

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Contest Winner
- Pre-season Showcase Tournament
- ODP trip to Portugal

BENEFICIAL NEWS

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Name the Newsletter Contest

In December, we decided to run a contest and give a name to our Newsletter.

We had quite a number of entries and very good suggested names. The review committee has decided to award the prize to Alex P. from our newly formed BU12 team. The committee thought the name "Beneficial News" was clever and appropriate.

As the winner, Alex will receive a FREE full day participation in one of our summer camps.

Well done, Alex!

Congratulations!

Even though we had not planned for a second place winner, we are compelled to award it to Ben O. from our BU16 team.

His entry was EPIC, standing for:
Exceptional
Player
Improvement
Commitment.



GUI5, GUI6 and Shalrie Joseph from the fall teams' get-together scrimmages

For his efforts, we will offer Ben \$100.00 off in one of our full day summer camps.

Thank you Alex, Ben and all the

other participants for their creative and thoughtful entries.

One of the questions asked on the contest form was: "Would you be interested in an April school vacation Clinic?" The response was a "yes" from almost all the participants.

We did listen and we are offering an April Vacation Clinic 9:00-12:00 Mon-Fri at Ipswich River Park in North Reading. Please sign-up at our website, www.BenficaUSA.org

We have kept the fee to a bare minimum to cover costs.

Clinic Directors are Arthur and Mario.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Pre-Season Showcase Tournament

This winter during a coaching staff meeting, it was agreed to enter the older teams (U15-U18) into a pre-season showcase tournament. We had two objectives:

- 1) To help the players get ready for the upcoming season
- 2) To showcase them to the college coaches

We were successful in both objectives. The players worked hard and had fun playing outdoors in the middle of the winter. The coaches were able to determine where the players and team stand in preparation for the spring season.

Many of our players were identified and got offers from college

coaches.

Since this has proven to be very valuable, it will be added to the club's overall plan and will be extended to the younger teams as well.



ODP Portugal Trip

Mass Youth Soccer offers the ODP players a soccer trip to Portugal during the February school vacation week.

This year's trip included many but not all the players from Benfica that have made it into ODP.

From our BUI3 team we had Lucas A. and David L. From our two BUI6 teams we had Dimitri M., Josh M. Noah T., Kory M. and Mario P. On the coaching and admin staff we had Alvaro, Mario and Arthur.

We spent five days in Anadia sightseeing, training and played

games against the local youth teams. The last two days we were in Lisbon where the U16 team played against S.L. Benfica's BUI5 team at their newly built training center.

The center includes five turf



Mario and Arthur with Anadia's mayor

fields, locker rooms and dormitory that houses the youth team players.

Above pictures (starting from the upper left to right):

- S.L. Benfica stadium
- Benfica's mascot-the American bald eagle
- Benfica training center—locker rooms and dormitory in the background
- ODP players, coaches and local officials in front of the hotel at Anadia