

Fall League Success

Springfield S.C. just completed a very successful fall outdoor league season at Lake Country. Highlights of the season include league championships by the Under 8 Boys Red, Under 10 Boys Red, Under 11 Boys Red, Under 13 Boys and Under 13 Girls. "Our club won more league championships than any other club in Springfield," said Jeremy Alumbaugh. "If you look at the overall standings almost every Springfield S.C. team finished in the top two or three in their division." Congratulations go out to all teams on the fall outdoor season.

Fall Tournament Review

This fall has been a busy time for the Springfield S.C. teams as they have competed at tournaments across the Midwest Region. It all began back in August as the U-10 Boys Red team went to St. Louis for the NORCO Tournament. They advanced to the Semi-Final before dropping a close game to St. Louis S.C.

The month of September saw teams heading to tournaments on almost every weekend. The U-12 Boys White and U-14 Boys White started things off in the right direction by bringing home First Place trophies from the Capital City Shootout in Jefferson City. Urbandale, Iowa was the weekend home for the U-14 Boys Red first tournament of the season. The boys made it to the Final where they were narrowly defeated by Arsenal, the 2004 State Cup Champions from Nebraska, 2-3. That same weekend the U-12 Boys Red brought home second place from the Gateway Shootout in St. Louis.

The U-12 and U-13 Girls teams were next in the Championship parade for Springfield S.C. The U-13 Girls defeated United FC (AR) in an exciting penalty-kick shootout at the Joplin Fall Invitational to win their first championship. Not to be outdone by their older counterparts the U-12 Girls defeated local rival JB Marine in a overtime thriller to add another trophy to the expanding collection.

October saw the U-10 White Boys, U-10 Blue Boys, U-12 Blue Boys and the U-14 White Boys at the Joplin Fall Invitational. The U-14 White Boys brought home their second Championship after a thrilling two days of games.

After playing away from home all fall the Lake Country Soccer Fall Classic gave teams a chance to compete in a top-notch tournament in their own backyard. Getting things started with a bang, the U-9 Girls defeated JB Marine to earn a spot in the Final, where they lost to Metro 74. The U-10 Boys Red successfully defended their 2003 Fall Classic Championship defeating two St. Louis S.C. teams on the way. The U-14 Boys Red proved their earlier success was not a fluke and easily walked through their bracket and Final for their second title this fall. Other great performances were turned in by U-11 Boys who went 2-0-1 in round robin play, but were kept out of the playoffs by goal differential. The U-13 Boys fell in Semi-Finals to St. Louis S.C.

Jefferson City provided the home for the last tournament of the fall outdoor season. The U-12 Boys Blue achieved a Third Place finish while the U-16 Girls finished Second after falling to IronKids in the Final 2-1.

Congratulations to all the teams who have competed in tournaments this fall. You have represented this club well.

Springfield S.C. had the opportunity to catch up recently with the MLS Kansas City Wizards star Jack Jewsbury, who was coming off of his starting role during the MLS Cup 2004 where the Wizards lost 3-2 to DC United. Jewsbury was also honored twice during the season with the Sierra Mist Goal of the Week.

Jack Jewsbury Q & A:

Who were your role models while you were growing up?

There wasn't too much soccer on TV when I was growing up so most of my role models were other mainstream athletes. I tried to watch Michael Jordan every chance I could. During the 1994 World Cup I really liked watching Roberto Baggio from Italy play.

Who is the toughest player you have played against? I would have to say Landon Donovan from the San Jose Earthquakes and US National Team Captain. He has such great speed and his fitness level is so high. He has many different ways he can beat you even when he isn't having a good game.

Do you have any advice for young players?

Focus on your soccer, but realize how important school is. Without academics there is no soccer. One of my most satisfying accomplishments was being named a NSCAA Academics All-American my senior year at Saint Louis University.

Favorite non-MLS team?

Without a doubt it would be the Kansas City Chiefs. Playing in Arrowhead where they also play is a great experience.

Most influential people in your life?

My mom and dad. They have supported me during every step of my career, whether it was driving me to practice, or up to St. Louis for ODP every weekend. Without them none of this would have been possible. They still get to most of my games in Kansas City.

Goals for the future?

I hope to continue to make a name for myself in MLS and improve everyday. Playing for the US National Team would be the biggest honor you can achieve as a player and I hope to get that call someday in the future.

This off-season, the former Kickapoo standout, Jack Jewsbury, is back home in Springfield, and is offering individual and small group training for players that are interested. This is a great chance to improve your skills while working with a MLS star. You can contact him via email jewsbury@gmail.com or 887-9724.