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Chicago Fire Juniors Stars Shine in Disney

CFJ Players return after a successful five-day stint at the Disney Junior Showcase in Orland, Florida

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — The journey began for the young Chicago Fire Juniors City players last summer, when hundreds of hopefuls took part in a three-day Identification Camp for talented players from the nine clubs in the Fire Juniors network. The players that shined in the camp were selected to form four 'Fire Juniors Elite SC' teams. The teams were invited to attend the prestigious Disney Junior Showcase in ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida from November 26-30, 2014.

The teams arrived in Florida on Nov. 26 and travelled to the National Training Center (NTC) in Clermont to train. The Fire Juniors Elite SC teams played friendlies against Florida Rush before taking to the practice field on Nov. 27 to develop team formations and set pieces prior to the showcase. The showcase kicked off on Friday, Nov. 28 with two days of group games, and semi-final and final games taking place on Sunday, Nov. 30. As a whole, the teams went 7-4-2, with 23 goals for and 18 goals against throughout the Showcase.

Individual team results include:

Fire Juniors Elite SC U13 Girls got off to an exciting start on Nov. 28 with a 3-2 win against Lakeland FC (FL) with goals from Mulder (MI Fire Juniors), Donovan (KY Fire Juniors), and Richards (CFJ City). In the 2nd game of the day the team fell 2-0 to Southern SA Chelsea (GA). The team finished their run in the showcase with a 1-0 victory over Charlotte United (NC) with a goal from Bronkhurst (MI Fire Juniors) and a clean sheet from goalkeeper Edson (CFJ West). The team secured second place in their group with 6 points (2 wins and 1 loss) but fell short of progressing to the semi-final by head to head results.

Roster: Cavins, Edson, Sauder, Rebhan, Devaux (CFJ West), Richards (CFJ City), Branch (CFJ North Gold), Bennett, Bronkhorst, Darby, Mulder (Michigan Fire Juniors), Donavon (Kentucky Fire Juniors), Clevenger, W. Freeman, H. Freeman, Mallin (Indiana Fire Juniors), Hanrahan and French (Louisiana Fire Juniors).

Fire Juniors Elite SC U13 Boys remained unbeaten in the group stages of the showcase. The boys defeated FKK Florida (FL) 3-0 with goals from Zucker (CFJ North), Kaput (CFJ West) and LeDoux (KY Fire Juniors). The team was held to a 1-1 tie against Charlotte United FC (NC) with a goal from Webster (CFJ City), and then beat Weston FC (FL) 2-1 with goals from Kaput (CFJ West) and Hagen (CFJ South). The team finished at the top of their group with 7 points (2 wins and 1 tie) and progressed into the semi-final. Despite a brave performance in the knock-out stages they were lost 2-1 to North Atlanta SA (GA) with a goal from LeDoux (Kentucky Fire Juniors).

Roster: Kaput, Cameron (CFJ West), Berhane, Webster, Malven (CFJ City), Biela, Livieratos, Miskinis, Seida, Dirienzo, Hagen (CFJ South), Boduch (CFJ North Gold), Zucker, Webley, Issar (CFJ North), LeDoux (Kentucky Fire Juniors), Shaban and King (Michigan Fire Juniors).

Fire Juniors Elite SC U14 Girls went 2-0 on their first day at the showcase; the team secured a 4-0 win over Florida Fire (FL) with goals from Conway (CFJ West), Durik (KY Fire Juniors), Jordan (CFJ North Gold) and Klehr (KY Fire Juniors). In game two, the team overcame Weston FC (FL) 3-2 with goals from Durik (KY Fire Juniors) and Klehr (2) (KY Fire Juniors). The girls suffered a 1-0 defeat against Triangle United (NC). The team finished 2nd in their group with 6 points (2 wins and 1 loss) and narrowly missed out on a semi-final place.

Roster: Conway, Schuberth, Schade, Williams, Plesnicar, Straznickas (CFJ West), Guillen (CFJ City), Sharp, Dennis (CFJ South), Jordan (CFJ North Gold), Durik, Barber, Brown, Klehr (Kentucky Fire Juniors), Weldy, Nosler, Keaffaber and Stuart (Indiana Fire Juniors).

Fire Juniors Elite SC U14 Boys secured a 4-1 win in their first game against Chargers SC (SC), followed by a 1-1 tie against NASA 19 Elite (GA) . The team lost to Dallas Texans Pre Academy (TX) in their final league game and finished 3rd in their group with 4 points (1 win, 1 tie and 1 loss).

Roster: Heaton, Elster, Prankus, S. Kilgallon, J. Kilgallon, Nicoski, Breier (CFJ West), Smith, Wallis, Jackson, Schenk (CFR), Castillo (CFJ North), Rampenthal, Laws, Malcolm, Harlow, T. Brown and G. Brown (Kentucky Fire Juniors)

Fire Juniors Elite SC is part of the Chicago Fire's emerging talent program. For more information visit www.chicagofirejuniorcity.com/femaleidcamp or www.chicagofirejuniorcity.com/maleidcamp
Facebook- www.facebook.com/FireJuniors
Twitter- www.twitter.com/firejrs

ABOUT CHICAGO FIRE SOCCER CLUB

Founded on the 126th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Chicago Fire Soccer Club prepares for its 18th Major League Soccer season with six major domestic championship titles including the 1988 MLS Cup and 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2006 U. S. Soccer Open Cup, and 2003 Supporters Shield. Anchoring Chicago's growing soccer fan base, the Fire play at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, Ill., located 15 miles from Chicago's Loop. www.Chicago-Fire.com.