

Monday, November 26th

Once again we were fortunate to wake up to a warm and sunny day here in Orlando. The boys were a little tired from three busy days of soccer and the time spent at MGM Disney, but were ready to try and finish off the tournament with great results. The 1994's and 93's had early games so they were up and moving by 6 AM. The 1992's had the final game at 9:30 A. Because of flight times all games were shortened to 30 minute halves.

Here are the final results: (I apologize for not having the scorers, but I was the 1992 administrator and time constraints to get everyone ready for their flights home kept me busy)

1994's : The youngest age group capped off a dominating overall performance by winning their last game by a score of 6-0. They continued improving every day and only wished that they had been able to take on the national team on the last day rather than the first day. They finished the tournament at 2 wins, no losses, and one tie.

1993's: The team got off to a bit of a slow start but managed to put in a goal in the first half. The second half play showed some of the coaching points the players received at halftime and two quick goals followed early in the second half. A late goal by their opponents ended the game with a score of 3-1. With an overall record of 2 wins, no losses, and one tie, the 1993's won their tournament and received solid praise from all in attendance for their daily improvement of play.

1992's: The team had already clinched first place in the tournament before play started but they still wanted a perfect record to cement their dominance. The team played hard from the beginning and built a 2-0 lead with goals by Moises Orozco and Austin Bravo. The Region II, to their credit played hard to the final whistle and managed to put in the only ball scored against our team during the tournament. The final score 2-1 left our team with a perfect 3 wins and no losses for the tournament.

The next part of our day was a bit of a whirlwind as we had to get back to the hotel, turn in equipment, shower, dress and pack for a 12:30 PM bus ride to the airport. The professionalism and responsibility shown by our young men in being ready on time and with a minimum of problems got us out to the airport in time to make sure everyone made their planes as scheduled.

The entire Region IV staff and coaches would like to acknowledge all of our player's parents and guardians. We required the boys to act with responsibility and be professional both on and off the field. They followed our requests very easily and it was virtually a problem free trip. You can all be very proud of the young men you have raised. We hope that when they get home they will feel that it was a great experience and continue to strive to make our regional team and work toward national recognition. Thank you again from Region IV.

Rick Freehan
1992 Team Administrator

Our last day, our last game. By virtue of our head to head record we had already locked up first place. This didn't keep the boys from coming out and putting in another great performance against Region II. Our first goal was scored 10 minutes in by some brilliant play by Moises Orozco (CS). After receiving a pass from Justin Hill (ID), Moises turns to beat his man and unleashes a fierce drive that crashes into the back of the net at the far post. In a weekend that saw us score several brilliant goals, this was certainly up there with the best of them!

From there we continued to create several good chances but could not finish. It was without question, our best first half - the half time score line (1-0) didn't truly reflect the quality of play as we probably deserved to at least have one more goal. That goal finally came in the 40th minute courtesy of Austin Bravo (CN). Zach Foxhoven (CO) receives a pass in the box to the left of the goal, he commits the keeper and then finds a square ball back across the face of the goal and finds Bravo at the second post who passes it into the back of the net with great composure.

From there the game turned ugly. Region II was clearly not happy to be on their way to losing all three of their games and their frustration turned into a game that became dangerous. Within the space of 5 minutes both Eric Bryant (CN) and Austin Bravo were kicked so badly by our opponent they had to leave the game. Our boys did a fantastic job of holding on to their composure despite giving up a goal as we finished 2-1. It was the only goal that we gave up throughout the weekend and really was a reminder of how impressive we defended as a team. You could see on the faces of the boys that they were disappointed to have given up the one goal as they had really taken immense pride in their ability to shut teams out.

At the end of the game the team gathered together to say our goodbyes as we knew the next couple of hours were going to be crazy as we made our way to the hotel, the airport and back to our families. It was clear that the boys, in a very short space of time, had become close and were going to miss each other. The coaches felt that it was extremely important to tell the boys just how proud of them that they were. Their effort and desire was phenomenal throughout the weekend. Everything had gone really well. Until we meet again...

Josh Kalkstein
1992 Head Coach