

Under 11 - 1993s



Top Row: **(Coaches) Mike Pio, David Rimbart and Ken Zytner**

Middle Row - standing from left: **Anthony Pompa, Angelo Falconio, Alex Passa, Matthew Bontorin, Brendan McCann, Louie Saroli, Mauro Eustaquio, Joey Filipic**

Bottom Row - from left: **Lawrence Huang, Mike Pio, Jamar Kelly, Joseph Camaj, Bobby DiPietro, Daniel Zytner, Matthew Janevski, Sebastien Rimbart, Tony Falkestajn**

Absent: **Matthew Lefler, Joseph Piazza**

LEAGUES

GREAT LAKES SPRING LEAGUE

In the spring, we played in the Open 'A' division of the U-12 boys. The kids held their own once again, playing on the average against boys a year and half older. We still could not overcome the Dearborn team for first place. However, the highlight of the spring season was beating that same Dearborn team that had not lost a single game in the three years they were entered in this league. The boys finished with a 6-1-1 record, good for second place.

WELL DONE BOYS!!!!

GREAT LAKES FALL LEAGUE

After having finished second in the last two sessions of this particular age group of this league, the kids made it a priority to win it. After tying our first game 3-3 in the pouring rain against Downriver, it set up a winner take all game against that same team a month later. Nothing was going to stop the kids from their well deserved title, taking it to the much older and bigger kids all game long (Remember #17). Final score, 3-0 in our kids favor. CHAMPIONS of the U-13 Open 'A' division is a wonderful accomplishment at this age, considering the difference in physical maturity.

Final record was 7-0-1. EXCELLENT JOB GUYS!!!

TOURNAMENTS

NOVI INTERNATIONAL

This was our first chance to measure up against Premier teams from the United States. The level of competition was strong, and the kids showed that they were quite capable. However, it also opened up some eyes as to what is needed, not just to compete, but to be able to beat some of these better American teams. We lost to USL United 3-0, Novi 'A' 2-1 however we beat GPSA Salvo 5-0.

CANTON INTERNATIONAL

Our second chance to play against top teams came only three weeks later at the Canton International. With the first experience in our back pockets, the kids showed their true worth. During the tournament, we beat Everest of Cleveland Ohio 4-3 in a up and down thriller. At the time, Everest was ranked 4th in Northern Ohio. We also beat Ann Arbor United 'A' 3-0 (ranked 6th in Michigan at that time). In the final, we played the #3 ranked team in Michigan, the Canton Oaks Premier. They beat us in the first game of the tournament 1-0; a score that was not indicative of the run of play. In the final, the kids never gave them a chance, and if not for some real good defending and goalkeeping on their part, the margin of victory would have been greater then 2-0. This was the kids first tournament win, something they will always remember.



TOURNAMENS (continued)

OAKVILLE INTERNATIONAL

Another great result in a very good tournament. The boys were able to make it to their second consecutive tournament final. In the final, we ran up against a very quick and skillful team, Ajax Primera. Both teams played a nice passing game, with tremendous amount of individual skill thrown in there when it was needed. Our boys took a 1-0 lead, midway through the second half. Five minutes later, we failed to score a second goal on a glorious chance to put the game away. From that point on, Ajax took the game to us, scoring twice in the final 10 minutes. The highlight of the tournament for the kids was having Tony Taylor (ex-National team head coach) compliment our kids on their ability to play the game at a level well ahead of their age. That in itself is great indicator of your talent and potential.

KITCHENER INTERNATIONAL

In round-robin play, the team beat Haldimand 12-0, lost to Kitchener 0-1, beat London Southend United 7-0, and beat Cambridge 6-1. That qualified us for the Semi-Final against the defending champions, St. Catharines Roma. The kids played a wonderful game and controlled the game throughout, winning 2-1, with Roma scoring a late consolation goal. In the final, our game left for Windsor before we did. We played the kicking game they wanted to play, thus we created very few good chances to score. Kitchener took a 1-0 lead on their only shot of the game. We had one real good chance to score in the second half but failed to convert, finally succumbing 1-0 to a much hungrier team.

COACHES COMMENTS

As coaches, the things you hope to see most, are the way your team competes day in and day out, and how they improve over the course of the year. The team accomplished that. To make three finals of quality tournaments and winning one, all in one season is a fantastic result, not to mention finishing second and first, respectively in the two league sessions. However, just as important, was the way this was accomplished. As a coaching staff, we are proud to be associated with a group of kids, who continuously get compliments, win or lose, from other team's coaches, parents and the referees, on the way they play with such passion, emotion, intellect, skill and sportsmanship. You guys make your parents, your coaches, your club and your city proud every time you play!!! Keep up the great work!!!

Thanks once again to all the parents for all your support. That is were it all starts!
Coach Dave, Coach Mike and Coach Ken