

# **What's Happening With Vision Soccer Academy**

## **VSA Fall Season Kicks Off for Academy, Select Programs**

The 2010 Fall Season has taken flight for the Vision Soccer Academy Select and Academy Programs. While both programs opened play August 28th, the Select Program ventured west a week later to the Omaha FC Labor Day Invitational.

### **Academy**

All 11 Academy teams played their first games of the fall season – 7 home games 5 away. VSA teams were very competitive in every match and even dominant in many with favorable outcomes for VSA teams in all but one of the 12 matches. An intra-club match-up between U10 Girls Athletica and Stars was a fun and spirited game that showed the overall strength and depth of the program as both teams were equal to the task ending with a tie.

VSA Academy players demonstrated good skills, athleticism and tenacity across the board highlighting the level of talent and potential that exists in the program. New players to the Academy program demonstrated their ability to integrate quickly working with returning players and there are a lot of very talented new players in all age groups.

Players demonstrated their ability to maintain possession and attack while dribbling by using fundamental skills to control the ball while changing direction and turning to avoid opponents and tackles. There were also some good examples of being able to connect passes to maintain possession as well as to attack and finish.

### **Girls Select**

U11G played good first halves in each game and are starting to show good soccer skill. U11 Green played well and improved each game as the weekend progressed. The 11 Girls faced teams from Omaha FC and Elkhorn (NE).

U12G missed advancing by one point but played great soccer in spite of dealing with a physical style of play from the opposition throughout the weekend. In the long run skill will win out and we showed good skill throughout the weekend! U12G Green improved game to game and hit their stride in match #3 as they drew with former VSA Director of Coaching, Chris McGill's Dakota Alliance. Other clubs the 12 Girls played include Iowa Soccer Club, Wichita Warriors, and Omaha FC.

U13G won the final. With good to brilliant moments of good soccer interspersed throughout the games, good passing in this one, good defending in this other one, missing goal opportunities in all, we

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managed to put it all together for the final and allow only a couple of shots on goal while scoring five. The 13 Girls played Omaha FC, Gretna SC (NE), and Capital SA (NE) en route to the championship.

U14G reached the final where we were somewhat incapacitated by a bug or allergies as a good number of our players suffered from cold like symptoms. En route to and including the final, they showed tremendous improvement over the previous outing just one week before. The highlight for the team exemplifying this progress could be the 3-0 win over a competitor we lost 2-0 just the week before.

## Boys Select

The VSA Boys opened IPSL play with matches against the DM Menace at U11, and Ames SC at U12. The boys showed the fruits of four weeks of training as they showed extremely well and outplayed their opposition in all four matches. The U14 Boys, while not faring as well playing the WDMSC, did play more cohesively than a year ago at this point.

At the Omaha FC Invitational, the Boys teams showed some brilliance, determination, and naivete seemingly all at once. While the U11 Cosmos were getting used to a tournament format, the boys opened very well and gradually gave way to a fast surface and fitness issues. The U11 Galacticos put themselves in a position to advance to the championship game, but faced a difficult task in the Phoenix FC (NE) in their third match where the Nebraskans defended earnestly and wasted little time in playing the ball downfield putting an end to the U11 VSA title hopes.

The U12 Cosmos, played, at times, some very attractive soccer over the weekend. While the boys were outscored in two matches, they were not outplayed...a stark contrast to their season opening a year ago. The U12 Galacticos opened the tournament to a rude introduction as the boys fell hard to Omaha FC and were outplayed for the first time in nearly a year. The 12s rebounded to reach the championship where they faced Omaha FC for the second time in three days. The final was weather shortened after 23 minutes with VSA trailing only by a goal but having spent most of the game in possession of the ball and showing that their first match performance was an aberration.

The 14 Galacticos stormed through the tournament opening round outscoring their opponents 16-2 through three games. The 14s decided to wake up at 8:35 for a 8:30 championship game on Monday. By the time they realized they were playing it was 2-2 at halftime while playing Capital SA (NE). The VSA 14s showed great poise in the second half and played their best soccer of the weekend as they scored and preserved the win to take home the championship.

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The U15 Galacticos played two friendly matches over Labor Day weekend. The boys won both matches against Omaha FC teams and played well as they prepare for the Iowa State Cup in late October.