

April 25th
Day 3

Immediately after Breakfast the team met to discuss the rules, format and our team goals for the match. We departed for a tactical training session at 11am. The coaching staff focused on getting the team organized and confident for the game vs. SK Karnten from Austria. A pre-game meal was set up for 4pm then departed for the game at 6pm. It had rained the majority of the game so we were expecting the field to be in poor conditions. Once we arrived at the stadium we put our equipment in the locker room and walked the field. The grass was very wet and the soft dirt underneath made it difficult to plant and play. The facility was nice and the host club did a great job accommodating both teams. The game started at a very fast pace and both teams failed to find a rhythm. The Austrian team played very direct and forced their physical game on to Region IV. We played very compact and looked to play off counter attack opportunities. Both teams had chances and failed to convert any of them into goals. The first half ended 0-0 and Region IV had the momentum of the game. We missed numerous chances one of which the keeper made a great save on Anthony Salciccia's shot at the edge of the six-yard box. Going into the half time talk head coach Mario Sanches chose not to make any changes for the second half. The second half was completely dominated by Region IV. Numerous scoring opportunities were created but the finishing touch was not sharp enough. Do to the fact that the game was still tied and Region IV was committing more numbers in the attack the Austrians caught us on a counter attack and we the opponent in the box. The officials awarded the SK Karnten a Penalty Kick. The Austrians converted the PK and proceeded to milk the clock with numerous injuries to end the game 1-0 in their favor. The coaching staff was very happy with the team's first performance. Atletico Minero and Samdoria both tied in the group so the opportunity to advance is still in our hands. Once we arrived back to the Hotel all the players that played 30 minutes took ice baths. The team went to bed thinking about tomorrow's game vs. Atletico Minero at 6pm.

April 25th
Day 4

Breakfast was at 9am the team was very excited to play Atletico Minero from last years tournament. We took a nice walk on the beach with the team ending with a stretch and a tactical team session. The weather was great and the beach was full of locals sunbathing and playing soccer in the sand. The pre-game meal was prepared for the team at 2pm and we departed for the field at 3:30pm. The stadium for today's game was one Kilometer away from the border of Slovenia and Italy. The game started at 6pm and the pace was very fast from the start. Within three minutes the Brazilians broke through our defense and drew a foul at the edge of the right side of the 18 yard box. Starting keeper Brett Finkelstein was shielded from seeing the ball and the shot was bent to his right side for the first goal. Region IV fought back hard and created three chances on the opponents six yard box that were blocked off the line. We entered the locker room at half time down by one goal. Region IV started the second half pressing the Brazilian team and creating chances. At the 50th minute mark Christian Ramirez served in a great bending pass in the box that the goalkeeper attempted to save on the six. The goalkeeper mishandled the ball

and dropped it on the six yard box. Central forward Devin Sandoval followed the ball and banged it in to the back of the net. The great thing is that Region IV scored its first goal and tied the game. The game again began to be played at a frantic pace not allowing either team to create a rhythm. In the 50th minute the outside right forward dribbled past two defenders and banged a shot with the outside of his foot that beat Brett Finkelstein to his right hand side. The finish was world class and the Brazilian team did a good job closing the game out and earning the win. The result was unfortunate but Region IV really played well and at the very least deserved a draw. The local club Juventud prepared a meal for both teams and the players from the teams socialized as they ate. The team returned to the Hotel at 11pm and went straight to bed.