

# Under 16 - 91s



Back Row from Left to Right

**James Phommalaychit, Chris Suta, Ryan Mallat, Stefan Tojcic, Patrick Lepera, Donovan Plummer, Stefan Cebara, Joe Purcell, Franco Giorgi, Jeff Williams.**

Front Row from Left to Right

**Greig McKenzie, Colin Passa, Ronald Mayorga, Domenico Grande, Tevon Darbyson, Joe Craig, Adam DaSilva, Evan Reidel.**

## Indoor League

To help the team prepare for the rigors of playing in the Ontario Youth Soccer League we participated in the Indoor League in Shelby Michigan. The chance to play an eleven aside game indoors was a great opportunity for a new coaching staff to assess the team and the players in a competitive environment and the boys got the job done nicely by winning the Championship. The coach's would like to thank Blaine Mallat and Bob Williams for making this possible.

## Ontario Youth Soccer League

After having such a successful season in winning the South Region League it was pretty exciting to see how well the boy's would do playing at the higher level in a division that was comprised of some of the best teams in the country. We as coaches expected the normal ups and downs of a first year team in this league and seeing how the team would deal with these challenges week after week was something we looked forward too.

Well after five months of league play the guys have shown that on any given day not only can they compete with the best but they can also beat them. Our season started off on a real high with a great 3-2 win over the eventual league champions Erin Mills. This is a team that has six provincial team players and a number of these guys are also on the Under 16 Canadian National team.

I think all of the team will agree that our best overall performance was against the Provincial Champions London City. On a rain soaked field on a damp night we out worked and out played a very good team only to have them tie us 1-1 on a penalty shot late in the game. If the team played every game with this kind of passion and effort anything is possible. I believe after a decent first season in the top league the team will be better prepared for the future. They now know what they have to do; they just have to do it more consistently.

## Tournaments

We entered the Under 16s in two top class Show Case tournaments to see how they would match up against some of the best teams in North America. The boys did a nice job of showing that we have plenty of soccer talent in this area and the chance to play some quality teams only helps improve our program.

## Ontario Cup

For the tournament round of the Ontario Cup we were drawn as the seeded team to play in Toronto against Dixie, East York and Oakville. Unfortunately for us this happened to be a weekend where we had more injuries than most teams could cope with. After outplaying East York completely we failed to take our chances and ended up on the losing end of a one goal game. Next up was Dixie and after cruising to a 3-1 lead we let them back into the game before we finally put them away 4-3. Our last game was against an undefeated Oakville team who needed only a draw to advance to the next round. With only twelve players available the Windsor boy's put on a great show and totally dominated Oakville to walk away with a well deserved 4-1 victory.

This victory moved us on to the quarter-finals where we were beaten by a very classy Brampton East team.



## Coaches Comments

Being asked to take on the Under 16 team was a surprise and a pleasure. The chance to return to coaching for the Windsor F.C. Nationals in the Ontario Youth Soccer League after so many years away was something I looked forward to greatly. To take over a team made up of so many decent players is a credit to their past coach's ability. These boys are a very confident talented bunch of guys who are a credit to the club. Their parents should all be very proud of the way they handled themselves on and off of the field.

Like any other Windsor Nationals teams I have been involved with I think the only thing we are lacking is more consistency and more competition from each other for positions and playing time. Unfortunately we do not have the depth of some of the bigger clubs so when we lose key players to injuries it is more difficult to compete. I honestly believe with time this team has the ability to compete with anyone and if everyone is willing to put in the time and effort each week good things will happen.



I would like to congratulate all of the players on a decent season, I know there were times things were not always perfect but that is part of learning and improving. Always keep an open mind and remember as good as you are as individuals you are much better as a TEAM. The dedication and commitment on this team is outstanding and that is a major reason for your success.

One man can not coach a team playing at this level alone, I believe that the staff we had this year was second to none. When you have a guy with the experience and passion of Andy Haydon and young talented enthusiastic guys like Brad Harwood and Mike Rose on board it is outstanding. I can not thank any of these guys enough for their commitment to the team and I know the entire team appreciated having you at every game and practice. I would also like to thank Patrick Lepera the team captain he has been a huge help in my first year with the team and he is a great example for any younger players.

The only way a team like this can be successful is by having good people behind the scenes. In Bob Williams we have a manager who is simply the best at what he does. Bob works tirelessly to make sure everything is done properly, organized and on time. He has made my job so much easier and for this I am very grateful. I would also like to say a special thanks to John Purcell and Blaine Mallat your help and support were huge throughout the year.

Thank you to all of the parents for their cooperation during the year, without you this team would not be able function the way it does. Rick Clews - Coach