



Gretna Soccer Club Goes Global with Asian Soccer Academy, Manchester United Summer Camp & Coaches Clinic

Gretna Soccer Club announces their affiliation with Asian Soccer Academy

MORE INFORMATION: www.gretnasoccer.com and www.asiansocceracademy.com

GRETNA, Neb. (February 27, 2014) -- Gretna Soccer Club is excited to announce the above partnership that will allow players within the club and the area to be part of a higher level of training methods and knowledge from an organization that works hand in hand with some of the most recognized club names in world soccer.

The partnership will begin immediately and this summer we will be hosting the Manchester United Summer Camp and Coaches Clinic. MUFC Club Academy Coach Dean Whitehouse and Chief Scout David Hobson will be coming over from the UK to deliver the camp & clinic. Gretna Soccer Club will be at the forefront of modern coaching techniques and curriculum allowing our players to train to be the best that they can be and have a further enhanced club experience with GSC. Every player from micro to recreation to U19 Select teams will be exposed to the new ideas and this is not something aimed purely at the players at the higher end of the spectrum. Gretna Soccer Club Director of Coaching Digger Hawkins said, "This has been a long process it has taken 4 years to come to this. We didn't want to rush a decision because we wanted to make the right choice for our players, coaches and membership. We had the opportunity to partner with MLS Clubs, overseas in England, Italy and Holland having a North America Academy partnership and host Goalkeeping camps but by partnering with the Asian Soccer Academy this doesn't limit us to just one club or idea. We all know a small percentage of players go on to become Professional Soccer Players and an even smaller percentage do it at one single club. By partnering with the Asian Soccer Academy, this gives the Gretna Soccer Club

players the opportunity to be exposed to Professional Clubs from around the globe including the US, England, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Australia.”

Asian Soccer Academy has hosted camps and clinics with a number of clubs from around the world including the following:

Manchester United F.C (England)
Manchester City F.C (England)
Liverpool F.C. (England)
Tottenham Hotspur F.C. (England)
Portsmouth F.C. (England)
L.A Galaxy (USA)
DC United (USA)
Dutch FA (Netherlands)
Werder Bremen (Germany)
F.C. Basel (Switzerland)
Austria Vienna (Austria)
Brisbane Roar (Australia)
Perth Glory (Australia)

Asian Soccer Academy have also had ex-players and coaches in attendance that have worked with their players and coaches including David Beckham, Ruud Gullit, Patrick Kluivert, Louis Van Gaal, Giovanni Van Bronckhorst and Ian Rush. Asian Soccer Academy will be joined by ex-Tottenham Hotspur legends Ledley King and Osvaldo “Ossie” Ardiles for a camp in June 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. This has just been announced and we are excited to do the same here in the USA.

Gretna Soccer Club Director of Coaching Digger Hawkins adds, “The new partnership is on top of established relationships with some of the top colleges around the country where Gretna Soccer Club has recently had players commit to the likes of Notre Dame, Stanford, Creighton, Nebraska, UNO, Western Illinois, UMKC, New Mexico State, Northern Iowa, Hastings College etc. Now the options for players at our club are limitless. We feel our partnership with Asian Soccer Academy is a perfect fit. Each year we will be looking to bring a Professional Club in from around the world to work with our players for a Summer Camp and our coaches for a Coaches Clinic. No decision was made lightly and for Gretna Soccer Club the biggest reasons for striking up a partnership are trust, ethics, integrity, player development being a #1 priority and striving to produce results by sending kids to Professional Clubs. We feel like Asian Soccer Academy ticks all these boxes.”

Asian Soccer Academy is based in Jakarta, Indonesia with population of over 10.1 million and covers the majority of Indonesia, which is one of the biggest countries on the Asian continent. ASA has projects in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam and now in the US with Gretna Soccer Club.

Asian Soccer Academy has reached over 1 million kids in over 13 years including players from Asia, US, England, Holland, Germany, Republic of Ireland to name a few. They have produced results by sending players to some of the biggest clubs from around the world both on the female and male side of the game and have players representing their countries. They currently have players at Manchester United, DC United, Republic of Ireland national team, 7 players in the Indonesia national team set up and players attending professional trials and attracting interest from the likes of Manchester City FC, Liverpool FC, Werder Bremen, Blackpool FC and Preston FC. Go to www.asiansocceracademy.com for more information on the most recent ASA players selected for trials. With the GSC/ASA partnership this shows the real deal when it comes to Professional Soccer Development.

The plan down the road is for Gretna Soccer Club to send teams overseas to Indonesia and affiliated countries to tournaments where there are Professional Club presence and likewise Asian Soccer Academy bringing teams over to participate in Gretna Soccer Club tournaments to then host International tournaments. We have the option to participate in the Navigat Cup (www.asiansocceracademy.com/navigatcup) in Indonesia this May with Special Guests being the Manchester United Chief Scout David Hobson and their Academy Coaches and for our players to stay and participate in their ASA Camp with Tottenham Hotspur. This is something we will be discussing with our Gretna Soccer Club teams after tonight's announcement although it will likely be a more realistic aim for next year.

Asian Soccer Academy has a clear mission and vision for its players and is one we will look to incorporate further with our players. Ideas such as 'Player Education' sessions and 'Player Development' homework sheets for GSC kids to 'own their development' outside of the organized club and team practices have already begun. These initiatives will have a big impact on their progress moving forward as individuals. Asian Soccer Academy Technical Manager Lee Hawkins said of the partnership, "We are excited to hit our eighth country with this new partnership in the United States and by teaming up with Gretna Soccer Club it makes a perfect fit. Gretna Soccer Club shares the same beliefs and coaching model as us. Just like Asian Soccer Academy, whether you want to play for fun in the Clinics or follow a serious training program we guarantee coaching of the highest quality. Gretna Soccer Club is one of the fastest growing clubs in the State of Nebraska let alone in the Midwest. We are excited to share curriculums

and training methods to help Asian Soccer Academy get to another level. Gretna Soccer Club goes above and beyond and we are excited to partner with them.”

ASA Mission: Empowering and motivating people through education and sports training programs such as interactive classroom workshops, grass roots coaching clinics, training of trainers (ToT) seminars and tournaments.

ASA Vision: Using sports development programs as a pedagogical tool to create awareness while providing lasting benefits in areas such as education, health, athletic development and the regeneration of schools and communities.

ASA Partners: Andy Noya "Kick Andy", Adidas, BIS, British Chamber of Commerce, British Council, British Embassy, Caritas Germany, Coca Cola Amatil, CRS, CWS, Danamon Bank, DBS Bank, FMC, Handicap International, HOPE, IRD, JIS, JRS, JSFL, Kelme Spain, KONI, Mercy Corps, Muhammadiyah Schools, Muslim Aid, Nestle MILO, Nike, NZAID, Permata Bank, Save the Children, Scort, St. Andrews Association, Takeda, Ultra Jaya, USAID, US Government, UNICEF and World Vision.

Dates to keep in mind:

*Manchester United Summer Camp Dates:
July 28-August 1, 2014 @ Leo Royal Park, Gretna*

*Manchester United Coaches Clinic Dates
August 2-August 3, 2014 @ Gretna Sports Complex, Gretna*

For further questions please direct them to Digger Hawkins our Director of Coaching, Digger's contact information: doc@gretnasoccer.com or 402 890 3599