



The Final Third

Springfield, Missouri

Issue 3

Fall-2008

Reid Harbach makes ODP Regional Pool

SSC has had a long line of talented players go through the ODP system. This summer once again saw many SSC players participate in the Regional camp in Rockford, IL. The latest player to be picked for the Regional Pool team is Reid Harbach



(SSC 93/94).

A Q&A with Reid discussing his experience is found on the following pages. Enjoy, and congratulations!!

Continue to visit the Springfield Soccer Club web site for Club updates at:

www.springfieldsportsclub.com



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US Club Regionals

From June 28-July 1, to SSC teams competed at the US Club Regional Championships in Indianapolis, IN.

The 95/96 I (u13) team competed in a very difficult bracket. Their opponents were Cincinnati United Premier (CUP) from Ohio South, Bangu Tsunami from Minnesota, and Classics Premier from Ohio South. All 3 of their opponents made it to the semi-finals with Classics losing in the final. The goal of the trip was to gain some valuable experience in a big time tournament fixture and to see how they match up with the best teams in the region. The boys started slow with a nervous loss to CUP, but came on strong in the second game with a tie against Bangu. In the last game against the eventual runner-ups, the boys were tied until a late header (less than 5 minutes) secured the win. The team gave a great account of themselves and learned a lot about competing at the highest level. Each half the team performed better. They were able to take the lessons, mistakes, and successes and improve upon them. They were playing their best soccer as the tournament ended. Now the team looks to take the momentum of this tournament into a successful fall season!

The 94/95 I (u14) team made a fantastic run. They continued building on their success of making it to the State Cup semi-finals a month before. They were paired up with the Chicago Sockers Blue, Northern Steel from Pennsylvania, and the Chicago Magic. The tournament started a bit nervy but a tie with the Sockers helped ease those nerves. The boys showed some very good things in a 7-1 pounding of Northern Steel and a 1-0 win over the Magic. The semi-final later in the day against the Chicago Magic North team was the most exciting game of the tournament. The boys tied the game at 1-1 in the second half. They then scored what looked like the game winner with less than 10 minutes to go. With less than 4 minutes left the Magic North team tied the game. The boys regrouped and scored the eventual game winner right out of the gates in overtime. However, when the Magic North team was awarded a PK a few minutes later, things looked different. James Strauss made a fantastic save to secure a spot in the Regional final. The opponent was the Chicago Sockers White (their first team). They were the Illinois state champion the year before and should have repeated this year if not for a slip up in early round play. The guys were mentally and physically drained from the semi final game the night before. They started well, but gave up a goal, followed by an uncharacteristic second goal just before the half. They pushed hard and heavy for an answer and that led to the Sockers scoring a late third. They gained valuable experience in Indy. They played in their first ever Regional final against one of the top 3 teams in the region. There is no doubt they will take this experience and continue to build towards this year's successes!

The trip to Indy was the highlight of my summer! It was the best tournament I have been in because the games were the highest level of play against kids of my own age group. The teams were very aggressive. What I took away from the tournament was that we can compete at the highest level we just need to continue to be exposed to that level of play

--Blake Weber 96/96 I

It was a great experience, fun weekend, and a good place for a tournament with excellent fields. The weather was good, the team played well taking care of a number of good teams while getting to the final and playing one of the best teams in the region. I was proud of the team, we were all put in some tough situations against strong players but we responded well. The tournament felt like a real regional tournament with teams from many states

--Evan Garrad 94/95 I

The experience of going to Indy was great! It gave us a chance to play great teams and figure out our strengths and how we work as a team. Unfortunately the results did not come out great, but this year will be our time

--Locke McAllister 96/96 I

Reid Harbach continued...

What was your first impression of the Regional ODP experience? My first impression of Regional ODP was that there were a lot of very talented and skilled players from several states in our region and I wasn't sure if I would be able to play well against them.

How did your impression change over the course of the week? My first impression changed over the week because I realized that SSC had prepared me well enough to be able to play against all the players easily and I was just as good, or better than almost all of the players there.

How did SSC help you prepare for the level? SSC helped me prepare for this level by my coaches pushing me to be better and playing against good competition in tournaments and league games in Kansas City.

What was the biggest difference from the club level to the Regional level? The biggest difference from club level to regional level is probably the speed of play because as soon as you get the ball there is somebody on you and you have to be ready and be able to move the ball a lot more quickly.

How will this experience help you at Springfield Catholic HS? This experience will help me at Catholic HS because I know that if I work as hard as I did at the regional level then I will be able to take on anybody that I play against.

How will this experience help you at SSC? This experience will also help me at SSC because I am used to a faster pace of play than my team usually plays and I will be able to be just that much faster than the players that we will play against. If my game is quicker then it will also bring my teammates to play a faster game.

What advice/suggestions would you have for future SSC players about the ODP process? My advice to other players on SSC for the ODP process is to just do what your club coach and ODP coach tell you to do and just try to push yourself to be a player that can play at a high level.

It is very gratifying when you see a player like Reid who works hard all the time at practice, in games and the extra work that he puts in on his own succeed at his game. I feel Reid is an inspiration to other players on his team, that thru hard work you can become successful.”

--Carl Rose, Reid's SSC Coach

Summer 3v3 League

This summer brought the first Summer 3v3 league to the SSC Indoor facility. 16 teams had the opportunity to play in a stress free environment. The games were 3 players against 3 for 30 minutes. No stoppages! A 10 minute break brought the team's second 30 minute game of the night. The teams subbed on their own and didn't worry about a league table or wins and losses. Every night kids would come off the field covered in sweat and smiles. It was an exciting time for the kids and parents as they enjoyed watching their sons and daughters play in a fun environment.

The 3 v 3 league was great, it was awesome everybody wants to do it again; it was a great way to get some touches on the ball. I had a lot of fun

--Tommy Giovanni 96/97 Red

Spring 2008 HS Girls Honors

During the last few years the level of play in the local High School Girls Soccer scene has continued to rise. With a record number of schools sponsoring girl's soccer the game has taken off. It is no surprise that with this recent growth players from the Springfield Soccer Club have been influential with their High School teams. This past spring season saw both Glendale HS and Springfield Catholic HS achieve the MSHSAA Quarter-Finals.

On the individual honors side of things a number of Springfield Soccer Club players were recognized at the All-State level.

Class 1-1st Team All-State

Tara Bailes (Springfield Catholic)

Class 1-3rd Team All-State

Patsy Middleton (Willard)

Class 2-1st Team All-State

Lorin Opfer (Glendale)

Class 2-3rd Team All-State

Katy McLain (Kickapoo)

Check out the list of current Springfield Soccer Club Alumni playing college soccer and you will notice the increasing number of players on the girl's side who are competing at the collegiate level. The class of 2008 had a record number of players going on to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Way to go SSC! Check out www.SGFsoccer.com and <http://springfieldsoccerclub.blogspot.com> for all of the SSC College Soccer highlights

Springfield S.C. 90/91 Boys Advance to Region II Semi-Finals Again

This past June the Springfield SC 90/91 Boys represented the state of Missouri at the USYS Region II Championships held in Rockford, IL June 20-25, 2008. The boys matched up against the state cup champions from Illinois, Kansas and Indiana in their bracket play.

The first game of bracket play saw the boys defeat FC Barrington (Illinois) 4-0. Goals were scored by Ryan Partch, Bryce Collier, Ian Kennedy and Devon Newport. Keeping the shutout would prove to be important as it gave the team the first tiebreaker in their advantage in the group play.



Day two had a long-time rival the KC Wizards Jrs (Kansas) serving as the opponent. The Wizards would score first with Devon Newport answering late in the game on a beautifully placed free kick to tie it at 1-1. "We knew we had the goals against tie breaker in our favor heading into the game and that a tie would be enough of a result to get us through if we could beat NWI", said Cory Carr Head Coach. "You never go into a game with the attitude of tying, but it is a plus to know if you are down that you simply need to tie it up to have a good shot at advancing. That is why defending is so important." Numerous college coaches were on hand as it was the deciding game of the group.

The third and final bracket play opponent was the NWI United (Indiana) who had upset all of the opponents in their state cup to bring home the trophy and earn the right to attend Regionals. It was a tight game with Brock Ruggeri scoring the game winner for the 1-0 win. There were some difficult moments with Chris Tombridge making some spectacular saves to preserve the win and push the team into the Semi-Finals for the second year in a row.

Everest SC (Ohio North) was the opponent in the Semi-Final and was also a repeat Semi-Finalist from 2007 where they lost to the Chicago Magic SC. Playing game number four in four days was obviously taking a toll on both teams as play was sporadic. Field conditions were difficult and neither team could get much of a rhythm. Everest SC scored first and Springfield SC would answer in extra time off of a scramble in front of the goal. The late heroics pushed the game into overtime. Everest proved to be dangerous again with their direct style of play and scored two more goals for a final score of 3-1.

For the boys it was an end to a memorable season that saw them fall just short of their goal of a Regional Championship. It was the second year in a row that they had been defeated by the eventual National Championship Finalist team. Congrats to Coach Cory Carr, the players, AND parents of the team.

Springfield Soccer Club U23 Has Successful Inaugural Season

The Springfield Soccer Club U23 team enjoyed a successful inaugural season this past summer. A first year program designed to offer college soccer players a professional soccer environment where they could train and play at a high level saw a number of highlights. The team finished the season with a record of 7-0 which included capturing the Ozarks Challenge Cup, a home and away series vs. the NWA Lightning Soccer Club.

Players from a number of top-level college programs were included on the roster. The majority of the team was alumni from the Springfield Soccer Club with a few players from outside of the club choosing to play with the club for their summer soccer experience. The team trained and played matches during the months of June and July with matches in Collinsville, IL getting the season off to a good start with victories over Central Illinois Soccer Academy and Metro United. A trip to Chicago, IL saw the team post wins over the storied Schwaben AC and Galaxy SC from Naperville, IL.

“This summer’s U23 team was an experience of professionalism; we trained at a high level of competition with players from the surrounding areas. It prepared me for the upcoming season by giving me the necessary touches on the ball. The team focused on playing smart and attractive soccer. Jeremy Alumbaugh and Eric Sorlie did a great job of putting together this team and things will continue to get better.” said Adam Peterson SSC Alum and current Drury University player.

Players on the roster included, from Missouri State University Kyle Windmueller, Brian Collins, Justin Alford and Nick Dryden. Drury University was also well represented with Adam Peterson, Danny Collins, Alex Palmer, Stephen Conner and Taylor Stacy. Ross Chaffin from the University of Denver also came home to Springfield to compete on the team. A number of 2008 high school graduates, Zack Hay, Heath Melugin, TJ Martin and Michael Handley also gained valuable experience playing with the college age players.

After considering a number of other options within the PDL and other teams NSCAA All-American and Springfield Soccer Club Alumni Patrick Carver chose to play with the U23 team this summer. “The SSC U23 program provided an ideal environment during the critical summer months for me and other players to stay in shape, improve our game and test ourselves against teams from all over the Midwest. The training and guidance provided by the staff of SSC has undoubtedly prepared me for my final season of collegiate athletics. Having coaches who have been at the top of the college soccer game was a big difference than other summer soccer programs for college age players. They know what it takes to be ready”, said Patrick Carver SSC Alum and current Emory University player.

The Springfield Soccer Club has shown a real commitment to having a top-level club that includes players from the Under 8-Adult levels and this summer was a big step in proving that once a player with the Springfield Soccer Club always a player with the club.

“If you look at clubs around the world there are opportunities for players to start with a club and continue with a club through the adult years. The belief that once a player goes off to college that they are done with their club is a thing of the past. We want our players to continue to be a member of the club and help to continue their development on and off the field. This first year of having a U23 team was unbelievable. To have the level of commitment, talent and dedication with this team shows what the Springfield Soccer Club can do at this level. It was an enjoyable group of players to work with and they wore the jersey with lots of pride”, said Jeremy Alumbaugh Director of Soccer Operations for the Springfield Soccer Club.

Look for expansion within this program as the club plans to have a U19, U20 and U23 program for the summer of 2009.

For more information please contact the Springfield Soccer Club Office at 417-832-1552.

Juggling Crew Updates

We are very proud of the juggling crew and it's been exciting to see players improve over the past year. As a reminder of the achievements we recognize we have the 50 Club, the 100 Club, the 250 Club, the 500 Club, and the 100+ Club. Each player receives a t-shirt for the 100, 250, and 500 Club. The 50 Club gets mentioned in the newsletter and the 1000+ Club receives a plaque. Here are the **recent achievements** to each juggling club **since the beginning of the season** and the team they play on. Congrats to each and every player!!

50 Club

Phillip Starns—96/97
Amanda Fox—
Taylor Stamper—
Taylor Merritt—

100 Club

Jack Grinnell—96/97
Jordan McFarlen—95/96 I
Blake Weber—95/96 I
Austin Meyers—94/95 II
Jesse Bihlmeyer—94/95 II

250 Club

Connor Heeren—94/95 II

500 Club

Matt Call—94/95 I

1000+ Club

Bryan Flavin—94/95 I
Josh McCutcheon—94/95 I

Fall Season League Preview

The Fall 2008 season is an exciting time for SSC. We have teams in 3 different leagues all competing for the top spot.

First up is the local Lake Country Soccer League. For many years now SSC has been a dominating force in the LCS leagues. This season should be no different. All of the players have been training very hard and at a high level for the first couple of weeks getting ready to play some games. It should be an exciting time to see the kids in action again on the fields at LCS!

Next we have the Heartland Soccer Association league up in Kansas City. We have 4 teams participating there. They are the 95/96 I boys, 95/96 I girls, 92/93 girls, and the 90/91 girls. This looks to be another difficult year for all of the teams as the leagues are stacked. It's always difficult going up to KC as we play 2 games in a day and our second game is never our opponent's second game. But, this is the hand our teams have been dealt, and they will deal with it as always.

Last is the Midwest Regional League (MRL). For the Fall season we have one team competing and it is the 94/95 I boys. They have games in Rockford, IL one weekend, games in Springfield, MO one weekend, and games in St. Louis, MO their final weekend. It's definitely a short season packed into the beginning of the year. This season will give them the chance to be placed into the Premier Division for the Spring 09 season. In the premier division, teams have a chance to compete for a place at Regionals.

All of the SSC teams have had a long break over the summer months. The energy and excitement at practices to get back at it has been a welcome site for the coaches. Good luck to all the SSC teams this fall. We know you will represent well!!



The Springfield Soccer Club "Final Third" newsletter is published quarterly by the coaches and staff of the Springfield Soccer Club and Springfield Sports Club, Inc. The contents are meant for current members and former members of the Springfield SC and its predecessor organizations, as well as members of the Springfield area soccer community.

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