. They are both very



cute in the face.

What's on your iPod? What isn't on my iPod? Drakey loves music- highlights include: The Avett Brothers, 500 Miles to Memphis, Lissie, Social Distortion, Don Williams, Guns N Roses, Johnny Cash, Iron Maiden, Weird Al Yankovic and Ke\$ha.

Favorite movie? All-Time: the original Star Wars. Other contenders include: Braveheart, Mallrats, SlapShot, and The Fox and the Hound

Do you have kids/family? My wife, Cate, is a high school teacher. We have our hands full with our two puppies for now!

Program Update

As we enter the Winter portion of the 2012-13 club season, Ela Soccer Club welcomes back it's High School Age Boys Teams! Our U18 Elite, U16 Elite and U16 Blue teams return after spending the fall representing their respective High schools. After just the first week of Winter 1, it's easy to see that the boys are excited to be back, and all three teams look forward to a successful club season. The Winter 1 and Winter 2 sessions will see us with all of our High School Age teams in action at the same time for the only period during the club year. While the boys were with their High Schools, the girls were in their club season. Of course then, when the spring season arrives, the girls will be with their High Schools as the boys perform during the club season. Thus, the Winter months are the only time the club is at full capacity, with every fielded team training and preparing!

The girls did a great job in the fall carrying the flag for the High School ages. The U16 Elite team captured 1 tournament title and 1 tournament semi-final appearance. Even more impressive, was their undefeated Fall 2012 IWSL season! They finished in first place and were the Champions of the U16 IWSL Club Open Division. The U15 Girls Elite team had a strong showing in tournament play, finishing as Runners-up in both the Nike Cup and Superclubs tournaments, while also earning a semi-final berth in the Palatine Celtic Cup. The U15 Girls Blue team had a strong and competitive showing in the IWSL AB Division, after moving up a level following their strong spring season.

With three weeks of Winter 1 training left, the High School Age teams will be training hard and looking forward to their upcoming Winter Tournaments, High School Season (for the girls), the Internal League, and of course prepping to get back outside once Spring Break ends! Happy Holidays and enjoy the coming months of Winter soccer!

Richard Drake
Assistant Director of Coaching/
High School Age Director

Fall All Stars Game

The Fall All Star games were again a big hit and we saw some great soccer during this time!! Coach Gin and I were excited about all of the games, and they did not disappoint. We saw some healthy competition and it was fun to watch.

For those who may not have been selected to participate, don't get discouraged - continue to work hard, have fun, and keep kicking the soccer ball around!! Attending the Recreational skills training is also a good way to improve your skills!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone during the spring season!!

Coach Jose Fleita

