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GPS Florida West Questions and Answers

GPS Executive Director of SWFL Robert Peltram takes time to answer some pertinent questions ahead of the 2016/17 season

Fort Myers, 12th April 2016; Spring 2016 has been an exciting time for players and families from GPS Florida affiliate clubs with a number of recent announcements in advance of the 2016/17 season.

At this time *GPS Florida* caught up with GPS Executive Director of SWFL Robert Peltram to allow him to detail the new opportunities for players in the SWFL area.

GPS Florida: So what is GPS Florida West and what does this mean for my child in 2016/17.

Peltram: GPS Florida West is a new competitive tier for players in SWFL. The program allows us to combine talent pools and coaching resources from the Florida Knights and San Carlos Park Scorpions to merge the top talent into one program and provide them with an opportunity to train and play with the most talented players in SWFL.

GPS Florida: So does this mean that the Florida Knights and San Carlos Park Scorpions will cease to exist?

Peltram: Absolutely Not. The two GPS affiliate clubs in Fort Myers have a rich history in SWFL that we wish to preserve as opposed to replace.

On the recreational level, each club will continue to field teams out of geographically convenient practice and game locations. Our soccer professionals help a lending hand with the respective recreational programs and the goal of developing talent which eventually graduates to GPS Florida West teams.

GPS Florida: What facilities will GPS Florida West utilize?

Peltram: Our facility options have been significantly enhanced for the 2016/17 season as we utilize the multiple facility relationships we have in the SWFL area. At our disposal will be fields at Three Oaks, Three Oaks Elementary, Pop Warner Fields in Estero, Bayshore Soccer Complex and last but not least the complex at Jet-Blue Park.

We are delighted with our facility access in 2016/17.



GPS Florida: What is the goal of the GPS Florida West teams? Why change what is currently in place?

Peltram: Our mission statement at GPS centers around developing players to play at the next level of the game and we want to continue to demonstrate a player pathway that can have our players reach the highest levels of the game.

GPS Florida West players will compete at against the top teams in the State of Florida and beyond. They'll also be eligible to participate in the GPS Florida Elite ID Program which combines the top talent from all our affiliates in Florida for a summer program. From there players have the opportunity to be selected for the FC Bayern Munich ID Residential Camp which is just one step away from a tryout in front of the FC Bayern Munich Staff in Munich, Germany. At this point, players are also in the running for a spot in our GPS National Teams that are comprised of the top talent from all affiliate clubs in the United States.

We are aware that only a very small number of players will go on to actually play professionally. However, we are comfortable that our pathway still caters to that small percentage of players due to our affiliation with FC Bayern Munich as the exclusive North American Youth Soccer Partner of GPS. We also pride ourselves in the fact, that GPS is placing annually approximately 100 players in college around the country and the number is likely to increase as GPS has now been accepted to the US Soccer Developmental Academy Program.

To demonstrate the level of our partnership, our members already had the opportunity to meet and train with FC Bayern Munich Junior Team Director Sebastian Dremmler and FCB Junior Team Staff Coach Thomas Doellner in December of 2015.

GPS Florida: What makes GPS Florida West so unique in SWFL ?

Peltram: With a combined 35 competitive teams we are the largest competitive program in SWFL. Furthermore, we are fully equipped to provide the most comprehensive soccer experience as soccer decisions are made by professionals who have the players best interest at heart. Our staff consists of an unprecedented level of experience and is held to the highest standards.

We employ only licensed coaches, United States Soccer Federation/FYSA Coaching Instructors, former professionals as well as college players. The future of soccer is our young players of today. We are firm believers in developing our players using the US Soccer Curriculum in conjunction with the Youth Curriculum and Philosophy of our official North American Partner – FC Bayern Munich.



In addition, GPS Florida had;

- One GPS Orlando 2002 boys' player attend the Mediterranean International Showcase in Spain in 2016 where he competed against the FC Barcelona U14 boys
- One GPS Florida Knights boy 2003 player attend the prestigious CASL Showcase with the 2003 National Team in 2015
- Three Florida Knights boys 2000 players attend the 2015 world famous Milk Cup in Northern Ireland.
- A Florida Knights player scored a last minute equalizer for the GPS FC Bayern National Team in a 1-1 tie with Liverpool FC.
- GPS Florida General Manager Graham Munro selected as the Head Coach of the GPS FC Bayern National Team for the 2015 Milk Cup
- A FC America U15 boys' player flown to Munich to participate in the 2015 Audi Cup as part of the GPS FC Bayern National Team
- Three Florida Knights U15 girls' players represented with the GPS FC Bayern National Team at the Player's Showcase in Las Vegas in 2016.
- Two GPS Orlando 2001 players represented with the GPS FC Bayern National Team at the prestigious 2015 Dallas Cup where the team advanced to the semi-final round.
- Numerous 2002, 2003 as well as 2004 Florida Knights players nominated to take part in the 2016 Surf Cup with their respective GPS National Teams.

GPS Florida: What if I don't currently play for the Florida Knights or San Carlos Park Scorpions ? How can I be involved in the above?

Peltram: Over the next few weeks we will be announcing full details regarding tryout dates and locations and our coaching slate for 2016/17. There will be an opportunity to register to attend our tryouts and at that point you will be eligible for our programs. We are very excited about this upcoming tryout season, as it will see players from all of SWFL come together as we prepare for an exciting 2016/17 season.

GPS Florida: Thanks Robert, for taking the time to chat today. We look forward to hearing more from you as we get closer to tryouts.

For more information on playing opportunities at GPS Florida West in season 2016/17 please contact Robert Peltram at 239-292-5576 or rpeltram@globalpremiersoccer.com